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# Forward Arts to host 12th Annual ALL CITY Teen Poetry Slam Festival in Baton Rouge

Advocate staff report APR 14, 2018 - 5:30 PM

Forward Arts Inc. will select its 2018 All Star Team during the 12th annual All City Teen Poetry Slam Festival from April 18-21 and April 27-28 in downtown Baton Rouge.

The Baton Rouge-based arts nonprofit's poetry team won the 20th Annual Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival last year, becoming the first team from the South to win the 20-year-old competition.

"This year's theme, 'Defining Brilliance,' gives a nod to Baton Rouge's youth poets who are setting a standard for what literary excellence is in their generation," a news release says.

*Story Continued Below*

The community event gives area youth, ages 13-19, the opportunity "to experience performance poetry on a large scale, including a chance for six young poets to represent Baton Rouge at the 21st Annual Brave New Voices, to be held in Houston," the release also says.

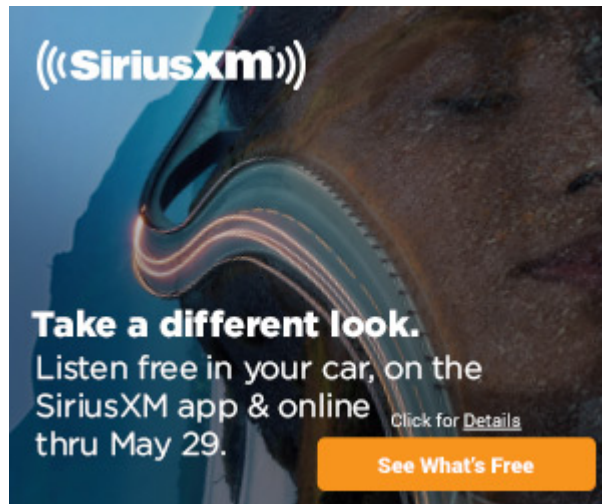
The festival also offers workshops, panel discussions and specialty open mic events. At Grand Slam Finals, to be held April 28 at the Manship Theatre, the top-ranked team of poets in the competition will be named All City champions and the six top-ranked poets will become the 2018 Forward Arts All Star Team and represent the city at Brave New Voices in July.

Five of the Baton Rouge festival's former participants were accepted into the University of Wisconsin-Madison's First Wave spoken word cohort – the only program of its kind in the nation. Of the students who already graduated, more than half have pursued careers as educators in the field of English. The festival also prepares youth participants for larger competitions like Brave New Voices.

Those interested in volunteering at the festival may contact volunteer coordinator Roe Lewis at [Roneshialewis@mybrcc.edu](mailto:Roneshialewis@mybrcc.edu).

All events, outside of opening ceremonies, are open to the public. A full schedule is available at [Forwardarts.org](http://Forwardarts.org).





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