

Arts & Culture Commission Updates
May 2019

Sidewalk Poetry: DEJA TU HUELLA / MAKE YOUR MARK

The judging panel met on April 15th and made their selections from the 126 poems submitted. The extension of the deadline resulted in nine submissions in Spanish and 117 in English. The judges reached consensus on three winning Spanish poems and seven English poems. The winning poets are:

Brendon Etter	Taide Rodriguez Marcial
Paul Fried	Leslie Schultz
D.E. Green	Alekz Thoms
Anne Kopas	Mar Valdecantos
Constanza Ocampo-Raeder	Ellie Zimmerman

The judges serving on this year's panel were:

Diane LeBlanc, Director of Writing, St. Olaf College; published poet
Angelica Linder, Northfield Library Outreach Coordinator
Becky Boling, Carleton Spanish faculty member; published poet
Joel Olson, Northfield Schools Activities Director
Rob Hardy, Northfield's Poet Laureate; published poet

Paula Granquist, ACC member and host of KYMN Radio's ArtZany! Show welcomed eight of the ten winning poets to her broadcast on April 19th. Winning poems have been posted to the ACC/Sidewalk Poetry page of the City website, posted to the Friend and Foundation of the Library website, displayed at the Library & City Hall, and shared with local media (along with the contest press release).

Sean Simonson and Bryanna Paarmann of the City Engineering Office have sent the poems to the mold manufacturer (Fourth Dimension) in vector format. Beginning in the spring and continuing through the summer, poems will be installed in City sidewalks, as weather permits. A Sidewalk Poetry Capstone Celebration will take place on Thursday, August 29, 2019, at 7 pm on Bridge Square in downtown Northfield. There are plans afoot for music in both English and Spanish.

Thanks are extended to Bill North of the Friends and Foundation of the Library for collecting the submissions and again working with me in preparing them for judging. I have been creating a list of Sidewalk Poetry Tasks to be used as a resource as I pass the coordination of the contest on to my successor.

Living Treasure Award

The day following the April ACC meeting, Alyssa Herzog Melby and I met with Lynne Pedersen and Elaine Meyers of Fifty North to reflect on the very successful January event and consider improvements for the 2020 gathering. We discussed some room arrangement changes for next year and Alyssa and I expressed our appreciation for the lovely array of beverages and treats that FiftyNorth shared with attendees. In the near future, I will be scheduling a small group meeting that will include some of the Living Treasure award recipients, Lynne Pedersen of FiftyNorth, and an ACC representative. The focus of the meeting(s) will be an assessment of the processes that have guided the selection of honorees in the past and a consideration for how the process might change in the future. Discussion will focus on the nuts and bolts of the January event, as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Jean Flom