Poet/Songwriting Mentors Needed for Spring Break Children’s Story and Songwriting Camp

About Chapter 510

Chapter 510 is a made-in-Oakland youth writing & publishing center. Our teaching artists and volunteers work side-by-side with educators to provide a safe space and supportive community for young people ages 6-18 to bravely write.

Our Vision

Our vision is that every young person in Oakland learns to write with confidence and joy.

About our Story & Song Camp

Over OUSD’s spring break, we will welcome 10 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to our week-long Story & Song Camp. Our vision is to immerse these young writers in the wonderment of songwriting. These may turn out to be ballads, folk songs, pop tunes, blues — depending on how inspiration strikes. Each young writer will be paired with a local poet mentor and a singer/songwriter who
will support them through the songwriting process. Musicians will set these young writers’ songs to music.

The camp is led by our Teaching Artist Tiffany Golden, with special guests including the Grammy-Nominated Alphabet Rockers!

After camp wraps, songs will be recorded and tablature for all songs will be created. Finally, tablature will be professionally designed and illustrated to be published in a Songbook for Oakland; Songs Written by and for the Young at Heart. Songs and songbooks will be released on Saturday, May 30, 12 - 3pm, at our concert and book fair. These songbooks will then be sold in our store, local bookstores, and will be in circulation in our Oakland Public Libraries. Songs will be available online in our SoundCloud account.

This camp will be held during OUSD's spring break: Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3 from 9:30-3:30 daily, at 2301 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. On Friday, April 3, we will have a pizza party and mini-concert for the families from 3:30-5pm.

**Poet Mentor's Role**

Each student will be paired with a poet as their songwriting mentor.

Mentors will meet with their young writer for daily sessions from 2:30 - 3:30 throughout the week of March 30 at our center to talk through their song lyrics and give feedback.

Text of songs will be shared with editorial mentors through Google Docs, where they can give feedback throughout the workshop.

In addition to the sessions with students, we require that mentors come to our concert & book release fair on Saturday, May 30, from 12 - 3pm.

We are looking specifically for singer/songwriters and published poets for this role. You do not need to be able to write music, play an instrument, or sing.
Students will also be paired with a musician/singer/songwriter who will write their tune and record their song. If you would like to be a poet mentor and a musician, check out the musician job description at chapter510.org/jobs.

**Compensation and How to Apply**

We are offering compensation of $150 honorarium. If you are interested in helping us bring a young writer's song to life, email your cv to margie_chardiet@chapter510.org.