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Students gear up for Tulsa poetry slam

■ 15 schools and organizations will be represented in the competition.

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Students gear up for Tulsa poetry slam

Denali Gillaspie assists Union High School students Friday during their poetry rehearsal at the school in preparation of the 2014 Louder Than a Bomb-Tulsa poetry slam competition. CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World


Posted: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 12:00 am | Updated: 7:12 am, Tue Jan 14, 2014.


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A popular poetry competition is about to launch its fourth season in Tulsa.

The bouts for the 2014 Louder Than a Bomb-Tulsa poetry slam begin this week, with about 100 high school students representing 15 schools and organizations mostly from the Tulsa area slated to compete.

Admission is free and open to the public.

A poetry slam is an Olympic-style poetry contest rooted in the traditions of oral storytelling and spoken word.

Louder Than a Bomb was created in Chicago in 1985 and is now an international phenomenon and the subject of an award-winning documentary film by the same name.

Tulsa established the first regional outgrowth of the Chicago competition. It is now a program of the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa and sponsored by Tulsa City-County Library and Holland Hall.

Preliminary bouts will be held at 6 p.m. at the Tulsa Community College Center for Creativity, 910 S. Boston Ave.

The schedule of competitions:

Tuesday: Bixby High School, Holland Hall, and Union High School.

Thursday: East Central High School, Town and Country School, Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, and Booker T. Washington High School.

Jan. 21: Center for Racial Justice, McLain High School for Science and Technology, Newcastle High School, and Street School.

Jan. 23: Memorial High School, The Outsiders, Phoenix Rising, Rogers Early College Junior High and High School.

All second-place teams will compete in the "Second Chance Bout" at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 at Hardesty Arts Center, 101 E. Archer St.

The top teams from each bout and high-ranking performers for every team will compete in the team and individual finals at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at Cain's Ballroom, 423 N. Main St.

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