



Hello Charleston!

I'm happy to announce Free Verse, Charleston's first poetry festival.

Since 2003, I've performed poetry in dive bars, at concert halls, in elementary schools, on sidewalks, at farmers markets, at parks, on national TV, in jails and everywhere in between.

Poetry changes people. Everyone walks away with a deeper sense of presence after seeing a poetry performance.

My journey has led me to visit many schools to do poetry workshops with students. I've seen third and fourth graders use their imagination to write inspiring words. Teaching poetry to kids is my life's work.

As your poet laureate, I want to give you a festival in October.

The City of Charleston is behind it, the mayor is behind it, but we need your help. Donate and you'll be a part of this passion to make a festival happen.

Free Verse will feature fun events (poetry and hip-hop, poetry and jazz, poetry and ... pancakes), workshops and activities for students, and poetry as public art.

I need our youth to see that the written word has value.

Thank you for your time.

LIVE4LOVE,



Marcus Amaker
Poet Laureate of Charleston, SC