

Public Service Announcement



Youth Verses Virtual Showcase is Friday

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The community is invited to check out *Youth Verses*, a virtual showcase of visual and performing art created by local youth artists on Friday, June 19 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. via livestream on Facebook.

Victoria Youth Poet Laureate Neko Smart has used her platform to create a safe, supportive space for youth artists to gather, create and build community. Over the past three weeks, 12 youth aged 14-19 have connected online to participate in *Youth Verses*, a three-part series of workshops facilitated by Smart and guest facilitators.

“The opportunity to work alongside a handful of remarkable and unique young voices has been unforgettable,” said Neko Smart. “A safe, creative space is so important for young artists, especially those struggling with their mental health, and the experience of helping to facilitate this workshop series has been both educational and invigorating.”

The overarching intent was to facilitate conversation on ways to harness creativity while navigating mental health. Over the course of the workshops, Smart and the guest facilitator have provided a collaborative and safe space where the participants were supported and inspired to create visual and/or performance art to be displayed in a virtual showcase.

“As someone who has struggled with their mental health, the experience of listening and learning from guest facilitators has helped encourage my creativity”, said *Youth Verses* participant Anouk.

The virtual event will also feature poetry performances from guest facilitators Marie Metaphor, Dana Neily and former Victoria Youth Poet Laureate Aziza Moqia Sealey-Qaylow.

For more information, visit: victoria.ca/youthpoetlaureate.

ATTACHMENT: Artwork by Charlotte Scholefield, *Youth Verses* participant

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