BECOME A MENTOR FOR OUR OAKLAND BELONGING PROGRAM

About Chapter 510

MISSION
Chapter 510 is a made-in-Oakland youth writing, bookmaking & publishing center. Our teaching artists and volunteers work side by side with educators to provide a safe space and supportive community so Black, brown, and queer youth ages 8–19 can bravely write.

VISION
Every young person in Oakland writes with confidence and joy.

WHY WE EXIST
We believe that writing is an act of liberation. Young people transform themselves and their communities when they write and get published, succeeding in school, work, and life.

WHAT WE DO
Through writing programs at our center and within Oakland public schools,
we help young people improve their writing craft, confidence, and competency at every stage.

**About the workshop**

**Oakland Belonging**

A youth digital storytelling, creative writing and community art program to tell Oakland stories.

What happens when we give young scholars of Oakland access to the skills needed to collect and archive the oral history of a local landmark: Swan’s Market?

Even more important, what happens when they are given the skills needed to collect oral history alongside an exploration into the arts--learning from artists who have transformed research, history, and oral history into art?

What will YOU, the young artists of Oakland create that shows us all that Oakland is yours and that you are the agents of its narrative. Join us to use audio storytelling, writing and other creative forms to tell past and current Oakland stories

When: Thursdays 4 - 6pm, January 13, 2022 - Sept 1, 2022  
Age: 9 - 12 graders  
Where: In Person, Chapter 510, 546 9th Street, Oakland

Teaching Artist Bio: Elena Botkin-Levy has worked at the intersection of audio production, education and media-making for over 20 years. With a focus on amplifying queer voices as a storyteller, Elena started in community radio and learned that holding space, asking questions and documenting is powerful. Drawn to oral histories as an opportunity to map our own narratives, she started Gems Oral Histories to support individuals and communities in collecting and preserving stories. Working with institutions such as Women's Audio Mission, YR Media (formerly Youth Radio), outLoud Radio, ZUMIX Radio, Elena has led educational programs in the audio sector with a focus on creativity, innovation and change-making. Elena is an alumni of Temple University where she studied in the Geography Urban Studies and Education departments.
Writing Mentor Role & Qualifications

Mentors in our Oakland Belonging program will be supporting students during the Summer Jam which will be the “production” phase of this three part youth led oral history and digital storytelling program.

The role of the mentors will be to support students in preparing for their long form oral history interviews with community members, reflect on their interviews, and record and write scripts for their final digital stories. We are looking for mentors who have experience with writing, journalism, storytelling, digital stories, and or creative writing with teens.

The summer jam will happen every Thursday from 2-6pm, however mentors will only be expected to attend for 2.5 hours of each session and only 1 hour for the first session. All mentors will commit to join for 4 sessions over the course of the 5 session summer program for a total of around 8.5 hours.

Mentors are able to commit to attend sessions on June 2, 9 & 30th, plus one additional session on June 16 or 23. For three of the sessions you will be paired with one student to work intimately on their production and for the fourth session you will rotate with other students that request additional feedback.

**Mentoring Schedule:**

- **Session 1, June 2** – 2:30-3:30pm for getting to know each other and planning, all mentors!
- **Session 2, June 9** – 3-5:30pm to support recordings, reflect on interviews and write scripts
- **Session 3, June 16** – 3-5:30pm to support recordings, reflect on interviews and write scripts
- **Session 4, June 23** – 3-5:30pm to support recordings, reflect on interviews and write scripts
- **Session 5, June 30** – 3-5:30 for final scripting
*In addition you will be able to attend the mentor orientation on Thursday May 26, 5:30 - 6:30pm, or at least watch the recording before your first session*

**Compensation**

We are offering a $425 honorarium for this mentoring position. If you are interested in helping us bring this amazing project to life, email your resume and or your experience as a writer and or youth educator to marabet_morales@chapter510.org. **Volunteers are also welcome!**