

12PM

NEWTOWN LITERARY

RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS: WRITERS OF COLOR AS WHOLE PEOPLE

In the reading and panel presented by Newtown Literary, a Queens literary journal and nonprofit, Queens poets will share some of their latest work, followed by a panel discussion about what it means to be a writer of color. Too often writers of color are expected to write only about race, but we also write genre fiction, poetry about grief, meditations on family and love, and much more. We will discuss Queens as home to a community of diverse writers and how its uniqueness contributes to creative life and writing as a whole person.

CHANICE CRUZ

Chanice Cruz is originally from Brooklyn, New York and has lived much of her life in Richmond, Virginia where she became involved with Slam Richmond. She was a founding member of its first youth slam team Slam Dominion. She is currently enrolled at Queens College for her bachelor's degree in English.



VICTORIA (TORI) MATOS

Victoria (Tori) Matos is a 23-year-old artist based in the West Village and born and raised in Queens, New York. They have recently graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a bachelor's degree in theatre. They've read their work at New York Theatre Workshop and Judson Memorial Church. Their work revolves around the struggle to find multi-layered identity in a binary world. Follow them on Instagram @ToriAshleyMatos!



ALLISON ESCOTO (MODERATOR)

Allison Escoto is a poet and head librarian at the Center for Fiction in NYC. She is a New Yorker by way of the suburbs of Louisiana and, with the exception of a few, mostly regrettable exceptions, has lived in Queens since 2001. Her work has appeared in *Broadsided Press*, *Edible Queens*, *Newtown Literary Journal*, *Emotive Fruition*, and the No, YOU Tell It storytelling series. She is the associate editor of *Newtown Literary Journal*.

