

NEWS RELEASE

CAPONI ART PARK LEARNING CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Poets in the Park Brings Urban Art to Wooded Venue

*Teen poetry slam showcases spoken word and breakdance
in Caponi Art Park's Theater in the Woods*

Eagan, MN – April 19, 2010– An event that is more than words, the 7th annual *Poets in the Park* brings a growing urban art form—spoken word or “slam poetry”—to an unconventional space—Caponi Art Park’s Theater in the Woods. *Poets in the Park* features a teen spoken word competition and special performances by the New Heist breakdance crew, and spoken word



artists Cynthia French (National Slam Champion) and Rob Martin.

The event takes place on **Saturday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m.** and is free and open to all ages. Teens ages 13-19 are invited to perform and compete for **\$150 in cash prizes** sponsored by PCU and can register to compete from 1:30-2:00 p.m. at the event. Prize-winning poets will be announced to local newspapers and on the park’s website. In the event of rain, *Poets* will be held at the Eagan Community Center. Visit www.caponiartpark.org/poetsinthepark for details.

Poets in the Park is a platform for teens to express themselves through a creative art form in an inspiring venue. *Poets in the Park* was borne out of the need for an expressive literary opportunity for teens which formed the unique collaboration between Caponi Art Park in Eagan and the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley. For their senior project, high school students Chella Jagaraj and Matt Potter are learning firsthand how to promote and run a community event for their peers. The Art Park facilitates the students through the marketing process and provides a venue for the program.

(more)

Free Crash Course on Writing and Performing Poetry: Teens interested in performing on May 8 are encouraged to participate in a Poetry Boot Camp on Monday, April 26 from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Wescott Library in Eagan. Presented by Caponi Art Park, the workshop is free and open to teens and adults (a \$5 donation is suggested and helps to make this event possible). National poetry slam champion (and local spoken word diva) Cynthia French will help you jump-start the writing process and get comfortable performing. This fast-paced workshop will utilize examples of poems and performances from a variety of poets and poetry slam champions from around the country. Participants will be asked to read poems, participate in discussions and performance exercises, write and share their writing. To register for the Boot Camp, visit the *Poets in the Park* webpage or call 651.454.9412.

About Caponi Art Park and Learning Center

Located on 60-acres of rolling wooded hills in Eagan, Caponi Art Park and Learning Center is a distinctive community space offering cultural and educational experiences in an inviting, natural setting that seamlessly blends art and nature. Caponi Art Park, a non-profit organization, is open to the public May through October, every day except Monday at 9:00 a.m. and is located on Diffley Road east of Interstate 35E, between Pilot Knob Road and Lexington Avenue.

For more information about Caponi Art Park or *Poets in the Park*, visit www.caponiartpark.org or contact our office at 651.454.9412.

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