

Angie Trudell Vasquez, Madison Poet Laureate Synopsis/Report (highlights)

January 2020

1/6/20 Read poem, "What and That," at the Madison City Council meeting

1/20/20 Read poem, "Everybody is Somebody's Child," for the Martin Luther King Jr. event at the Overture Center, my first public appearance

1/21/20 Read poem, "Scribbling," at the Executive City Council Meeting

1/23/20 Interview at Channel 3000 with Neil Heinen, and previous Madison Poet Laureate, Oscar Mireles, half hour Sunday morning television show aired 1/26/20 at 10:30AM

1/25/20 Read poems at the Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee for their poetry marathon, representing Madison and the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, sponsored the hour

1/26/2020 Television debut "For the Record" with Neil Heinen and Oscar Mireles, on the importance of poetry in the modern world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jceh9zbCzUs>

February 2020

2/6/20 to 2/12/20 – Cover of The Isthmus and several page article

<https://isthmus.com/events/angela-trudell-vasquez/>

2/6/20 – first full public reading as Madison Poet Laureate at A Room of One's Own, over 50 people, reading from recent book, *In Light, Always Light*

2/8/20 – poem, "Swan Lake," in Brava magazine with short bio

2/20/20 – appeared on WORT's Radio Literature Hour with host, Melvin Hinton

2/22/20 – inaugural reading/public reception as Madison Poet Laureate at the Madison Public Library downtown with chocolate cake! 50+ in attendance

2/24/20 – taught poetry workshop for Teen Summit, put on annually by End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin in Baraboo, 15 students

March 2020

3/6/20 to 3/7/20 – AWP in San Antonio, TX, representing Madison, invitation to Academy of American Poets, poets laureate gathering, (they cancelled due to COVID-19), but also served as a panelist and reader for panel, “Writing Empathy Across Cultures,” 60+ in attendance.

See oral report, which became a podcast. I also appeared in many articles, news reports, had an appearance on Nuestra Palabra out of Houston, TX on Pacifica Radio with Tony Diaz focusing on my new position.

April 2020 to the present:

4/4/20 brought seven poets across Wisconsin, former state and city poets laureates, for a reading that brought 120 people to our event! First virtual reading I was aware of and participated in as the host and a reader.

Metro Bus Lines Poetry 2020 contest:

Judged 57 entries, selected 27, and guided the students on proper reverse depiction of the poem, ekphrasis poetry in reverse. We had an online virtual event to celebrate 5/30/2020. I spent hours and hours on this project throughout April and May fine tuning the art and working with Edgewood College, the design students, and the Metro. Poems to be shared on the buses when more people will be riding, and waiting for them to appear online.

UPDATE on Youth Poet Laureate progress: With COVID-19 I am taking a different approach until we can be in community again, and I can offer free poetry workshops for the people. On August 1<sup>st</sup> I will publish a call for poems specifically from youth in the city of Madison. I will publish this collection early 2021, and from there select a young poet to mentor. I will reach out to a former Madison Poet Laureate to help edit the collection. Broadly the theme will be social justice, I want to highlight the youth voices of our time and have a record of 2020 in poetry. I will be encouraging poems from the poetry of witness standpoint.

This report is brief and I did way more virtual readings across the country, in my role as the Madison Poet Laureate, interviews for radio and for online with other poets in Wisconsin and out of state. I am currently judging the Midwest Poetry Film Festival, and another contest in Sauk County where people will drive by poetry on the highways. I am editing a current collection with Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Margaret Rozga, to be published in August 2020 under my press, Art Night Books. I am working on an event for 10/12 with the Wisconsin Book Festival. I am also writing and submitting poems, including a collection of pandemic poems, entitled, “Dispatches from Radar Hill.”

Sincerely,  
Angie Trudell Vasquez  
July 6, 2020