



SOUTHERN FRIED POETRY, INC.

Celebrating over 25 Years of Slam Poetry!

Statement of Intent

Dear community,

This letter comes to you from the newly formed Southern Fried Safety Committee. First and foremost, we want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards creating a safer, more inclusive, more transparent organization.

In the past, Southern Fried has not positioned itself to be able to create 100% “safe spaces” with either our physical or social media platforms. While Southern Fried is a 29-year-old festival, we only gained incorporation and an advisory board, now board of directors, in 2017. Our task to grow while protecting the organization and its community members has not been an easy one. Still, the need for a group of dedicated and qualified safety committee members has been long overdue, and we are excited to be rectifying that as we move forward. As we are growing, we commit to being more mindful of the ways that we support each other and we will be working to utilize improved professional resources, such as early mediation, legal aid, and restorative justice practices.

We are calling on members of our community to be upstanders in this mission and help consider your personal part in creating a “safe space.” Just because we have well-intended feelings for creating this space does not make it safe until every person is willing to consider the lived experiences of one another.

Obviously, this is a complicated task with many possible pitfalls, and we cannot solve every issue, but we also recognize that it is our duty to our community to do all we can to keep you safe. Our love, support and safety for our community members must be the center of our work and pedagogy moving forward in our festival and community. We ask for your continued patience and support.

We know this is an ongoing conversation. For any questions or concerns, please email us at safety@southernfriedpoetryslam.com or via our Safety Committee co-chair Matthew Cuban Hernandez at Matthewcubanpoetry@gmail.com.

In commitment for a safer community,
The Safety Committee