

This is a preliminary draft document created for the purposes of creating discussion and further input

Poetry in Sidewalks

Significant Factors/ Opportunities

While sections of Williamson Street are being redone and new sections of sidewalk are being poured, it is a great opportunity to incorporate public art as poetry into cement sidewalks.

Concept

Sidewalks are stamped with poetry as concrete is drying to create lasting sidewalk public art installations. The idea was pioneered by the Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk initiative in St. Paul, MN. Since 2008, St. Paul has used 30 poems in over 270 sidewalk installations across the city. For more information, see <http://publicartstpaul.org/everydaysidewalk>.

Location

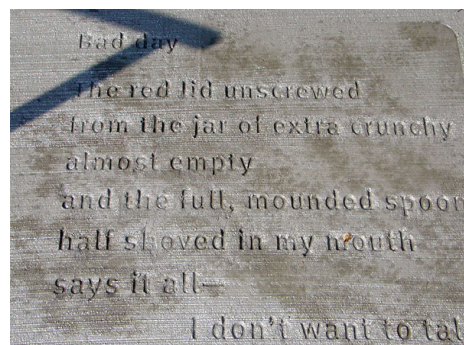
To be determined.

Ideas for Artwork

Poetry from local writers such as UW-Madison alumna and third Madison Poet Laureate, Fabu, would be featured on Williamson Street sidewalks.

Southern Love
by Fabu

*I want love
to be like a good pot of greens
pick the tenderest parts
separate from the hard stem
wash gently and thoroughly
removing every bit of dirt and grime
rinsing over and over and over
with the clear, clean water of forgiveness
season with savory meat, herbs and spices
and then simmer, simmer, simmer.*

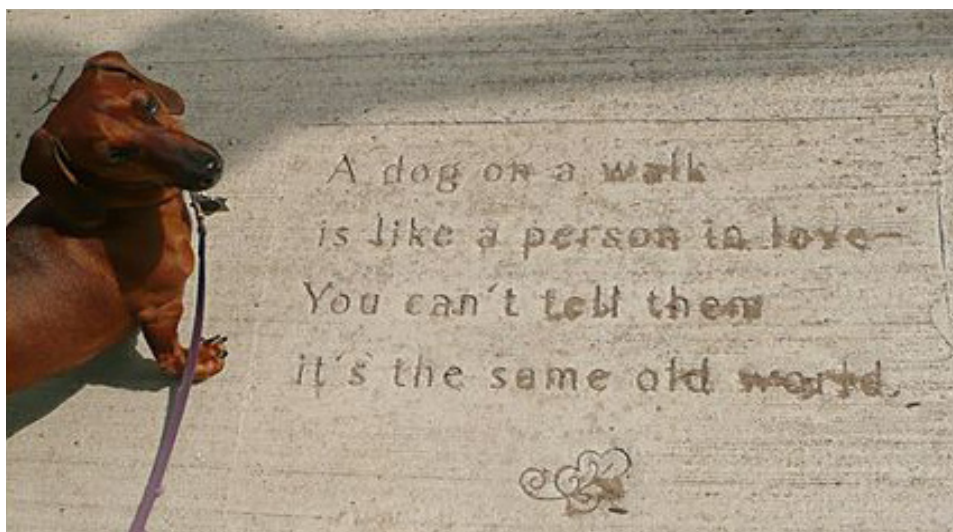


Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk,
a public art initiative in St. Paul, MN.

Bad Day by Caley J. Conney.

A Dog on a Walk by Pat Owen.

Meadowlark Mending Song by
Margaret Hasse.



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