

# YCA SPOTLIGHT

Official Newsletter of Young Chicago Authors

## Rooted and Radical Youth Poetry Festival bell hooks inspired theme

"When we love we can let our hearts speak - bell hooks

We have worked diligently as an organization to reimagine a youth poetry festival that provides more room for "community" while focusing less on "competition." Youth poets are encouraged to use their voices via their poems as well as through our new student voting system.

**Registration is now closed**

Visit [yca.to/rr](http://yca.to/rr) to learn more about the festival, becoming a coach, preparation resources, and recap of last year's R&R introduction festival.

### IN-HOUSE PROGRAMMING

#### Check The Method

Join us every Saturday from 1-3pm CST for Check The Method with Emon Lauren Black, Chicago's first ever Youth Poet Laureate. Write side by side (virtually) with some of Chicago's greatest creatives.

#### Every Word Counts

Register for a chance to write this year's Rooted & Radical theme song with Rich Robbins! The "genre b(l)ending rap artist" teaches you how to make your own beats, write your own songs, and more. Every Monday from 5-7pmE CST. Always virtual. Always free.

#### Under The Mic

Matt Muse helps you strengthen your professional development and rap-writing skills for the music industry. Join him every Saturday from 3-5pm to learn from him and other special guests like, Johari Noelle, Brittney Carter, Jaas, and more.

#### Prep Shop University

Prep Shop University is a high-quality series of student-centered poetry workshops designed to prepare high school students for our Rooted & Radical Youth Poetry Festival! You can still register to enhance your skills with Teaching Artists, Chima "Naira" Ikoro, Robin Reid Drake, C. Lofty Bolling, and Christie Valentin-Bati



### SUPPORT BLACK AND BROWN BUSINESSES.



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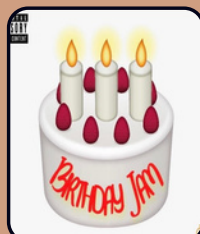
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## New Music. New Music. New Music. New Music. New Music. New Music. New Music.



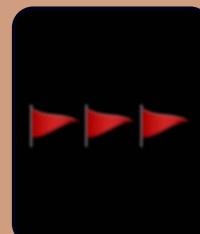
"2 Stubborn 2 Live" | Rhymes



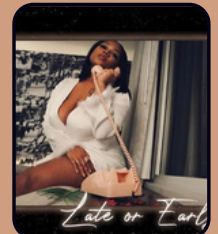
"Birthday Jam" | Jsteezyzy



"Roses" | Evyn



"Red Flags" | J. Lvndr



"Late or Early" | NaomiG