



# AGENDA OF THE GREEN BAY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026, 8:30 AM**  
**City Hall, Room 604 - The Harry Maier Room.**  
**Virtual attendance is also available via Zoom.**

## **A. Zoom Meeting Information.**

### **I. Join Zoom Meeting Online:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83031018985?pwd=sAdzHHwzDujbZV94colrC39wfahqHq.1>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 830 3101 8985

Passcode: 070994

If you wish to leave a comment for this public meeting, please fill out the online [Comment Form](#) prior to the meeting. More detailed [Zoom Instructions](#) can be found online.

## **B. Roll Call.**

### **I. Members: Chuck Yang, Ald. Alyssa Proffitt, Michelle Winter, Alex Zacarias, and Melanie Bradshaw Motiff.**

Liaison Representatives: Rissel Peguero Almonte - Independent Music Instructor, Sophie Bebeau - Independent Poet, and Deyvn Mcilraith - Neville Museum.

## **C. Approval of the Agenda.**

### **I. Approval of the agenda for the Wednesday, January 14, 2026, meeting of the Green Bay Public Arts Commission.**

## **D. Approval of Minutes.**

### **I. Approval of the minutes from the Wednesday, October 22, 2025 meeting.**

## **E. Regular Business.**

### **I. For consideration with possible action to select a Poet Laureate for the 2026-2028 term.**

**F. Informational.**

1. Coordinator's report and project updates.
2. Next Meeting: January 28, 2026

**G. Adjournment.**

1. Adjournment of the Wednesday, January 14, 2026, meeting of the Green Bay Public Arts Commission.

- 1) THIS MEETING IS RECORDED: THE VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.greenbaywi.gov](http://www.greenbaywi.gov)
- 2) ACCESSIBILITY: Any person wishing to attend who requires special accommodation because of a disability, should contact the City Safety Manager at 920-448-3125 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting time so that arrangements can be made.
- 3) QUORUM: Please take notice that a majority or quorum of the Common Council will attend this Green Bay Public Arts Commission meeting and will constitute a meeting of the Common Council for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
- 4) REPRESENTATION: The party requesting the communication, or their representative, should be present at this meeting.



Report to the  
**Public Arts Commission**  
of the City of Green Bay

**MEETING DATE**

January 14, 2026

**PREPARED BY**

**AGENDA ITEM # D.I**

Approval of the minutes from the Wednesday, October 22, 2025 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- I. GBPAC Minutes 10.22.2025



# **MINUTES OF THE GREEN BAY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025, 8:30 AM**  
**City Hall, Room 604 - The Harry Maier Room.**  
**Virtual attendance is also available via Zoom.**

## **A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.**

- I. Join Zoom Meeting Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324699453?pwd=SWtrUUNVdIYlSlidXaTRPaFpXMHBqZz09>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 823 2469 9453

Passcode: 924755

If you wish to speak at this public meeting or leave a comment, please fill out the online [Comment Form](#) prior to the meeting. More detailed [Zoom Instructions](#) can be found online.

## **B. ROLL CALL.**

- I. Members: Michelle Winter, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff, Ald. Alyssa Proffitt, Chuck Yang, and Alex Zacarias.

Liaison Representatives: Sophie Bebeau - Independent Poet, Devyn McIlraith - Neville Museum, and Rissel Peguero Almonte - Independent Music Instructor

Present: Chuck Yang, Alex Zacarias, Michelle Winter, Alyssa Proffitt, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff

Excused:

Absent: Rissel Peguero, Sophie Bebeau

## **C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

1. Approval of the agenda for the Wednesday, October 22, 2025, meeting of the Green Bay Public Arts Commission.

Moved by Ald. Alyssa Proffitt, seconded by Melanie Bradshaw Motiff to approve the agenda.  
Motion Passed.

Yes—Chuck Yang, Alex Zacarias, Michelle Winter, Alyssa Proffitt, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff,  
No-None, Abstain-None.

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

1. Approval of the minutes from the Wednesday, September 24, 2025, meeting.

Moved by Ald. Alyssa Proffitt, seconded by Chuck Yang to approve the minutes.  
Motion Passed.

Yes—Chuck Yang, Alex Zacarias, Michelle Winter, Alyssa Proffitt, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff,  
No-None, Abstain-None.

#### **E. REGULAR BUSINESS.**

1. For consideration with possible action on the selection of jury members for the Poet Laureate.

Brenda Cardenas, Nakeysha Roberts-Washington, and Amy Mazzariello were the 3 jury members in consideration.

Moved by Ald. Alyssa Proffitt, seconded by Michelle Winter to approve.  
Motion Passed.

Yes—Chuck Yang, Alex Zacarias, Michelle Winter, Alyssa Proffitt, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff,  
No-None, Abstain-None.

#### **F. INFORMATIONAL.**

1. Coordinator's report and project updates.
  
2. Next Meeting: December 10, 2025

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT.**

- I. Adjournment of the Wednesday, October 22, 2025, meeting of the Green Bay Public Arts Commission.

Moved by Michelle Winter, seconded by Ald. Alyssa Proffitt to adjourn.

Motion Passed.

Yes—Chuck Yang, Alex Zacarias, Michelle Winter, Alyssa Proffitt, Melanie Bradshaw Motiff,  
No-None, Abstain-None.



Report to the  
**Public Arts Commission**  
of the City of Green Bay

## MEETING DATE

January 14, 2026

## PREPARED BY

Erick Ledesma Borrero, Staff

## AGENDA ITEM # E.1

For consideration with possible action to select a Poet Laureate for the 2026-2028 term.

## BACKGROUND

A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Green Bay Poet Laureate Program was presented to and approved by the Public Arts Commission (PAC) in September 2024 in response to a communication from Alder Johnson. Due to staff transitions, the RFP was not released to the public and the program was subsequently paused. Current staff has since developed a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to advance the program.

The RFQ was open from October 23 through November 18, 2025, and received a total of 14 submissions. Qualifications were reviewed and scored by the PAC, which selected five finalists: Cujo The Poet, Dg Clearing, Miriam Brabham, Hannah Neece Petraski, and John Pidgeon. Finalists were invited to submit full proposals outlining the work they would undertake during their tenure if selected as Poet Laureate, with evaluation criteria focused on creativity, community engagement, and relevance to the City of Green Bay.

Staff recommended Brenda Cárdenas, Nakeysha Roberts Washington, and Amy Mazzariello—poetry and literary professionals—to serve as external jurors in order to promote impartiality in the selection process. This recommendation was approved by the PAC on October 22, 2025, and by the Common Council on November 11, 2025. Jurors were asked to evaluate proposals based on the following criteria: artistic excellence and craft of poetry and writing samples; community engagement and public-facing experience; professional qualifications and readiness; proposal feasibility and implementation; and proposal creativity, vision, and impact. The external jurors completed their final scoring and submitted recommendations by January 5, 2026.

Due to Brenda Cárdenas being unable to participate in the final deliberations, the PAC will also score the proposals to assist in determining which finalist should be recommended as the Poet Laureate to the Common Council. This recommendation will be made at the special meeting of the Public Arts Commission on January 14, 2026. Final selection will be made by the Common Council at its regular meeting on January 20, 2026.

## RECOMMENDATION

To be discussed at the PAC meeting.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The program recommends an annual stipend of \$3,000 for the two-year term and up to \$1,000 for programmatic and production expenses (\$7,000 max for the two-year term). The program is

being funded through the City's general unrestricted art funds.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Poet Laureate RFP Evaluation Rubric
2. CujoThePoet\_Proposal
3. DgClearing\_Proposal
4. HannahNeecePetraski\_Proposal
5. JohnPidgeon\_Proposal
6. MiriamBrabham\_Proposal

## **Poet Laureate RFQ Evaluation Rubric**

Scoring Scale (0–5pts)

5 – Excellent

4 – Strong

3 – Adequate

2 – Limited

1 – Weak

0 – Not Evident

### **1. Artistic Excellence & Craft of Poetry/Writing Samples — 20%**

Evaluates the quality, originality, and literary skill demonstrated in submitted work.

#### **Criteria to Consider:**

- Mastery of craft (language, form, imagery, rhythm, structure)
- Originality of voice and perspective
- Emotional and/or intellectual impact
- Consistency of quality across samples

#### **Scoring Guide:**

- 5: Exceptional artistic achievement; highly original and polished.
- 3: Competent craft with some variability in quality.
- 1: Emerging or underdeveloped craft.

### **2. Community Engagement & Public-Facing Experience — 20%**

Assesses the applicant's ability to serve as a public ambassador for poetry and engages in diverse communities.

#### **Criteria Considered:**

- Public readings, workshops, educational activities
- History of inclusivity and outreach
- Demonstrated ability to reach varied audiences

**Scoring Guide:**

- 5: Strong, meaningful record of community engagement.
- 3: Moderate engagement experience.
- 1: Limited or no public/community work shown.

**3. Professional Qualifications & Readiness (Resume and/or CV) — 20%**

Evaluates preparedness to serve in a public, organizational, and literary role.

**Criteria Considered:**

- Publication, performance, or literary involvement
- Professionalism and organizational skills
- Evidence of reliability and leadership
- Relevant awards, residencies, or training

**Scoring Guide:**

- 5: Clear readiness with strong, relevant experience.
- 3: Some relevant qualifications.
- 1: Minimal or unrelated experience.

**4. Proposal Feasibility & Implementation — 20%**

Assesses whether the proposed project(s) are realistic, achievable, and well-planned within the scope of the Poet Laureate term.

**Criteria to Consider:**

- Clarity of goals, timeline, and activities
- Alignment with available resources and term length
- Demonstrated understanding of logistical needs
- Evidence the proposal can be successfully completed

**Scoring Guide:**

- 5: Highly feasible; well-organized with clear, realistic implementation plans.
- 3: Generally feasible with some gaps or unclear elements.
- 1: Unrealistic, vague, or lacks implementation detail.

**5. Proposal Creativity, Vision & Impact — 20%**

Evaluates the originality, imagination, and potential cultural impact of the proposed work.

**Criteria to Consider:**

- Originality and innovation of ideas
- Strength and clarity of artistic vision
- Relevance to community, place, or public mission
- Potential for lasting or meaningful impact

**Scoring Guide:**

- 5: Compelling, innovative vision with strong potential impact.
- 3: Clear concept with some creative or conceptual strengths.
- 1: Conventional, unclear, or minimally developed proposal.

**Total Score Calculation**

- Artistic Excellence: 20% / 5pts
- Community Engagement: 20% / 5pts
- Professional Qualifications: 20% / 5pts
- Proposal Feasibility: 20% / 5pts
- Proposal Creativity: 20% / 5pts

**TOTAL: 100% / 25pts**

DECEMBER 2025



# Green Bay Poet Laureate Project Proposal

ARRANGED BY

Jon Mojock

ARTIST NAME

Cujo the Poet

1230 Mather St, Green Bay ● [www.CujoThePoet.com](http://www.CujoThePoet.com) ● 352-516-2070

Photo by By Chris Rand  
Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=34696968>

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## Project

# Introduction

In my view, a major responsibility of the Poet Laureate is to inspire other authors and expand appreciation of the art form. In addition, I believe the responsibility of anyone officially affiliated with the Public Arts Commission should entail getting art in front of the public, supporting and promoting local artists/creators, and beautifying/elevating our city to help make it a place that attracts talent and youth to help it continue to grow into the future. That's why my project is focused on encouraging writers in our city to put their work out there, giving them the opportunity to have their work appreciated by residents of and visitors to Green Bay, and creating a convenient and accessible tool that will expand the reach of these authors.

In short, my project will: collect works from local poets, display them in public/ally spaces, create an interactive map so they can be searched online, and create an anthology from these works. Please allow me to expand on each phase.



Left: "Frog and Toad" statue installation by Naomi Moes-Jenkins

Above: "Dream" mural by Beau Thomas

# Phase 1

## Inspire and Collect Submissions

The first phase of the project will be to collect Poetry submissions from local poets over the 2026 term year. This is achieved by promoting the project through local open mics, city and program ally events, flyers, and city website (if possible). Poems will be selected based on appropriateness for display location, timelessness, and likelihood to foster appreciation for poetry and our city.



“Teach the Youth” fundraiser for The Boys and Girls Club at The Weidner, August 2024

Primacy will be given to city residents, but submissions can be open to people who work, vacation, or spend significant time in Green Bay. A release form will need to be created and signed by selected poets so poems can be displayed and later converted into an anthology and distributed with their consent.



“Music Saved My Life” program for youth at Urban Cultural Arts, August 2023

# Phase 2

## Identify Locations for Display



Next I'll need to Identify relevant locations (i.e. which parks have highest traffic, do the selected poems relate to the neighborhood, area, what allies are willing to display, etc). These may include but are not limited to: city parks, public spaces, city buildings, public libraries, public schools, relevant private businesses such as bookstores or art galleries. I'll need to acquire necessary permissions and appropriate display methods (i.e. plaques hung, 4x4 posts with placard on top outside, or other possible creative implementation that can be coordinated with city or business owners).



A Green Bay City Park and Central library given as examples for potential display locations

# Phase 3

## Installations and Dedications

Next I'll create the visual representations (wood engravings, vinyl print, framed works and/or interchangeable installation boxes are all possibilities and I'm open to discussing other options per location preference). Then install poems at each location. At certain locations, host live/live-streamed readings/dedications with the selected poet to draw community attention and further spread awareness of the project and the Public Arts Commission.



Poets selected during "COLLABORATE" exhibit at The Art Garage, October 2023



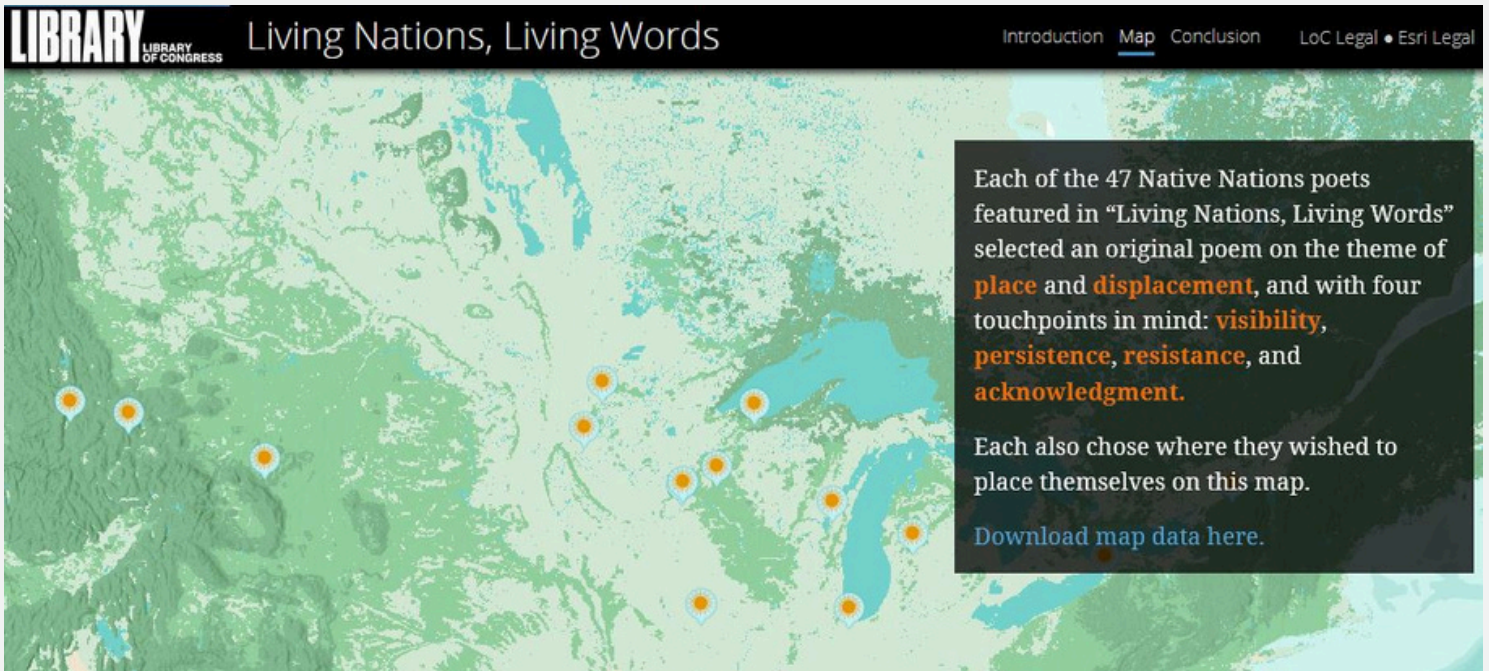
Mayor Eric Genrich dedicating the I Heart GB installation on City Deck., December 2022

Above and Right: Poetry in the Park type examples (see Additional Resources page for more info)



# Phase 4

## Create Interactive Poetry Map

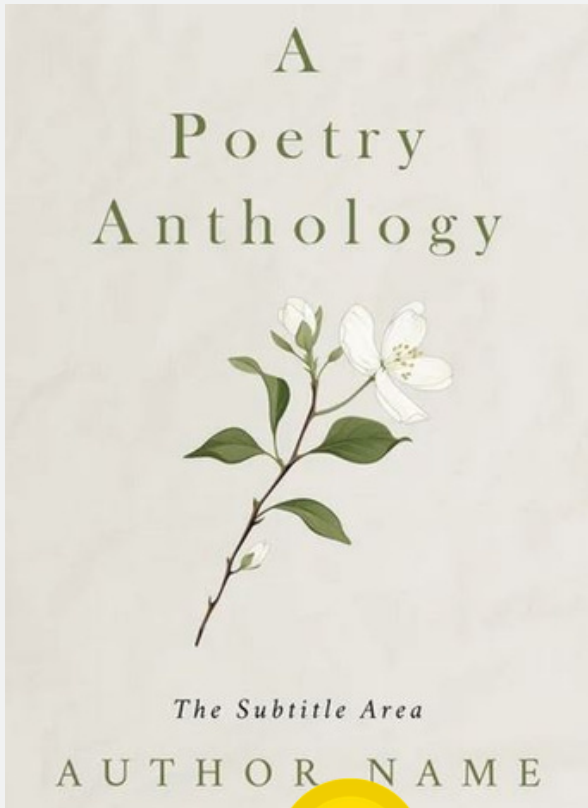


Screenshot of “Living Nations, Living Words” Interactive Map, Library of Congress website

In my opinion, the crown jewel that sets this project apart is the commission of an interactive GIS map to be created referencing all the locations of poetry installations with author bios and relevant information about the location. This map will be able to be embedded within the City of Green Bay website at an appropriate location, so that people can more easily find the installations and learn more about the selected authors. This idea was inspired by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo’s project (screenshot above), and can be made possible by a personal connection willing to complete this task within a very reasonable budget (Green Bay native, Tyler Hoegger; see references on final page for previous work examples).

# Phase 5

## Design and Format Anthology



Design cover/page layout for anthology and get order capacity live through Amazon publishing, or other on-demand digital publisher. This method is suggested so as to avoid the necessity of a large up-front purchase and subsequent storage of inventory, and allows the anthologies to be shipped directly to consumers. A profile can be set up through the Public Arts Commission for income generated by the anthology to be used at the city's discretion – though I recommend creating a fund for future Poet Laureate terms to help the program continue into the future and possibly increase the future stipend/budget to elevate the impact of future projects.



# Project

# Timeline



**Phase 1**  
**Submissions**

January 2026 -  
December 2026

**Phase 2**  
**Locations**

January 2026 -  
March 2027

**Phase 3**  
**Installations**

February 2027 -  
September 2027

**Phase 4**  
**Interactive Map**

May 2027 -  
November 2027

**Phase 5**  
**Anthology**

November 2027 -  
December 2027

While many of these phases will be carried out simultaneously, I find it helpful to present a timeline in order to ensure all tasks are completed.

Installation dates will be dependent upon availability of poets or city officials willing to be present for dedication, and availability of space/staff at the location. Also for outside installations, weather will obviously be a factor.



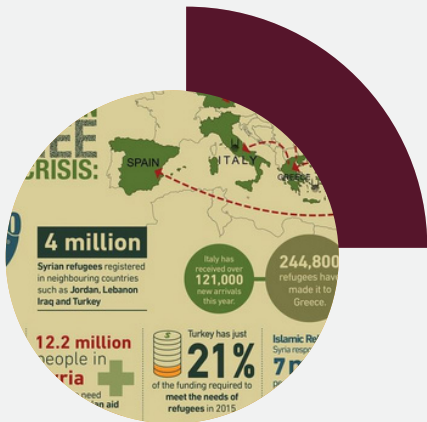
# Project Budget



**Printed Materials**  
\$50 - \$100



**Installation Materials**  
\$350 - \$500



**Interactive Map**  
\$350 - \$500



**ISBN/Publishing**  
\$150 (optional)

# Additional Resources

## GIS Map examples

[Tyler Hoegger work example #1](#)  
[Tyler Hoegger work example #2](#)  
[Joy Harjo interactive map](#)

## Poetry Installation examples

[Poetry in the Park in Lancaster](#)  
[Front Yard Poetry](#)

## Anthology Hosting example

[Shopify](#)  
[Amazon Kindle Direct](#)



Photo by Chris Rugowski, Chicken or the Egg Photography, May 2024

In closing, I would be incredibly honored to serve as Green Bay's inaugural Poet Laureate, and would do my best to serve the position with dignity and poise while focusing on establishing a legacy - and future public awareness/appreciation - for the position.

Jonathan (Cujo the Poet) Mojock



# Port of Poets

**Dear Esteemed Poet Laureate Judges,**

Thank you for the time and passion you dedicate to literature and the arts. It is truly appreciated by both the community and by me.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the position of Poet Laureate of Green Bay. As a dedicated member of the local literary & arts community with a demonstrated commitment to the power of the written and spoken word, I am excited by the prospect of serving the Green Bay community in this significant cultural role.

My family's connection to Green Bay runs deep, dating back to the mid-1800s when my ancestors settled here as lumberjacks, farmers, and tradespeople. That strong bond continues through the generations: my grandfather was the first hired driver for Schneider Trucking, and my father was a banker working with the Green Bay Packers during the legendary Lombardi years. More recently, my brother designed the logo for the Tiletown District, a project that continues our family's link to the team.

Although I grew up in Seymour, Green Bay was always the center of our family, friends, and entertainment. My wife and I lived in Green Bay during the mid-2000s, where I was the Food & Beverage Director at the Best Western Hotel near Lambeau Field. We ended up moving twice to help our aging parents, first to St. Croix Falls, then to Menasha in 2017, where my parents lived and where we now reside.

My personal commitment to Green Bay and its arts, poetry, and literary community is unwavering. For the past seven years, I have regularly performed at local venues including the Weidner Center, Tarlton Theater, Urban Cultural Art Center, and others. From 2022 to 2023, I owned a gallery in Green Bay, on Main Street called "Dg Clearing Fine Arts Gallery," which showcased the commissioned artworks from Brett Favre's personal collection, which is now an online gallery. My poetry has been featured in local publications, including The Green Bay Press-Gazette and The Times: City Pages, and has been read, seen, or heard by tens of thousands of Green Bay residents.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the arts. You are greatly valued.

With deep appreciation and gratitude,

Welcome to the **"Port of Poets."**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dg Clearing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping underline.

Dg Clearing

# Port of Poets

A comprehensive project view of the

***Port of Poets***

by:

Green Bay Poet Laureate Nominee

Dg Clearing

for

2026-2027

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4	My Pledge
5	What is <b><i>Port of Poets</i></b>
6	My Vision
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9	Dg Clearing CV
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# Port of Poets

Definition:

A port where the loading and unloading of ideas, stories, and art takes place.

# Mission Statement

To enrich and foster the lives of the people of Green Bay, its visitors, and businesses through poetry, literature, and the arts.

# My Pledge

As Green Bay's Poet Laureate, my pledge comes to life over the next two years through the ***Port of Poets***. This is a series of initiatives that will cultivate a fresh cultural appreciation for poetry, prose, and the arts. Through collaborations with the city, schools, businesses, civic organizations, and volunteers, we can effectively share the deep cultural histories and compelling stories of:

**The Great City of Green Bay**

# What is *Port of Poets*

For thousands of years, Green Bay has served as a vital port—a crucial harbor for shelter, trade, and supplies. This historical significance is the fundamental reason our city was established in both ancient and modern times. The resulting exchanges fostered a rich environment of businesses and multicultural ideas spanning commerce, education, and the arts.

It is this legacy of exchange that brings the  
***“Port of Poets”***  
to life.

*A place where the loading and unloading of ideas, stories, and art takes place.*

# My Vision

My vision centers on implementing ***Port of Poets***, with **sustainable, proven projects** modeled after successful programs in other cities. This approach will establish the crucial groundwork for an enduring literary program, featuring community-embraced projects that can be repeated annually, biannually, or as needed. This strategy will help secure continued endorsement and funding from the City of Green Bay, while creating opportunities for corporate and private sponsorship of our Poet Laureate Program, helping establish a literary legacy for Green Bay, and future generations of Laureates.

# Project

The "**Port of Poets**" initiatives are specifically designed to weave literary arts into the daily fabric of life in Green Bay. This is achieved through a series of accessible public projects suitable for all ages, implemented successfully with the vital assistance of our community allies. (see page 8)

**A City-wide Poetry & Literary Arts Program:** An inclusive program where adults and youth can contribute to community literary projects and gain recognition through various platforms such as social media, television, newspapers, workshops, and performances.

- **Including:**
- **Public Transportation Poetry:** Poems will be showcased inside buses and on bus stop shelters to reach daily commuters.
- **QR Poetry:** QR codes leading to poems will be placed in local newspapers, participating businesses, and public spaces.
- **Poetry in the Window:** Local store windows will display curated poems.
- **Poetry in the Park:** A monthly summer reading and open-mic series for youth and adults conducted in city parks.
- **Community Workshops, Readings, and Open-mics:** Various workshops, readings, and open-mic events for poetry, prose, and spoken word will be held throughout the community.
- **School Outreach Program:** Readings, workshops, and interactive question-and-answer sessions will be held in Green Bay schools to foster youth enthusiasm for the Literary Arts.
- **Conclusion of the City-wide Poetry Program**
- An anthology of the writings/poems from the **Port of Poets** projects will be compiled into a two-volume set, one for 2026 and the other for 2027. These will be available for purchase through local bookstores and will serve as a lasting legacy of the first Poet Laureate Program for the community.
- To build program recognition and familiarity, the official name, "**Port of Poets, A Green Bay Poet Laureate Program,**" will be consistently included in print or bannered on all projects, publications, and books. This consistent branding aims to establish a strong, recognizable identity for the Poet Laureate Program.

# Community Allies

Community allies will play a vital, multifaceted role in the success and sustainability of *Port of Poets* and the Poet Laureate Program, acting as essential bridges between the program and the community it serves. Their primary functions include:

- **Amplifying Reach and Promotion:** Allies use their established networks and platforms (e.g., libraries, local businesses, schools, media outlets) to significantly broaden awareness of the program, ensuring that diverse community members are informed about events, workshops, and opportunities to engage.
- **Facilitating Community Engagement:** By collaborating on specific projects, allies help tailor activities to the specific needs and interests of their respective audiences, increasing genuine participation and ensuring the program remains relevant and accessible to all residents.
- **Providing Venues and Resources:** Partners often offer physical spaces for readings, workshops, and events (like community centers or bookstores), as well as provide in-kind support, volunteer assistance, or even supplementary funding, which reduces the operational burden on program organizers.
- **Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability:** Strong alliances create a robust support system, embedding the program within the community's cultural infrastructure. This distributed ownership helps the program weather changes in funding or leadership, securing its longevity and ensuring its impact endures beyond a single laureate's term.
- **Offering Diverse Perspectives:** Allies bring unique insights into the community's demographics and cultural dynamics, helping organizers tailor initiatives that are inclusive and resonate across different neighborhoods and populations.

Several community allies have committed to participating in the Poet Laureate Program. *Port of Poets* initiatives will be strategically matched with these organizations based on the nature of each initiative, a process that will continue as new allies join the program.

**Current committed allies include Brown County Public Library, the Oneida Community Library, Lion's Mouth Bookstore, and the Green Bay Public School District.**

## **Dg Clearing CV**

### **Book Publications**

Love Letters to Gaia, an Anthology: The Keeper of My Soul  
published by: Miro Crocco

Out Loud, A Literary LGBTQ Art Anthology: My First Rainbow  
published by: Read or Green Books

American Graveyard - Volume 1, an Anthology, Casey Goodman  
published by: Read or Green Books

American Graveyard - Volume 2, A Note from a Friend, to be released in March 2026  
published by: Read or Green Books

I Can't Breathe Vol. 1: 1965  
published by: Underground Publishing of Bloomfield College, New Jersey

I Can't Breathe Vol. 2: Pine Tree Air Freshener  
published by: Underground Publishing of Bloomfield College, New Jersey

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Calendar 2023: Shadow in the Wind

Hopefully Soon: a book to be released in the spring of 2027, by Dg Clearing

### **Newspapers Publications**

2022 City Pages, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
2021

USA Today Newspapers:

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, WI

Green Bay Press-Gazette, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Appleton Post-Crescent, Appleton, Wisconsin

The Reporter, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Herald Times, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin

The Northwestern, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

The Sheboygan Press, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Wausau Daily Herald, Wausau, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Stevens Point Journal, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Door County Advocate, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

### **Poetry / Literary Films & Videos**

2022 Council for Wisconsin Writers(CWW) Poetry Month Film Series

2020 Poetry Unlocked Video Series of Wisconsin Poets

## **Stage / Theater / Performance of Poetry**

Dg Clearing CV

2025 SOHO PlayHouse New York, NY  
2025 Frigid Theater New York, NY  
2025 Bowery Poetry, New York, NY  
2025 Brooklyn Music Kitchen, Brooklyn, NY  
2025 The Red Room, New York, NY  
2025 Second Tuesday Poets, Stevens Point, WI  
2025 Evy's, Mendota, IL  
2025 NAMI, Oshkosh, WI  
2025 Al Johnson's, Sister Bay, WI  
2025 The Nook, Manitowoc, WI  
2024 Waupaca Arts Board-Poetry in the Park, Waupaca, WI  
2024 The Depot, Green Bay, WI  
2024 WisHope, Waupaca, WI  
2024 Odins & Frja's, Scandinavia WI  
2024 Fresh Water Press, Manitowac, WI  
2023 KGB, New York, NY  
2023 Parkside Lounge, New York, NY  
2023 WFOP Annual Conference, Oshkosh, WI  
2023 Waupaca Arts Board-Danes Hall, Waupaca, WI  
2023 Bus Boys & Poets, Arlington, VA  
2023 South Shore Poets, Cuddahey Library, Cuddahey, WI  
2023-25 Urban Cultural Arts Center, Green Bay, WI  
2023-2025 Linneman's Riverwest, Milwaukee, WI  
2023-2025 The Nightly Buzz, Green Bay, WI  
2022-2025 The Tarlton Theater, Green Bay, WI  
2022-2025 UnCanny Voices, Green Bay, WI  
2022-2024 New Moon Cafe, Oshkosh, WI  
2022-2023 Oshkosh Public Library, Oshkosh, WI  
2022 The Weidner Center, Fringe Festival, Green Bay, WI  
2022 Forever S7even, Chicago, IL  
2021-2024 Nuyourican Poets Cafe, New York, NY  
2021 Appleton Public Library Virtual, Appleton, WI  
2019 The Evergreen, Oshkosh, WI  
2018-2025 Poetry Unlocked, Appleton, WI  
2018/19/23 Dickenson Poetry Series, Ephrium, WI

## **Interviews / Publications**

2025 Authors Showcase, Oshkosh Media, Spectrum TV, hosted by Thomas Cannon  
Oshkosh Poet Laureate and Professor Bill Gillard, Oshkosh, WI  
2025 Poets Have Something to Say, hosted by North Fond du Lac's Poet Laureate  
Jeffery McAndrew, Fond du Lac, WI  
2025 WBOM, Versed Radio, Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, Rockford, IL  
2022 Council for Wisconsin Writers(CWW) Poetry Month Film Series

## **Virtual performances**

Dg Clearing CV

I have performed in India, Japan, England, Australia, Ukraine, Ireland & throughout the United States, including New York, Austin, Chicago, San Francisco, El Paso, Los Angeles, and others.

## **Poetry Outloud**

Through this program, high school students across the country participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history.

2023            Regional Judge for Poetry Out Loud High School competition  
Present        Ongoing ambassador & liaison for teachers, students, and schools,  
                         wanting to participate in the program.

## **Memberships in Literary/ Poetry Organizations**

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets(WFOP)  
Poetry Society of America  
Academy of American Poets

## **Accolades**

2022    Chosen by the Council for Wisconsin Writers as one of the representatives for  
                 Wisconsin, for National Poetry Month.  
2000    Elected as Mr. Door County, represented Door County in various public and  
                 private events.

## **Visual arts**

**1980-1995**

**Minneapolis / New York**

I was a well-known artist in the Midwest during the mid-80s to the mid-90s. My work focused on large-scale photography on canvas, ranging in size from just a few feet to works 300 feet long, and some 30 feet wide and 50 feet long. I was represented by two galleries, ARTBANQUE in Minneapolis and Corporate Art Resource in Chicago. These galleries represented some of the biggest names during that time, including Warhol, Mapplethorpe, George Morrison, and others. I showed alongside many of them, including Warhol, Mako, Christo, George Morrison, and others. During this time, I lived in New York City for 2 years to produce and promote my art for the galleries.

## **Visual arts**

Dg Clearing CV

My work has been shown in many galleries and museums, from the Minneapolis Institute of Art to more locally, the Bergstrum-Mahler Art Museum in Neenah, and the Appleton Gallery of Arts, now renamed "The Trout Museum" in Appleton.

This was an exciting time in the art world and the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. We were in the height of the Postmodern era and the beginning of the Contemporary era of art, and a new resurgence of public art. In Minneapolis-St. Paul, new organizations emerged during this time to help sustain and support artists and art organizations. On a grassroots level, I was involved in many of those, including FORCAST, ARTPAPER, the Artist Collective, and Artspace.

## **Visual arts**

I worked directly with the *Minneapolis Public School System* and did **workshops** on art techniques during regular art classes, and had full school participation in creating new, large-scale photographs, in which every student participated.

I worked with the Mpls. Pillsbury House in conducting **workshops** for underserved youth.

During this time, I worked/volunteered at the Multiple Resource Center in Minneapolis as an **Art Therapist** on a weekly basis, working with mentally challenged youth and adults for about 2 years.

## **Galleries that I own or have owned**

- 1996-1998 Settlement Images, Fish Creek, WI  
specializing in investment-grade artwork of established artists.
- 2022-2023 Dg Clearing a Fine Art Gallery, Main Street, Green Bay, WI  
specializing in paintings from Brett Favre's private collection
- 2024-- Dg Clearing Gallery, a Green Bay area online gallery  
specializing in paintings from Brett Favre's private collection,  
along with private sales & acquisitions of investment-grade art.

## **Other Work**

Dg Clearing CV

I worked in the hospitality industry for many years, including owning three restaurants with my wife in Door County:

1999- 2006 The Harborside, Baileys Harbor, WI  
The Harborside Bistro, Egg Harbor, WI  
Portifinos, Fish Creek, WI

Along with this, I held various positions in restaurants in Minneapolis, New York, Appleton, and Green Bay, from Director of Operations, General Manager, and Head Chef at the Monte Carlo(Mpls), Blue Point(Mpls), The Terrace(NYC), Masters(Mpls), Golden Coral(Oshkosh), and the Best Western Hotel near Lambeau Field(Green Bay). I was responsible for the hiring, training & development of staff and managers, full P&L responsibilities, menu development, marketing, and public relations.

## **Education**

Studied Fine Arts at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota

# Dg Clearing Poems

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## The Trail

I walked the trail many times  
each season filled with memories  
wild flowers, of May's rains  
fern groves, in July's humidity  
leaf colors, as October passes  
white and silent, January's crust.

Change is subtle along the path  
a sapling  
new moss, on a rock  
morels, after the morning dew  
a fallen branch  
take notice of the change.

Beaten, with footprints, the route is used by others  
after a rain or snow, fresh tracks can be seen  
deer, mink, squirrels, turkeys, all share the lane  
bear and cougar, have crossed my path  
wolves and coyotes have been seen  
being wise, walk familiar, with caution and respect.

Smells and sounds, guide every season  
peepers choir, in the swamp  
giant pines, the sweetness of fresh running sap  
breezes whistle, along the cliff's edge  
crows caw, as you pass  
senses tell the right and wrong direction.

The beginning and end, start the trail  
subtle changes, give guidance  
respect and be wise, your path is shared  
listen to your senses, for direction  
Memories Lane is the footprint.  
Walk the trail.

## **A Farmer's Strike**

We sowed the fields with kernels of gold  
what was planted is now ripe and dry  
row after row that are endless  
what was green is now golden and brown  
the husks sound like heaven's rattle in the wind  
yellow and brown, each cob, topped with silken golden hair.

The smell of  
fall's crisp winds are here  
rakes of the harvester cut each stalk  
with sharp knives and cuts  
as the nuggets are stripped  
each cob left empty, of its bounty.

Like the flurry  
of a swarm of yellow jackets  
the nuggets are hurled into the hopper  
shards, sharp as glass  
of silk, leaves, and stems  
fill the air.

It started at daylight, and now the moon shines.  
Reap what we have before the rain comes.  
Work until the new dawn, whatever it takes.  
Stow it in towers, before winter's breath.

The kernels of gold will feed us through spring.  
What has grown is our strike!  
Let this fortune be our nourishment.  
Bless, that we have such wealth.

## My Wife's Garden

Today is the last day of July  
I've watched my wife tend her garden  
since early spring  
tilling the soil  
planting the seeds  
pulling the weeds  
setting up supports  
so the peas and beans can climb  
and so the tomatoes don't fall over  
from the weight of their fruit.

She asked me to put a fence around it  
so the rabbits and other creatures  
don't eat the passions of her labor  
but she still feeds them in our yard  
with birdseed and leftover bread.

She pulled the first beats out yesterday  
we had them for Sunday Supper  
along with freshly picked snap peas  
and roasted short ribs  
with a pesto sauce  
that she made from the basil she grows  
in red and yellow, 5-gallon buckets  
that sit on a large, round, slotted garden table  
along with other colored ceramic pots  
filled with a cupboard of herbs.

Soon the tomatoes will be ripe  
and we'll have them every day for a month  
in salads, sandwiches, and sauces  
the best is a big fat heirloom tomato  
sliced, with sugar, sprinkled over the top of it.

In 5-6 weeks or so  
she'll can what is left  
making salsa and sauces from the tomatoes  
and pickling the cucumbers, cauliflower  
carrots and peppers  
putting them into Mason Jars  
filling each of them  
with the bounty  
of her heart.

## Sipping Hot Coffee

As I sit outside  
at the cafe  
sipping hot coffee  
noshing on baked treats  
reading the morning news  
surrounded by others doing the same  
as children, run through the tables  
knocking paper plates  
filled with goodies to the ground.

17 pigeons, in a scurry  
fly to the crumbs  
fighting over the debris.

All that I can think  
is how lucky we are  
that this sip of burnt sienna  
the table that I'm nestled at  
and the leisure of my day  
has come  
at such a great price  
as my drink is filled, and runs over  
with the blood of sacrifice  
from the women and men  
who fought and died, in horrific ways  
in the battles of war.

They will never be able  
to sip  
a cup  
of Joe  
again.

We are blessed  
for what these brave  
soldiers have given us.  
Every drop of your  
morning brew  
is filled  
with parts of their souls  
give thanks  
and prayers  
in all  
that nourishes you.

## **My First Rainbow**

When I was just a baby  
I saw my first rainbow above my crib  
hung in the sky  
with the sun and the moon and the stars.

When I was three  
I saw my first rainbow outside  
hung in the sky, with the raindrops, the clouds, and the birds.

That is when  
I drew my first band of colors, with crayons  
it hung on the fridge, with a magnet  
alongside the other pictures, of people, and words.

When I was seven  
I made a rainbow, with hearts of color  
on the sidewalk with chalk  
and imagined that it hung in the sky  
with my grandma, who had just died.

When I was twelve  
in my diary  
with the rainbow on the cover  
I wrote about the colors of my dreams  
red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple  
a band of colors, that would always protect me.

When I was sixteen  
hid under my dresser drawer  
I kept the secret of the rainbow  
bound in my journal  
with notes and pictures inside.

When I was 19  
there was a person  
who shared their rainbow with me  
with colors in their arc  
that I had never seen before.

When I was 23  
I played with all the colors  
smearing them together, like finger paints  
making the modern art of my time.

When I was 27  
in the tablet of my keepings  
I searched for the pot of gold  
at the rainbow's end.

When I was 32  
I stood inside, the end of the rainbow  
and knew, what I had written was true  
it all was going to be, OK.

## **Mom**

The doors were locked  
a giant stop sign on the entrance read

DO NOT ENTER!  
YOU MUST CALL FOR ADMITTANCE  
DUE to COVID-19

No number is given  
Mom's inside, how can I see her  
she has dementia, does she know  
the phone is busy  
I ring the bell

10 minutes later, someone comes  
"No one can get in  
it's for their protection  
go tap on her bay."

They could have let us know  
Mom sits in the window  
she's 91, a depression baby  
she's seen her share of life.

Four months later  
outside of her window  
I sit every day

we talk:  
her little sister is playing hopscotch  
time to bring the cows in  
you're going to be late for Sunday School  
the war goes on  
President Kennedy was shot  
the man on the moon.

I just want to hold her hand.

## **The Keeper of My Soul**

Walking through your forest  
a canopy of oaks, maples, and birch  
cloak the sky above  
your whispers can be heard  
amongst the trees  
as their branches sway from your breath  
seduced by the allure of your scent  
faint perfumed wisps of delight fill me  
I lay on your bed of moss  
in a trance  
helpless in the surroundings of your beauty  
trickles from a creek can be heard  
crickets chirp as the songbirds sing  
the grip of my bondage has been released  
my soul wanders in your creation  
now you have taken me  
I am yours.

## Give Thanks

As we walk the paths  
give thanks: that we have good health and vigor  
so we may enjoy the fruits of life  
that we can learn and teach and grow  
with our family, friends, and community.

As the seasons change  
give thanks: that we are blessed  
with a home that keeps us safe  
shelters us from the elements  
a place where we can sleep in peace.

As the wind blows  
give thanks: that we are clothed  
with fibers from the earth to cover us  
protect us from the weather  
to make us look dignified, pretty, and handsome.

As the sun shines  
give thanks: for the food we have  
with respect and reverence for the essence  
the flora that gives us bread and fruits and vegetables  
so that we may grow strong in body, mind, and spirit.

As the water flows  
give thanks: that we may drink  
with the blood of the earth, that fills our veins  
that the lakes are full and the rivers run wild  
when casting our nets, they are filled with blessings.

As the fire rages  
give contributions and prayers, to those less fortunate  
share your wealth, with people without  
every offering will be a boon  
let us all take part in this giving.

Give blessings and prayers  
to all those who have past  
their teachings are their gifts to us  
remember them in your heart  
they will never be forgotten.

Give thanks, that we are blessed. Give thanks, for the health we have.  
Give thanks for the home we have. Give thanks, for the clothes we wear.  
Give thanks for the food we eat. Give thanks, for the water of life.  
Give offerings and labor to those less fortunate.  
Give prayers and remembrances to all those who have passed.  
Give thanks.

Green Bay Poet Laureate Creative Proposal  
Hannah Neece Petraski  
December 2025

Poetry is for everybody – no matter literacy or ability level

**Overview:**

- Traveling workshops for elementary to elders
- Poetry receptions, open mic nights
- Connecting local nature and biodiversity into our work
- Unveiling local history, poets of past

**Objective:** Combine and utilize withstanding personal relationships with **Literacy Green Bay, Greater Green Bay YWCA, GBAPS, NWTC, WLUK-FOX11, and Wisconsin Historical Society (Heritage Hill State Historical Park and Hazelwood Historical House)**, among others to create a truly community wide endeavor of bringing poetry to all corners of Green Bay. Network and build new relationships with those curious about the craft so that everyone has access to the creativity that is inherent to them. Represent the GBPAC and the city of Green Bay as a public ambassador of the spoken word with integrity, kindness, and wonder.

**Goal:** Focus on traveling workshops highlighting (but not limited to) the youngest and oldest of our population. I have significant experience in childcare and working with kids is a passion of mine. According to a 2024 study, the use of poetry in an 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom positively impacted the students' literacy rates (Brannon). I would work with **GBAPS** to coordinate workshops with teachers and students to facilitate the learning of poetry, tailored to be age appropriate.

Additionally, exciting research has emerged regarding the impact of poetry on dementia patients. "Within the spectrum of art-based interventions, poetry has shown an impact on communication, socialization, and the regulation of behavioral outcomes." (Guzman, Antonio et al.) I would love to take revolving poetry workshops to our **local nursing homes, Oneida Aging and Disability Services, and Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Brown County**. As with the students, this would involve both education and hands-on creation of personal poetry with residents and community members, where we would eventually have a **reception of sharing our work with each other and our loved ones**.



I'm inspired by **live poetry nights** where community members can come together and read their work in a space that is inviting, warm, and non-judgmental. I would like to host a series of these nights throughout my tenure, potentially reaching out to work in conjunction with any existing local poetry nights already in rotation.

My personal work is greatly inspired by our bountiful access to nature. If I held the role of Green Bay Poet Laureate, much of my poetry and teachings would reflect this. I am particularly drawn to the work of former Wisconsin Poet Laureate [Denise "Dee" Sweet](#) who has experience teaching here at UWGB. Sweet utilizes nature imagery heavily in her work and has a deep connection and understanding of the land. I think as residents of Green Bay, it is imperative we honor the gift of our surroundings – and what better way than to sing the song of poetry?



Honoring local history is important to me. I would like to dedicate a portion of my time as Green Bay Poet Laureate to **establishing a digital archive of local poets and poetry** dating as far back as possible. I have extensive experience in archival work and feel that creating this base for us to build upon is beneficial. It grounds us to our geographic area and connects us to our community and past, while helping us learn and move towards a future of inclusivity and newness.

When I worked at Heritage Hill, I was an interpreter at the historic print shop. I would love to do a workshop series **incorporating poetry while utilizing the printing presses** available there. This would involve the park, GBAPS, and the local homeschooled groups that plan trips.



With the YWCA, I am inspired by my time working there and the community of women I encountered every day. I would love to put together workshops using their space where we could come together in smaller women's groups and learn about the **history of women in poetry**, as well as craft our own work together.



Ideally, I would represent the art of poetry as a local mentor and be **available for communication and collaboration** long after the tenure of this position ended. I would be thrilled to continue being involved in the local arts scene in any capacity and to be able to see poetry specifically thrive would be a great privilege.

I take a **strong anti-AI stance**, and this would be represented in my workshops and teachings. I believe that every person has the capability to create something on their own, without the use of generative AI – and I would be honored to shepherd them to that understanding.

I often ask myself, **“how can I contribute to the dream of the earth?”** For me, this manifests in the way of teaching (learning), gathering, and writing. In this role, I would prosper in all three areas. I am thrilled with the potential opportunity to meet new, likeminded community members who are passionate about learning like I am. I think that together, we can create something new and good, something that is fulfilling and hopeful, and something that propels us towards a future filled with creativity and courage.

To the committee and those who have taken the time to read this proposal: thank you.

## References

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About Us | Green Bay, WI. *Www.greenbaywi.gov*, [www.greenbaywi.gov/1320/About-Us](http://www.greenbaywi.gov/1320/About-Us).

## DETAILED PROPOSAL

My plan would include hosting regular open poetry readings, as I did at Green Bay's Barnes & Noble Bookstore, during which time (c. 2004-2010) I drew up posters to be placed at the four Green Bay High Schools, as well as the high schools in DePere, Ashwaubenon, and Oneida. I would also print up one-page fliers to be distributed (emailed) to the English teachers in each of these schools, to encourage their students to come out and read. We would make it clear that all poetry styles are welcome, from traditional sonnets to the freest of verses. Such readings have always done well, even growing as students passed the word on how fun readings can be.

These open readings could take place in monthly rotation at the three venues mentioned in your email (which would also receive posters to put up): the Brown County Library, the Oneida Community Library, and the Lion's Mouth Bookstore. I think it is vital that writers of all ages have a place that not only allows for poetic expression, but welcomes it. I am certain the Press-Gazette will publish notices of the monthly readings as well. They always have in the past. Also, it might be possible to hold events at the Botanical Gardens and the Museum, the latter of which used to hold a monthly poetry reading, as I recall.

I believe that more intimate classroom readings could be held at the various area schools for younger students. I do write and have published humorous children's verse that I could read in the classroom for grade school and middle-school level students, many of whom are often too young, or too shy, to participate in the open poetry readings at the larger monthly venues. Hearing poetry read aloud is often the first catalyst toward writing poetry oneself.

In addition to readings, seminars on the topic of how to go about publishing one's poetry could be conducted, a subject of interest to most writers young and old. I had conducted several such seminars at Barnes and Noble, which were well-attended.

One project I would very much like to pursue is the editing of a year-end collection of the best poems presented by readers at the open poetry readings. Nothing builds confidence like seeing one's poem selected and printed in a collection with other poets.

Regarding a second project I might attempt along the way, I would like to set about writing a longer poem, or perhaps a series of poems, on the City of Green Bay itself, highlighting aspects of both its history and its peoples, to incorporate the topics of the land, the waters, farming, factories, the arts, etc., and the various historical figures who took part in it all.

Sincerely,

John Pidgeon

To the Green Bay Public Arts Commission,

I would like to first extend my greatest gratitude for the opportunity to present my proposal for Poet Laureate of the City of Green Bay. Over the past six years, I have grown deeply connected to this city, its people, its landscapes, its cultural richness, and the way it balances accessibility with a small-town feel. Through my work and partnerships, I have seen how poetry can open doors for community connection, healing, and storytelling. As Poet Laureate, I would seek to expand that impact by creating a citywide artistic project that honors the voices and identities of Green Bay.

## **Project Vision**

“Poetry in Motion: The Voices of Green Bay” is a two-year community poetry initiative designed to bring poetry into everyday spaces, encourage shared creative expression, and create a public art piece that represents the collective story of our city. This project will blend workshops, public engagement, and visual art to invite residents of all ages and backgrounds into the creative process.

## **Overview**

### **1. Community engagement**

I will build a multi-layered poetry initiative that intentionally partners with the four programmatic allies:

#### **A. Brown County Public Library: “Library Lines” Workshop Series**

Quarterly free workshops for youth and adults featuring:

- Intro to poetry
  - Spoken word & performance
  - Poetry for healing and emotional expression
  - Author talks and readings
- Each workshop ends with a short open mic to amplify emerging voices.

#### **B. Oneida Community Library: “Stories of the Land” Collaboration**

A series celebrating Indigenous stories, language, and imagery.

- Collaborative poems created with community members
- Poetry circles rooted in cultural storytelling traditions
- A printed or digital chapbook featuring the pieces created

#### **C. Lion’s Mouth Bookstore: “Laureate Literary Nights”**

Quarterly themed poetry nights hosted at the bookstore:

- Black History Month Poetry Night

- Poetry & Mental Health Night
- Poet Laureate + Guest Poet Spotlight
- Youth Takeover Night (showcasing teenage writers)  
these events will help local poets build their craft and community.

#### D. Green Bay Area Public School District: “Young Voices Rising” Residency

A rotating school-based mini-residency that includes:

- Classroom writing workshops
- Poetry clubs
- A youth poetry contest
- A final district-wide showcase that ensures students connect literacy with creativity and self-expression.

## 2. Additional project ambitions:

#### A. Youth Publishing Project: “Young Ink of Green Bay”

In collaboration with GBAPS and local libraries, I will curate and publish a youth poetry book featuring original poems from students across the district.

Goals of the Youth Book

- Amplify young voices and emerging writers
- Create a tangible legacy for youth poets
- Provide publishing experience and confidence
- Strengthen literacy through creative expression

The book will be available in public libraries, school libraries, and at the mural unveiling event. Select youth poets will also be invited to read from their published work.

#### B. Poetry Hike Experience for College Students

“Poetry and the Path: A Hike for the Creative Mind”

To intentionally engage college students and young adults, I will introduce seasonal poetry hikes on local trails and parks. These hikes will combine:

- Nature exploration
- On-the-spot poetry prompts
- Spoken word moments
- Mindfulness and creative reflection
- Group poem creation at the end of each hike

Partnership opportunities include UW-Green Bay, NWTC, local student organizations, mental health clubs, and outdoor groups.

This experience encourages students to unplug, reconnect, and express themselves while exploring the natural beauty of Green Bay.

## **Timeline**

### **A. Year One: Poetry in Motion Workshops**

During the first year, I will host eight poetry workshops across Green Bay, in partnership with:

- Brown County Public Library
- Oneida Community Library
- Lion's Mouth Bookstore
- Green Bay Area Public School District (GBAPS)

#### Collective Poems

At each workshop, we will create a group poem that reflects the voices and themes expressed in the room. After all eight workshops, I will compose an original poem titled: "Green and Gifted" — a unified piece made from the collective lines, emotions, and stories shared across the city.

This poem will become the foundation for Year Two.

### **B. Year Two: Community-Inspired Mural**

In the second year, I will collaborate with local visual artists to transform the Green and Gifted poem into a public-facing mural in the downtown area.

This mural will highlight:

- Community identity
- Cultural diversity
- Green Bay's natural beauty
- The creative contributions of residents across generations

#### Community Painting Day

Participants from the workshops, along with families, elders, students, and any interested residents, will be invited to help paint the mural.

This ensures that the artwork is not just created for the community, but with the community.

#### Unveiling Event: A Celebration of Our City

Once complete, the mural will be unveiled during a community celebration featuring:

- Children and youth from GBAPS reading the collective poem

- Performances by local poets and artists
- A “leave your handprint” station, where attendees can contribute by adding their handprint to the border of the mural as a symbol of unity
- A public dedication honoring everyone involved

This event will celebrate the hundreds of hands and voices that helped shape the project.

### **Why this project matters**

“**Poetry in Motion: The Voices of Green Bay**” gives the city a platform to celebrate its diversity, creativity, and shared stories. It uplifts voices across cultures and generations, bringing poetry into spaces that are accessible to all. This project fosters community pride strengthens partnerships among local institutions and creates something tangible. Lasting contributions from a collective poem and a youth poetry book to a mural shaped by our residents’ hands. By engaging people directly in the creative process, it leaves a meaningful and enduring mark on Green Bay’s cultural and artistic life.

### **Budget (Under \$1,000)**

Total Project Cost: \$990

1. Workshops (8 total) – \$200
  - Notebooks, pens, markers, printing, prompts
  - Light refreshments
2. Youth Poetry Book – \$300
  - Small-batch printing (40–60 copies)
  - Cover design support
3. Poetry Hike Series – \$70
  - Printed prompts, journals, clipboards
  - Water/snacks
4. Mural Preparation – \$300
  - Artist outline stipend
  - Starter paint + brush materials
5. Unveiling Event – \$120
  - Light refreshments, simple décor
  - Handprint paint & supplies

### **Additional Funding Options**

If expansion is needed, additional support can come from:

- Local partners: Public libraries, Lion’s Mouth Bookstore, GBAPS
- Sponsors: Local businesses, community banks, arts centers
- Grants: Wisconsin Arts Board, NE Wisconsin Arts Council, neighborhood mini grants
- Community fundraising: Poetry night fundraiser, donation box, small online campaign



Report to the  
**Public Arts Commission**  
of the City of Green Bay

**MEETING DATE**

January 14, 2026

**PREPARED BY**

**AGENDA ITEM # F.1**

Coordinator's report and project updates.

**BACKGROUND**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

None