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***Worcester Public Library Teams Up with  
MassLEAP to Present a Teen Poetry Slamaganza!***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library teams up with MassLEAP to present a teen poetry slamaganza! The slam reunites Worcester teams from the *Louder Than A Bomb Massachusetts Poetry Slam Festival* for one last performance on their home turf. The teen teams will perform their stunning poetry at 6 p.m. in the Main Library's Saxe Room on Wednesday, May 24. Directly following this encore performance, teen poets who did not take part in the festival will have their turn to take center stage from 7 to 8 p.m., when the library will switch to an open mic.

The Massachusetts Literary Education and Performance Collective (MassLEAP), founded in 2011, is dedicated to developing youth arts opportunities in Massachusetts, and to transforming the education landscape by integrating Youth Spoken Word (YSW). The organization has grown its iteration of the *Louder Than A Bomb* festival, originally started in Chicago, from 16 to over 40 teams, with four year-long residencies and several shorter term residencies in Boston Public Schools. MassLEAP is currently run by co-founders Amanda Torres and Alex Charalambides (one of Worcester's own)

From the MassLEAP website: *Louder Than A Bomb* (LTAB), originally started in Chicago, is the largest poetry slam festival in the world, with over 120 schools and 1000 young people participating over the course of several weeks every year. The name of the festival honors a song by radical rap group, Public Enemy. The central idea being that young people's voices in unison are louder than any act of violence or hate inflicted upon them.

Poetry Slam is the competitive art of performance poetry (aka spoken word poetry). Individuals or teams perform their own original work without use of props, costumes or musical accompaniment. Five judges score each piece from zero to, putting equal emphasis on quality of writing and performance. LTAB combines friendly competition with a grounded, contemporary, populist approach to poetry. The festival brings young people together across political and geographical boundaries. Students surmount cultural and socio-economic differences to take part in an experience where young writers learn about themselves while listening to the words of their peers.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit [www.mywpl.org](http://www.mywpl.org). For more information on the Teen Poetry Slamaganza at the Worcester Public Library contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or [lsheldon@mywpl.org](mailto:lsheldon@mywpl.org).

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**Worcester Public Library**

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**Worcester Public Library, A department of the City of Worcester**