

Northfield Poet Laureate Addendum to May 2018 Report

On June 1, I had meetings to plan two projects. One is the project to create a collection of poetry lesson plans (including Northfield-specific plans) with Carleton College CCCE summer fellow Jelilat Odubayo and Prairie Creek Community School teacher Amy Brown. We met to create a preliminary work plan for the summer. Jelilat will be working on her own at home in Houston in June and July, and will be back in Northfield to work with Amy and me in August. Jelilat is being paid by Carleton; I would like to offer Amy a stipend from Poet Laureate funds for her work on the project. To support the project, I requested that the public library acquired some new books on teaching poetry to children.

The other meeting was with Katie Felland (FiftyNorth) about offering a series of poetry and art classes at FiftyNorth in Fall 2018, and Winter and Spring 2019. The series is inspired by the poetry and art series at Crossings at Carnegie in Zumbrota, but takes it a step further to create a series of transformations:

1. Poetry class (Fall 2018)
2. Art class, in which participants will create a work of art based on/responding to a poem created in the fall poetry class (Winter 2019)
3. Poetry class, in which participants will write a poem based on/responding to the artwork created in the winter art class (Spring 2019)

In late spring/early summer 2019, there would be an exhibit at FiftyNorth of the poems and artwork created in this series of classes. Katie and I will meet again in late July to start solidifying plans for this series.

I also hosted a successful First Friday Art Night reading on the theme of Community at Imminent Brewing. The participating writers were: Leslie Schultz, Joy Riggs (her piece was read by Myrna Mibus), Alexis Valeriano, Becky Boling, Larry Gavin, Christopher Tassava, Orick Pegterson, Steve McCown, Carolyn Link, Zobeida Chaffee-Valdés, and Sarah Entenmann.