

Northfield Poet Laureate Report August 2018

August Projects

In August, I met twice weekly with a Carleton student summer fellow, Jelilat Odubayo, who was working on developing poetry lesson plans for use in elementary school poetry workshops. She produced five detailed lesson plans which can be used as models for further lesson plan development. I also, along with ACC member Bonnie Jean Flom, helped to MC the annual Sidewalk Poetry Celebration in Bridge Square on Thursday, August 30. I'm still working on booking a Latinx spoken word group, Palabristas, for a performance in Northfield as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, but have been unable to get confirmation. Finally, the poetry writing group which I organized at the Northfield Public Library (11am, 2nd and 4th Thursdays) continues to meet and to grow without my active participation.

September Goals

In September, I hope to complete a 2019 SEMAC grant application to support the poet laureate program. During the month of September, I will also be hosting two poetry readings at Content Bookstore. I have also begun talking to Kyle Tran Myhre ("Guante") about further collaborations with TruArtSpeaks, including hosting another round of the statewide Be Heard Minnesota Youth Poetry Slam Series in 2019.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 13. Kai Carlson-Wee. Author of *Rail*, poetry instructor at Stanford University, and former Northfield resident. 7pm.

Saturday, September 29. Northfield Poetry Festival (Day 1). Short readings by Joyce Sutphen (Minnesota Poet Laureate), Leslie Schultz, Susan Jaret McKinstry, Diane LeBlanc, Becky Boling, D.E. Green, and Steve McCown. 10am.

Sunday, September 30. Patrick Scully's one-person show *Walt Whitman—Illuminated* at the Northfield Arts Guild Theater. Co-sponsored by the Northfield Arts Guild and Content. 7:30pm.

Professional Development

My essay "An Open House: Susan Glaspell and the Roots of American Political Drama" was published online in *Critical Read*: <http://www.criticalread.org/an-open-house>