

Jillian Hanesworth is the first ever Poet Laureate of Buffalo, New York, a community organizer, recording artist and activist. She was born and raised on the east side of Buffalo where she developed a vision to use art and advocacy to help her community reimagine justice and work together to create a system where all people can thrive.

Currently Jillian travels the country performing poetry and speaking on various topics including; art for activism, the impacts of storytelling and finding your purpose to create your own lane. Jillian also oversees "Buffalo Books", a nationally recognized program which aims to improve access to culturally relevant books for residents of the east side of Buffalo.