

Pittsburgh Poetry Collective Values Statement and Release

The Pittsburgh Poetry Collective exists to celebrate the power of the voice. We make and hold space for self-expression, identity exploration, & social justice via spoken word communities, poetry slams, writing & performance workshops, and poet showcases. We welcome any opportunity for lyrical mayhem and believe that poetry heals, speaks, connects, and shares our experiences and differences.

Our purpose is to build a healthy community that welcomes and embraces the voices of people regardless of race, color, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ethnicity, lifestyle, age, or disability. While so doing, we will foster and promote the growth of poetry and spoken word in Pittsburgh by maintaining and growing our flagship program, the Steel City Slam, along with other series including writing & performance workshops and poet showcases. Each participant shares the responsibility of preserving the rights of performers, volunteers, and attendees at our events. We charge our community members to live up to these expectations and to exemplify the ideals of leadership, friendship, and justice when engaging with others in our community, and to hold one another accountable to these expectations.

We challenge our poetry family to speak their truth to inspire courage, hope, creativity and self-empowerment. We encourage spirited and free speech, from the performers, volunteers, and attendees. We ask everyone to embrace positive consent and eradicate gendered and binary language.

As a participant in a Pittsburgh Poetry Collective certified event, I agree:

I will know and understand the expectations stated here, in the PPC bylaws, in the Equal Opportunity Statement, and in the Free Speech and Brave Space Policy as well as the ideals expressed therein, and I will strive to incorporate them in my daily life.

I understand that verbal harassment, physical aggression or intolerance are unacceptable. I will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, I will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse any human being.

I will comply with local, state and federal laws, especially those pertaining to individual civil rights and physical or sexual harassment.

I will participate in Pittsburgh Poetry Collective events in a way that encourages, illuminates and supports established standards of good sportsmanship. I refuse to allow the competitive challenge of the game to lead me to violence, interference, or threats.

I will be a fair poet – one who in competition is generous, one who in any connection has recourse to nothing illegitimate; a poet who in defeat demonstrates grace and in victory magnanimity. I will revel in an environment in which freedom of speech, self-determination, and pursuit of creative excellence are inalienable rights. I will allow participants to pursue their craft peacefully and without censure, regardless of present team associations or past personal history.

I will abide by competition rules as defined by the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective, knowing that consequences for breaking the rules exist and are upheld. I understand that the PPC has a published conflict Resolution Proceeding that is available to me or that I may be called to be a part of.

I understand that if I am found engaging in activities that are contrary to this statement, action may be taken by the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective leading to individual censure, suspension, or expulsion from all PPC events and participation.

I hereby grant permission to the Steel City Slam and the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective to use photographs and/or video of me taken during this event in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to their mission. I retain the rights to my work as my intellectual property. The Steel City Slam and the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective will obtain additional permissions to reproduce my work in full.

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Signature

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Date

Please Print your name LEGIBLY here: \_\_\_\_\_