



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~

FREE DISCUSSION ABOUT ART AND COMMUNITY

A Conversation Project event facilitated by poet and Rise Up International art ambassador Jason Graham

Does art build a better world? Join us for the Springfield Public Library's first adult summer reading event "**Creativity, Vulnerability, and Art,**" with Jason Graham, Oregon-based artist and educator and former slam poetry champion. Discuss what we risk when we lay ourselves open through music, painting, or any other art form. What might we give up and what might we gain when we set out to craft something beautiful or provocative or expressive that the world did not previously hold? The conversation will be followed by a poetry open mic: community participants are invited.

This Oregon Humanities Conversation Project sponsored event is at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 28 in the Library Meeting Room at Springfield City Hall, 225 Fifth Street. It is co-sponsored by the Oregon Poetry Association and the Springfield Public Library. Free and open to the community ages 15 and up. Poetry open mic to follow at 5:30 p.m.

Jason Graham is an art ambassador for Rise Up International in association with the U.S. Department of State. A Chicago native, he has been featured multiple times as a TEDx speaker and performer. His CV includes Sundance Film Festival, Fiji International Jazz & Blues Festival, Women's Muse Conference, MAGIC trade show Las Vegas, Street Con Dubai, Valley Fiesta Australia, and Oregon Art Beat. He has shared stages with the likes of Ice Cube, Ghostface Killah, Saul Williams, and Talib Kweli, among many others. Most recently he worked as a journalist in Nauru for Vice magazine.

"Build a Better World" all summer long at the Springfield Public Library with the adult summer reading program! Visit the online calendar for access to more free events: <http://localendar.com/public/WhereMindsGrow>

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future. Learn more at: <http://oregonhumanities.org>

The mission of the Oregon Poetry Association (OPA) is to: build and sustain a diverse community of Oregon poets; provide Oregon poets opportunities to exchange ideas and learn from one another; further the appreciation of poetry throughout the state; and raise awareness of Oregon poets. <http://oregonpoets.org>

What: Conversation Project: "Creativity, Vulnerability and Art," facilitated by Oregon-based artist and educator, Jason Graham

When: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 28 followed by a poetry open mic at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Springfield Public Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth St, Springfield OR 97477

Additional Information: Contact Kristen Curé at 541.726.2232 or kcure@springfield-or.gov