



# SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY, INC.

Celebrating 25 Years of Spoken Word Poetry!

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Date: Thursday, December 29, 2016

The purpose of this letter is to inform the greater Southern Fried community of the progress the Advisory Council has made in its first six months of service. As a reminder, at the 2016 tournament, the slammasters voted to organize a centralized body and we have a lot of exciting news to share with you.

We are elated to announce that Southern Fried Poetry has officially incorporated after six months of diligent work by multiple members of our community. Our Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the IRS and the process of becoming a 501c3 with tax-exempt status is currently underway.

We are also excited to unveil the official Southern Fried Poetry logo, as you can see on our letterhead. Thank you Asia Samson for creating an emblem that perfectly captures our history and our spirit.

The 2017 host city of Louisville has been hard at work making sure that the 25th Anniversary of the Southern Fried Poetry Slam launches successfully. The Advisory Council has been in close contact with our 2017 tournament host, and we feel very strongly that our silver anniversary competition will set a new bar in terms of scope and accountability. For 25 years, we have made Southern Fried happen because the community pulled together to make it work with whatever resources we had. Looking forward to the next 25 years, we are confident we are building a festival and organization with a much stronger foundation and a sense of responsibility that equitably supports and uplifts the poets of our community.

Southern Fried Poetry has now created a website that provides information about our tournament and organization: <http://www.southernfriedpoetryslam.com/>. We urge you to visit and become a member of the site, though our digital hub is currently under development so please keep checking back as our work progresses. We also invite Southern Fried Poetry friends and family to become members of the site, which will give subscribers access to special content such as our official newsletter, moderated community forums, and special offers related to the upcoming tournament.

We are also excited to report that our first fundraising endeavor towards raising incorporation costs has been successful. In the first stage of our campaign, we invited over 50 benefactors to donate at least twenty dollars, successfully raising \$1000 dollars to cover our initial incorporation expenses. Members of this 50/20 Club will receive recognition and access to the website, and we invite other potential partners to join them in the next stage of our campaign. In our next phase, our goal is to raise enough money to file for tax exempt status, which will give our organization the ability to seek out funding opportunities such as grants and large-scale donations. One major effort toward raising funds will be through the sale of limited edition merchandise, such as t-shirts and buttons, which will give patrons the chance to show their support for Southern Fried Poetry in multiple ways. A coordinated effort will follow this announcement, so please stay tuned.

The Advisory Council is committed to fulfilling the promises we have made, including increased transparency and accountability to ensure the partners and participants of our festival are fairly supported and compensated. As our 25th festival in June draws closer, our plan is to unveil our formalized mechanisms in regards to vetting host cities, reporting our budget, and distributing payments. For more questions, please send inquiries to [info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com](mailto:info@southernfriedpoetryslam.com). Thank you for your patience and support. We look forward to telling you more at the 2017 slammasters meeting.