

Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival 2026

Public Impact Summary

The 2026 Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival marked the festival's third year as one of the nation's largest spoken word and poetry slam festivals. Across four days of programming in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chicharra welcomed poets, artists, educators, youth participants, and audiences from across the Southwest and beyond.

The festival featured approximately 35 events, including workshops, performances, competitions, open mics, youth programming, and interdisciplinary public discussions centered around poetry as a form of public infrastructure.

Category	Highlights
Festival Overview	4 Days • ~35 Events • Multiple Albuquerque Venues
Participation	~85 Competing Poets • ~35 Volunteers & Facilitators
Attendance	~620–650 Core Attendees • 1,200+ Overall Reach
Youth Programming	Youth Workshops • Youth Slam • Mentorship Opportunities
Partnerships	Explora • Albuquerque Museum • Instituto Cervantes • Arts & Culture
Visibility	TV Interviews • Radio • Newspapers • Civic Recognition

Major Highlights

- Officially recognized by the City of Albuquerque through the proclamation of March 19, 2026 as “Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival Day.”
- Expanded youth programming and mentorship opportunities.
- Strengthened partnerships with museums, cultural institutions, and civic organizations.
- Increased regional and national visibility through extensive media coverage and public programming.
- Continued development of “The Sound of Cicadas” conversation series focused on “Poetry as Public Infrastructure.”

Looking Ahead

Future plans for 2027 include expanded interdisciplinary programming, new signature events, increased educational partnerships, keynote presentations, audience engagement initiatives, and continued investment in accessible public arts programming throughout the Southwest.

Prepared by Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival