

Pittsburgh Poetry Collective Organizational Code of Conduct & Release  
Mission, Values & Purpose

The Pittsburgh Poetry Collective exists to celebrate the power of your voice. We make and hold space for self-expression & identity exploration via spoken word communities, poetry slams, writing & performance workshops, and poet showcases. We believe that poetry heals, speaks, connects, and shares our experiences, similarities, and differences. We welcome individuals of all gender identity, racial identity, background, class, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ethnicity, lifestyle, age, or disability and by participating in our event actively or inactively you've agreed to welcome these individuals as well!

Each participant shares the responsibility of preserving the rights of performers, volunteers, and attendees at our events. We challenge our poetry family to speak their truth to inspire courage, hope, creativity, social justice, and self-empowerment while embracing positive consent and eradicating gendered and binary language. We emphasize accessibility in our arts spaces.

Free Speech and Brave Space Policy

The Pittsburgh Poetry Collective and all of its projects are committed to maintaining free speech within their venues by the construction and preservation of Brave Space. Brave Space is maintained by allowing safe expression, not just for performers, but for volunteers, attendees, and everyone present in the space. This means you may hear or share mature language, mature themes, and difficult and/or triggering content on our microphone. Participants can say what they choose, but no one is obligated to like them for it, support them for it, or give them a platform for it on or off our stages. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences. Hate speech is not free speech, it is violence and will not be tolerated. Bigotry, threats, harassment, or other silencing behavior towards another destroys Brave Space. Please be willing to engage in necessary conversations about the content of poetry and behavior presented on and off our stage. When conflicts arise, acknowledgment and resolution allows individuals within the community as well as the community as a whole to grow and learn from our experiences, successes, and mistakes.

Release

As a participant in a Pittsburgh Poetry Collective certified event, I agree:

I have read and understand the expectations stated in the organizational Code of Conduct as an extension of the PPC bylaws as well as the ideals expressed therein. I respect the bodily and creative autonomy of all community members. This includes but isn't limited to unauthorized touching or affection and unauthorized reproduction or communication of onstage work. I understand that destruction of Brave Space, free speech, and breaches of consent are unacceptable in this community.

I will engage with the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective community in a way that encourages, illuminates and supports established standards of good sportspoeship, leadership, friendship, and justice. I will be a fair poet – one who in competition is generous, one who in defeat demonstrates grace and in victory magnanimity. I will allow my fellow participants to pursue their craft peacefully and without censure, regardless of past or present team associations and personal history. I will abide by competition rules as defined by the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective, knowing that consequences for breaking the rules exist and are upheld.

I acknowledge that the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective has a Conflict Resolution Procedure that is available to me or that I may be called to be a part of. I understand that I am responsible for my actions, and that if I act contrary to this policy, restorative justice action may be taken by the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective leading to individual censure, suspension, or expulsion from PPC events and participation.

I hereby grant permission to the Steel City Slam and the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective to use photographs and/or video of me taken during this event in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to their Mission. I retain the rights to my work as my intellectual property. The Steel City Slam and the Pittsburgh Poetry Collective will obtain discrete permissions to reproduce my work in full.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date

Please Print your Legal Name LEGIBLY here: \_\_\_\_\_