

Northfield Poet Laureate's Report

February 2018

Events

Saturday, February 3. Helped organize the local preliminary round of the Be Heard Minnesota Youth Poetry Slam Series, held at the Kracum Performance Hall at Carleton College. Three Northfield high school students (Alondra Pérez, Rayanah Richmond, and Chris Lazaro) advanced to the state semifinals in the Twin Cities in March.

Monday, February 5. Read an original poem for the 2018 Arts and Culture Commission's Living Treasure Award event.

Thursday, February 8. Participated in an evening event hosted by Cathy Wurzer and The Convenings to further a discussion of living well at the end of life. Participated in an interview with Cathy Wurzer and wrote and read a poem for the event that Wurzer and The Convenings shared on Facebook. Announced a call for submissions for a collection of poetic "living wills."

Thursday, February 15. Helped organize and host the Civic Poetics Festival at Carleton College, which featured readings by Heid E. Erdrich, Matt Rasmussen, Anders Carlson-Wee, Sun Yung Shin, Gretchen Marquette, and Michael Torres.

Other Activities

Wrote an "all-school poem" for Prairie Creek Community School, based on meetings and brainstorming sessions with Prairie Creek students in January.

Met with a local poet (and previous Sidewalk Poetry winner) several times to give feedback on his poetry and suggest possible markets.

Promoted the Sidewalk Poetry Competition through Facebook posts and emails.