

Learn about and celebrate Black History: Amanda Gorman



Poet. Activist. Author.



*"I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.*

*I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along."*

Born in 1998, **Amanda Gorman** was the first National Youth Poet Laureate and the youngest presidential inaugural poet in U.S. history. She graduated from Harvard University in 2020 with a degree in sociology and has become a household name since President Biden's inauguration last year. For Amanda, poetry is activism and she uses her poems to address social justice issues including oppression, race, and feminism - and continues to inspire change.

- When she was 16 years old, Amanda founded One Pen One Page - a nonprofit organization that teaches that poetry is a form of social justice and offers programming to underserved youth, providing them with a path to activism.
- Named the first Youth Poet Laureate of Los Angeles in 2014.
- Serves on the Board of 826 National, the largest youth writing network in the country with the goal of encouraging the exploration of endless possibility through the power of writing.
- Has published a few books, including *The Hill We Climb and Other Poems* and *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*.

*"If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change our children's birthright
So let us leave behind a country
better than the one we were left with."*

To learn more about Amanda Gorman and her inspiring work:

- <https://www.theamandagorman.com/>
- <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2021/12/12/amanda-gorman-debuts-new-years-poem-in-partnership-with-instagram>
- <https://pulsespikes.org/archives/amanda-gorman>

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Want to learn about more young Black activists, and the adults helping them find their voices, who have made an impact?

- **Cbabi Bayoc** – Local changemaker Cbabi Bayoc is an internationally known artist who works on many projects, including community and school murals around the St. Louis community. He is also a speaker, talking with students about their ability to determine their own destiny. Cbabi's work is close to our hearts at Wyman, as he has supported the creation of the current murals at Brittany Woods Middle School. ([Learn more here.](#))



"Justice, Freedom and Self Care"
2021 Brittany Woods
Middle School mural



"Equality and the Future"
2019 Brittany Woods
Middle School mural

- [7 Amazing Young Black Activists You Should be Following](#)

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