



**CALL FOR ENTRIES: Open Stories: Poetry, Murals, and Monuments**

**An Interactive Celebration of Shaw Community Murals and Monuments at Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library Branch | Part of the Open Stories Exhibit Series of the DC Public Library and Maryland Institute College of Art Curatorial Practice Program**

**Deadline for submission:** Friday, April 15, 2016, 11:59pm

**Notification:** April 18, 2016

**Exhibition or Performance located:**

The exhibition will be located throughout the Shaw neighborhood as a walking tour. The stationary exhibition will be located on the first floor of the Shaw Neighborhood Library. The exhibit may also travel to other DC Public Libraries.

The performances will take place at:

DC Alley Museum in Blagden Alley--bounded by 9th, 10th, M and O Sts., NW

City Market at O--700 P Street NW

Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park--on Rhode Island Ave NW between 9th and 10th

Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library--1630 7th St NW

Capital Pool Checkers Club--on 9th and S Streets NW

Marvin Gaye Mural--on S Street between 7th and 8th Streets NW

Howard Theater and Ellington Plaza--620 T Street NW

**Performance Dates (two walking tours):** Saturday, June 4 or June 11, 2016, 1:30pm-4:30pm

(Rain date June 18)

**Exhibition Duration:** selected visual work will be on display from June 21-July 31, 2016

**Special Exhibition Dates (Tuesday evenings):** June 21, June 28, July 5, July 12, July 19, and July 26, 7pm-9pm.

**About the Exhibition:**

This exhibition is part of the Open Stories Exhibit Series of the DC Public Library and Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Curatorial Practice Program. Open Stories will provide opportunities for people to dialogue and experience art. Through poetry, storytelling and book arts, the community will contribute to the diverse stories of our neighborhoods.

Open Stories: Poetry, Murals, and Monuments is a walking tour where patrons will experience Shaw's vibrancy and culture through poetry, its people, art, and history. This exhibition will highlight and celebrate the character of the neighborhood that has gone through a lot of change through the socially engaged art of the DC spoken word scene. This exhibition will provide library customers, community members, and poets the opportunity to curate their own experience in the Shaw Neighborhood, experiencing its hidden and not so hidden treasures in a new way. This exhibition was inspired by Brooklyn's Elastic City project, which puts together participatory

walks heightening awareness, exploring senses and making new group rituals in dialogue with public space, providing an opportunity to participate in a narrative series of poetic moments.

Open Stories: Poetry, Murals, and Monuments exhibition will comprise of a walking tour, where patrons will walk from the Shaw Library to the places listed above alongside performance poets, and where they will hear a poet perform a poem about the theme of community. Patrons will also meet with the Capital Pool Checkers Club, a group of Checkers players that have been a part of the community since 1982. Along the way we will encourage the patrons share their view of the experience by tweeting and posting photos to instagram (utilizing an event-specific hashtag), and taking pictures with a provided instant camera. Video and photos will also be taken by library staff. These documents will then become part of a stationary multimedia exhibition on the first floor of the Shaw Library.

This exhibition will provide library customers, community members, and poets the opportunity to experience the Shaw Neighborhood and its hidden and not so hidden treasures in a new way, and to share that experience with the world. No one person decides what is most relevant or most important in the content they experience and share. All will be included and shared. This event is designed to curate a unique experience that the community will record in their own eyes and share.

**ART WORK:** Call for Performance Poets

Poetry should be from 3-5 minutes in performance length fitting the theme of the fellowship of community, whether related to the DC community or any other fellowship.

Poets must be willing to walk the entire tour with the patrons, and interact with them and fellow poets. Collaboration (call and response, duets) is highly encouraged, especially with fellow poets.

Poets must be willing to select specific lines of their poems with the organizer of the event to be included in the exhibit.

**RIGHTS AND DOCUMENTATION:**

Selected artists will retain the rights of their poems.

**CONTENT AND THEME:**

The theme of the Open Stories: Poetry, Murals, and Monuments of Shaw is **COMMUNITY**. Any type of community you have written or belong to. You may respond to the theme with a poem or poems of your choice. You may submit an existing poem or a newly written one.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS:**

Selected artists will be asked to participate in the following public programs. Your presence is requested, *not required*.

1. The opening reception will occur on June 21, 2016 at the Shaw Library at 7pm.
2. The exhibition nights will take place on June 28, July 5, July 12, July 19, and July 26, 7pm-9pm.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

This call is open to artists and arts collectives who live and work in the D.C. area, and are 18 years of age and older.

**SELECTION AND HONORARIUM:**

Selected individual artists will be awarded an honorarium of \$125.00 for their performance and participation in each walking tour. Selected artists will be notified on April 18, 2016 that they have been selected.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND PUBLICITY:**

DC Public Library and DC Public Library Foundation reserve the right to photograph and film the event. By entering your work in the Open Stories exhibition, you agree to the use of your name and poetry in any publicity material developed for the exhibition.

**AFTER THE EXHIBITION:**

The exhibit may travel to community partner locations near the Shaw Library or to other DC Public Library locations after July 2016.

**NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED****CALL FOR ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please include the following materials in your email submission:

1. Project statement: Limit 300 words. Why would you like to participate in this event? What do you think poetry brings to the table in telling the story of a community?
2. Complete ENTRY FORM: See below.
3. Current POETRY RESUME/CV: Include your full name, mailing address, phone number, email address, places you have performed, if you have been published, etc.
4. Full text of your proposed poem(s)
5. Link to a video of your performed poem(s), or another recorded performance (if available).

Email submission materials and any questions regarding this call to:

Janna Tanner

Librarian - Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Neighborhood Library

[janna.tanner@dc.gov](mailto:janna.tanner@dc.gov)

**OPEN STORIES: POETRY, MURALS, AND MONUMENTS EXHIBITION ENTRY FORM**

**First and Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business/Organization (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Twitter (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instagram (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_