



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

MEDIA ALERT ***MEDIA ALERT*** ***MEDIA ALERT***

**Get Lit – Words Ignite and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
Host a Celebration of the Poet Laureates of Los Angeles
and the Release of *Get Lit Rising* on Tuesday, November 1**

The LA Public Central Library Event to Include Performances by Luis Rodriguez in his Final Appearance as Poet Laureate, Rhiannon McGavin, Youth Poet Laureate and Get Lit Rising Author, and more

WHAT:	<p>On Tuesday, November 1 at the Los Angeles Public Library, Get Lit – Words Ignite--the LA-based organization dedicated to engaging diverse youth in literature and increasing literacy through classic and street poetry—in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) will host The Laureates of Los Angeles, a special celebration of the city’s poet laureates. Featured guests and performers will include Luis Rodriguez in what will be his final performance and appearance as the City of Los Angeles Poet Laureate and Rhiannon McGavin, the newly appointed LA Youth Poet Laureate, whose work appears in the recently released book of poems and personal narratives by 19 diverse youth, Get Lit Rising. Additional performers for the event include Get Lit poets: Walter Finnie Jr., Kyland Turner, Marquesha Babers and Khamal Iwuanyanwu. The event will also include a special tribute commemorating the life of former Get Lit poet, Marine and community activist Carlos Segovia, who lost his life in September to gun violence in South LA.</p>
WHO:	<p>Luis Rodriguez, City of Los Angeles Poet Laureate Rhiannon McGavin, LA Youth Poet Laureate Danielle Brazell, General Manager, DCA Diane Luby Lane, Founder and Executive Director, Get Lit – Words Ignite</p> <p>Get Lit Players, published in the newly released <i>Get Lit Rising</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Finnie Jr., Kyland Turner, Marquesha Babers, Khamal Iwuanyanwu
WHERE:	<p>Los Angeles Central Public Library 630 W 5th Street Los Angeles, California</p>
WHEN:	<p>Tuesday, November 1 3:00 - 5:00 PM <i>*note: press check-in will begin at 2:30 PM</i></p>
RSVP:	<p>For questions, or to RSVP, please contact: Danielle Fuerth fuerth@sunshinesachs.com 323-822-9300</p>

ABOUT:

Newly released, *Get Lit Rising* (Simon & Schuster, ISBN: 978-158270-577-4) brings to life the true story of 19 teen poets - the Get Lit Players - who are inspiring thousands of teens across the country through their award-winning performances of classic and spoken word poems. This book takes readers inside the private lives of these teen poets as they try to transform the lives of inner city teens in some of the toughest life circumstances. The Get Lit Players include teens, who struggle with homelessness, autism, incarceration, body image, depression, and more, using the power of poetry to reclaim their lives and influence their friends, families, and communities.

Get Lit – Words Ignite unites classic and spoken word poetry to empower youth and inspire communities. “Claim your poem, claim your life.” Through an innovative curriculum that fuses classic, iconic poetry with students’ original spoken word responses, Get Lit places the greatest poets of our time in dialogue with over 20,000 teens each year who transform their lives and communities through art and social consciousness. The Get Lit Players is Get Lit’s award-winning classic teen poetry troupe that performs annually for over 25,000 of their peers. The GLPs have collaborated and performed with the United Nations, the White House, the Kennedy Center, and more.

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, the **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela); Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la); and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

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