



Dear Poets,

What the world is experiencing right now is unprecedented. What you might be feeling and living with at this moment is valid, true, and nothing close to being easy. At WITS, we acknowledge that it has been difficult to think of anything but how to move forward, how to recreate daily and social lives, and how to “be” during a time of such uncertainty. As we move through this new normal, we are committed to keeping you updated about our programs, events and plans throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As many of you know, we had chosen to postpone the continuation of the Space City Slam Series to mid-April, with the hopes that we would be present again to curate a live space for young artists. As the local government has extended the stay-at-home order, we will not be able to hold the last preliminary and the semifinals of the slam series as we had hoped.

In an effort to honor the foundation of the slam series as a live, equitable, and celebratory space, we have decided to continue to postpone the series until we can meet again, in-person. While many events and programs are moving into a digital space, we felt that it would not be accessible or fair for our young artists or community members to move the slams online at this time. We recognize that as we continue to use digital platforms during the pandemic, young artists who do not have the fundamental right of internet access or technology will be excluded from those spaces. In order to do each performance justice, an online slam would likely require strong internet connection, high quality video and sound as well as a device to view or perform with. We do not want requirements like this to deter any young artists from competing in the series or to offer anyone an unfair advantage in the competition.

Our hope is that we will be able to continue the Space City Slam Series this summer, and move forward with the creation of the Meta-Four Houston slam team on a new timeline. We are committed to creating local and regional competition opportunities for those young poets that will participate on the Meta-Four team, as well as youth writers across Houston.

In the meantime, we will be offering a variety of opportunities to engage with you, your work, and your experience during the pandemic including; [online writing workshops and](#)



[resources](#), our monthly Free Verse Open Mic and more. For more information on upcoming programs, please visit witshouston.org.

If you have questions please feel free to reach out to our Youth Programs Team at mail@witshouston.org or call us at 713-523-3877.

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