

Jillian Hanesworth



Jillian Hanesworth

SPOKEN WORD ARTIST,
POET LAUREATE - BUFFALO, NY

2021-2022

Press Kit

hanesworth.jc@gmail.com

Jillian Hanesworth

SPOKEN WORD ARTIST,
POET LAUREATE - BUFFALO, NY

BIOGRAPHY

Jillian Hanesworth was born and raised on the East side of Buffalo, NY. She began writing at the age of 7, when she would write songs for her mother to sing in church. She later took a break from writing to successfully pursue educational goals, and worked to obtain a BA in criminal justice and law focusing on reform.

In January of 2017, Jillian committed herself to social change through art, thus began her poetry career. Since then, Jillian has performed over 130 times, in Buffalo, NY, NYC, Baltimore, MD, Toronto, and everywhere in between. She has let her passion lead her mission empower listeners to take part in demanding and creating sustainable systemic change.

Currently, Jillian is the Director of Leadership Development at Open Buffalo, a teaching artist with the Dunbar Project at Ujima Theater, and an adjunct professor at the University of Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center. Jillian is also the first ever Poet Laureate in the history of Buffalo after she spent 2 years advocating for the existence of the role. Jillian loves and lives for the community and exemplifies that in all that she does.



@poet_jillian_hanesworth



Poet Jillian Hanesworth



@poetjillianhanesworth

Jillian Hanesworth

SPOKEN WORD ARTIST,
POET LAUREATE - BUFFALO, NY

AWARDS

- SUNY Fredonia Student Empowerment Award 2014
- 30 under 30 ChangeMakers 2017
- Buffalo Emerging Leader 2017
- MicroMania Film Festival "Best Experimental Short Film"
- WNY Peace Center "Alt-imate Activist" Award 2020
- Buffalo Business First 30 under 30 Award 2021

"For The Culture"
available on amazon
NOW!

amazon

PUBLICATIONS

- "For The Culture: A Book of Art and Poetry" 2018
- Z Publishing House New York's Best Emerging Poets 2019: An Anthology
- Another Chicago Magazine 2020
- Lietroma Magazine- International Culture Issue 2020
- 2 Meter Review Anthology 2021



Jillian Hanesworth

SPOKEN WORD ARTIST,
POET LAUREATE - BUFFALO, NY

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- University of Buffalo Black History Celebration -February 2017
- Juneteenth (The largest Juneteenth festival in the country) -June 2017, Buffalo NY
- Appreciate The Arts Baltimore "Sticky Bun Festival" -September 2017, Baltimore MD
- Open Buffalo "Dr. Marc Lamont Hill Keynote Address" -October 2017, Buffalo NY
- Buffalo City Hall "Martin Luther King Commemoration/ Honoring NYS Majority Leader Crystal People-Stokes- January 2019, Buffalo NY
- Voice Buffalo Night of Empowerment featuring Dr. Yusef Salaam- November 2019, Buffalo NY
- Western New York Peace Center Night with Dr. Cornel West November 2020
- Niagara University A Conversation with Angela Rye February 2021

"You have got something to give to the world that nobody in the whole world can give. You did that today for us ...your voice, that unique singular, irreproducible, irreducible... that is sister Jill

Hanesworth"
-Dr. Cornel West



@poet_jillian_hanesworth



Poet Jillian Hanesworth



@poetjillianhanesworth