

RESOURCES, COMMUNITY, OPPORTUNITIES

CATCH US AT 826CHI'S STORYFEST ON JUNE 4TH

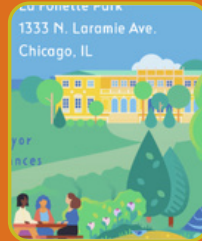
STORYFEST, an outdoor block party-style event, will take place from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 4 at La Follette Park, 1333 N. Laramie Ave. The event will celebrate the published stories, poems, and essays of more than 1,000 students from Chicago Public Schools across the city who have participated in 826CHI programming over the past academic year.

This free, family-friendly festival will feature student readings and performances of their published works, as well as educators sharing their experience of bringing creativity into the classroom. There will be music from DJ A'Jua Pryor, games, and an array of age-inclusive events, including storytelling workshops, book making and book giveaways.

RSVP for FREE [here](#)

FREE HEADSHOT? FREE FOOD? OPEN MIC?

If you're between the ages 17-25, stop by YCA on June 11th from 2-7pm for this LGBTQIA+ safe-space open-mic and FREE professional headshot provided by Slayyo's very own, Freddie Collier! We'll have snacks, music, and good vibes. If you don't want to perform, that's okay! You can still get your headshot! All headshots will be edited and sent out by June 28th, NATIONAL PRIDE DAY! Bring a friend, bring two! Maybe some things are better in threes? Whoever you bring, please note that we're prioritizing queer folx, and all participants must be [registered](#)! Click the box or download Slayyo to RSVP. :)



LET THE HEART SPEAK!

We want to amplify the voices of the YCA community! If you have something to say, we'll be here to listen!

[Click here](#) to submit your poem to be featured.



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Written By:
Phara Sanders
(JanalleThePoet)
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[@Janalle_ThePoet](#)

Chapter 20 Page 365 So it was a rocky year but I made it. I've learned a lot about myself

I don't like change
And I'm not the biggest fan of rejection
I wear my heart on my sleeves
And I'm very defensive
I don't know how to be still
No matter how many times I told God I would
I didn't listen No matter how many times
God tried to get my attention
So he allowed Pain to come and reposition me
And I welcome it in
I've been jumping over lessons
Wondering why I keep finding myself lost
Simply because I wasn't listening
I wasn't taking in the truth
Progress isn't pretty
And I wasn't ready to see my ugly parts
I thought I could skip to the rainbow
But the storm comes first. So I took all my ugly
And fed it love. And allowed myself to heal.
To let go.
To let go of what has stunted my growth
Enabled me to move forward
To let go of my insecurities and fear of change
To let go of all this baggage
And leave it at the baggage claim
Because it is no longer mines to claim
I have redefined And unwind
I've exposed my scars and put my heart in

I've picked up my pieces so I can become whole
I talked to God, told him that I understand
I understand now that it was things I had to let go
Lessons I had to learn Situations I had to endure
To be ready for what's next
I thank you for the pain that came to reposition me
Thank you for the rain that brought me a rainbow
And thank you for the lessons
That allowed me to let go.
It was a Rocky year, but I made it.
I learned Progress isn't pretty
It takes discipline, painful healing, and time
This Chapter of my life is called Ready
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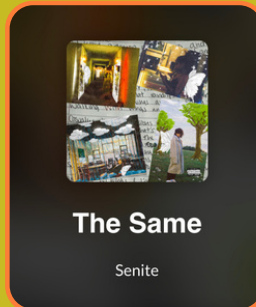
NEW MUSIC. NEW MUSIC. NEW MUSIC. NEW MUSIC



"Smile In My Face" | June



"Friend Zone" | Ocean Baileux



"The Same" | Senite