

TO: Madison Arts Commission

FROM: Daniel P. Kunene

RE: Nomination for Poet Laureate for the City of Madison for the period 2012-2016

Nominee: ANDREA POTOS

Nominated by: DANIEL P. KUNENE

I detail below the reasons I think Andrea Potos is a good candidate for the above-named honorary post of Poet Laureate for the City of Madison.

Ms. Potos is a prolific writer as shown below:

--She is the author of three poetry collections, namely "Yaya's Cloth" (Iris Press, 2007) "The Perfect Day," (Parallel Press, 1999) and "Abundance to Share With the Birds" (Finishing Line Press, 2011).

--Her full-length collection "We Lit the Lamps Ourselves" is forthcoming from Salmon Poetry in Ireland in early 2012.

--Her poetry has won numerous awards and is published widely in journals and anthologies, including Women's Review of Books, Poetry East, Wisconsin Review, Prairie Schooner, Atlanta Review, Southern Poetry Review, and Wisconsin People & Ideas.

She received

-the James Hearts Poetry Prize from North American Review;

-the Sow's Ear Review Poetry Prize,

- and won the Outstanding Achievement Award in Poetry from the Wisconsin Library Association for the collection "Yaya's Cloth"

--Andrea is, and has been, a resident of Madison for many years and is aware of, and sensitive to, the cultural needs of this city—the schools, the churches, some of the cultural organizations and celebrations.

--She is aware of the ethnic diversity of Madison, and the demands that this imposes on its Poet Laureate. It is my firm conviction that, as Madison's Poet Laureate, she will benefit the City, and grow into the job, revealing talents that may currently be latent.

--Andrea has worked as a part-time bookseller at A Room of One's Own Bookstore since 1993.

--She has served, and continues to serve, on the editorial board for the Parallel Press of the UW-Madison since 1999.

--Among her cultural activities here in Madison, thus far, Ms. Potos has

(a) coordinated poetry readings at A Room Of One's Own Bookstore since 1993,

(b) was a judge for the Greater Dane County Youth Poetry Festival for nine years

(c) twice served as a judge for the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets,

(d) once served as a preliminary judge for the Wisconsin Academy's People and Ideas Contest.

It is my firm belief that Andrea will do whatever it takes to keep the spirit of poetry alive in Madison, spreading it in all ways possible.

Ms. Potos has a gentle personality that nonetheless commands respect. Her presence, her voice, and her manner have a calming effect.

For the above reasons, I have no hesitation in recommending Andrea Potos for the position of Poet Laureate for the City of Madison.

Andrea Potos has indicated her willingness to serve as Madison Poet Laureate for the specified period of 2012-2016 if appointed.

Humbly submitted by

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Comments Hi Karin, It was great seeing you at The Peace Park reading. I also enjoyed talking with you on the phone. Herewith my nomination for Poet Laureate. - Best, Daniel



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