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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DewMore Baltimore Youth Poetry Festival

BALTIMORE—DewMore Baltimore, in conjunction with the Mayor’s office, Enoch Pratt Library and Baltimore City Public Schools is hosting the 2018 DewMore Baltimore Youth Poetry Festival from April 19th - 21st.

The Festival is a three-part annual event in which middle and high school students from around the city are given a platform to share their truth. DewMore Baltimore recognizes the power that art has in decreasing apathy and increasing civic engagement by empowering young people to use their agency and their voice to affect change in their community. Thus, this festival is a celebration of our future change-makers that seeks to spotlight the brilliance of their ideas.

The Itinerary:

Day 1 — **Youth Poet Laureate:** a private event in the City Hall gallery, where a panel of esteemed judges will determine Baltimore’s next Youth Poet Laureate. A youth poet laureate serves as a cultural ambassador for the Mayor, commences a performance tour to several Enoch Pratt Libraries, publishes a book and does readings around the city of Baltimore and the nation at large.

Day 2 — **Crossing the Street:** students from all of DewMore’s partnering schools will come together, leaving the confines of their individual schools and neighborhoods, to meet other students from around the city and attend workshops facilitated by highly qualified community artists teaching from a paradigm conjoining art and social justice.

Day 3 — **Poetry Slam Competition:** middle and high school students will compete in a series of poetry slams at the Downtown Cultural Art Center on 401 N. Howard street. The public is invited to attend the Final Stage competition from 5pm-8pm where the top three winners will be crowned and receive cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100. The featured performer will be the world renowned Rudy Francisco.

For more information contact Kenneth Morrison 443-248-0146 kenneth@dewmorebaltimore.org

