

**Governor Nathan Deal Honors Poet Laureate Prize Winner and Finalists   
at the State Capitol**

ATLANTA, May 1, 2018 – Georgia’s Poet Laureate, Judson Mitcham, in collaboration with Georgia Council for the Arts, is pleased to announce the winner and finalists of the fifth annual Poet Laureate’s Prize.

“Writing poetry plays a crucial role in educating Georgia’s students, advancing literacy through meaningful connections to reading, writing, and language arts,” said Karen Paty, executive director of Georgia Council for the Arts. “The work of these young poets is incredible. We are extremely proud to honor their talent and efforts, and we look forward to seeing them succeed in the future.”

The prize is awarded for an original poem written by a Georgia high school student. This annual program is designed to encourage students in grades nine through 12 to write original poems and to engage in the unique art form of poetry. The winner and four finalists who were selected by Judson Mitcham were honored by Governor Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, and the Poet Laureate at the Georgia State Capitol on April 30.

All Georgia high school students are encouraged to participate. Students interested in participating in next year’s program should check for details about the 2019 competition on the Georgia Council for the Arts website in the fall of 2018. The annual submission deadline will be at the beginning of March. [Click here](http://gaarts.org/programs/literary-arts/poet-laureate-prize) to learn more about the program.

Meet the 2018 winner and finalists below.

**2018 WINNER**

Dagmawit Adamu

“Seamstress”

11th grade

Milton High School

Milton, Ga.

**2018 FINALISTS**

Lillian DeLecuona

“Ybor City”

12th grade

Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School

Augusta, Ga.

Allison Boyle

“The State My World Is In”

11th grade

Bradwell Institute

Hinesville, Ga.

Ashley Wu

“Dogtooth”

12th grade

Johns Creek High School

Johns Creek, Ga.

Avanti Tulpule

“what i know of your silhouette”

11th grade

Johns Creek High School

Johns Creek, Ga.

Through a partnership with [Atlanta](https://maps.google.com/?q=75+Fifth+Street,+NW,+Suite+1200+%7C%0D%0A+Atlanta+,%0D%0A+GA+30308&entry=gmail&source=g) Magazine, all winning and finalist poems are featured on their website. [Click here](http://www.atlantamagazine.com/news-culture-articles/georgia-poet-laureates-prize-2018-meet-winner-finalists/) to read the poems.

**About Georgia Council for the Arts**

The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development that works to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding and statewide programs and services that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state’s cultural heritage, increase tourism and nurture strong communities. Funding for GCA is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Visit [www.gaarts.org](http://www.gaarts.org/).