

Arts & Culture Commission April 2019 Update

Sidewalk Poetry

With very few Spanish submissions to the contest by February 28th, the decision was made to move the deadline to March 29th. The month-long extension to this year's contest deadline resulted in 117 English poems and nine Spanish poems being considered for the 2019 Sidewalk Poetry competition. After picking up the final entries last Friday, I checked them for adherence to both the character count and residency requirements. Special thanks are extended to Kathy Rush Vizina who collected the poems as they were delivered to the Library and ran the copies for the judges. The packets of poems were delivered on Monday, April 1st, and the judging panel will be meeting on Monday, April 15th to make their selections. Once the selections are made, I will contact the winning poets and prepare the press releases.

I want to take this opportunity to again thank Library staff member Steve Maus for his graphic artistry in creating the initial contest poster and the updated poster announcing the contest extension. I also want to recognize Library staff members Fatima Hernandez and Angelica Linder, along with community member Mar Valdecantos, for their help in reaching out to members of the Spanish-speaking community during the contest extension. We have brainstormed some strategies that we hope will result in greater numbers of Spanish entries in 2020, the tenth year of Sidewalk Poetry.

The winning poets are scheduled to appear on Paula Granquist's ArtZany! program on KYMN Radio on Friday, April 19th. Please mark your calendars for the Capstone event which will take place on Bridge Square on Thursday, August 29th at 7 pm. This year's celebration will include local artists sharing songs in both Spanish and English.

Living Treasure

The meeting with representatives of FiftyNorth was postponed due to severe winter weather. ACC Chair Herzog Melby and I will meet with them on April 9th for the purpose of reflecting on this year's event and setting goals for 2020.

As per the ACC's goals for the coming year, a Living Treasure Committee will be convened for the purpose of reviewing the nomination and selection procedures.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Jean Flom