

Arts & Culture Commission Reports **March 2019**

Sidewalk Poetry

We determined that the February weather, including nine snow days, was a contributing factor in the fewer numbers of entries in the year's Sidewalk Poetry competition. After a significant number of email exchanges, it was determined to establish a contest extension of Friday, March 29th, at 6 pm.

Notifications of the contest extension were sent to teachers across the district, including the charter schools and the ALC. Contacts were also made with faculty members at both Carleton and St. Olaf. The brochure/poster that was updated by Library staff member Steve Maus was attached to all emails sent to the teachers at all levels. The Northfield News and KYMN Radio were notified of the contest extension.

In a meeting on Monday, March 4th with Library staff members Angelica Linder and Fatima Hernandez, community volunteer Mar Valdecantos, ACC member Heather Lawrenz, Poet Laureate Rob Hardy, and myself, strategies for reaching out to the Spanish speaking members of our community were explored and planned. We are grateful for the dedication of time and talent demonstrated by Angelica, Fatima, and Mar as we look to increase the numbers of Spanish poems entered into the contest. Rob and Heather will be updating our presence on the ACC, Sidewalk Poetry, and Poet Laureate Facebook pages on an ongoing basis.

We decided to move the deadline to the end of March since the judges were not able to meet later in the month due to scheduling conflicts. Even with this extension, we will be able to announce the 2019 Sidewalk Poetry winners in April – National Poetry Month.

Living Treasure

Due to the extreme February weather, the meeting Alyssa Herzog Melby and I had scheduled with collaborators at FiftyNorth following the Living Treasure event was postponed. We are in the process of rescheduling. The purpose of the meeting is to reflect on the event and consider any needed changes for 2020.

Further discussion regarding the administration of the Living Treasure program, including the nomination process, will take place in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Jean Flom