

Visual Poetry Campaign

National Poetry Month

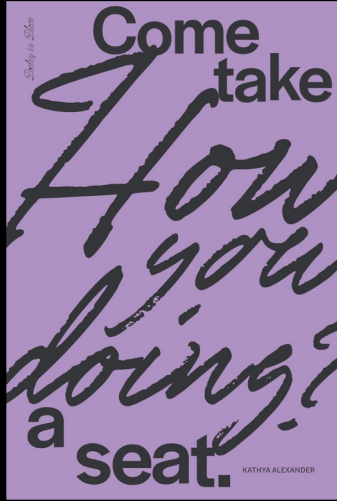
Shin Yu Pai

Seattle Civic Poet

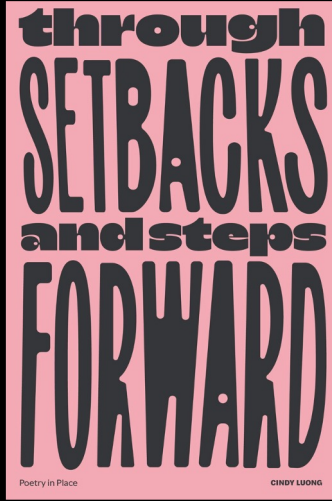
April 2024



Joe Nasta



Kathya Alexander



Cindy Luong



Bryan Wilson



Bryna Cortes

our
honey
frames
weigh
heavy



JOE NASTA

Urban Bees, Blue Hours

Our honey frames weigh heavy,
the second summer dahlias bloomed
under gossamer sun & we vibrate softer
now. We are ready for the coming chill

together on our scattered rooftops.
We made more than enough
to share, so lick the inside of the jar
& buzz: We dare to hope.

The bearded beekeeper will return,
tend to our hive with his bare hands.
The purple sweet gum leaves will fall
but soon they will be green again.

The day ended gold behind the Olympics.
Remember us tomorrow when you swirl
your coffee and smear your toast
with salmonberry jam.



POETRY IN PLACE



Installation — cut vinyl across all three windows at Slide Gallery



Slide Gallery in Belltown



Postcard

KATHYA ALEXANDER

THE VISIT

The sun is drooping behind her house.
The bright spring day is warm and nice.
The evening's bathed in a pinkish glow.
Miss Grosvenor's voice is strong but low.
"How you doing? Come take a seat."
I sit down on her wooden steps.
The flowers in her yard are blooming.
Red and pink fluffy rhododendrons.
They make my eyes water and itch.
We both live in the Central District.
Miz Grosvenor's nearly 100 years old.
She's lived in this house since she was born
on some land her daddy bought.
Now she's the only Black family left on her block.

Kathya Alexander is an author, playwright, storyteller and teaching artist. Her debut novel will be published by Aunt Lute Books in 2024.

Poetry in Place

Civic Poet Shin Yu Pai selected 5 poets from the local community for this public poetry project. Poems are installed in Belltown, Little Saigon, the Central District, South Lake Union, Greenwood, South Park, and downtown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: JAYME YEN



national
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american poets



Wa Na Wari, Central District

Poetry in Place

How you doing?


Come a take seat.

Ketha Alexander
THE VISIT

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Part of Place is supported by

national endowment for the arts | members of american arts | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA |



Installation — vinyl banner

Through
SETBACKS
 and steps
FORWARD

CINDY LUONG
The Seattle Public Libraries

On hold—	Check out—
Eighteen scorching Book Bingo summers at The Seattle Public Libraries	One book Passed Loved And passed on
Within the latticed windows of the Central Branch, My fourth grade team placed third at the Global Reading Challenge We cried boiling tears of defeat as The autumn Seattle rain mourned with us	Through setbacks and steps forward The libraries are Here For me For you For us
Hold paused—	Check in.
I've gained fourteen inches and Outgrew the South Park librarian Her hair short like our winters Her smile Like a spring day at the UW quad	

POETRY IN PLACE



Through
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 and steps
FORWARD

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POETRY IN PLACE



Seattle Public Library downtown

**through
SETBACKS
and steps
FORWARD**

Poetry in Place

CINDY LUONG

CINDY LUONG

The Seattle Public Libraries

On hold—

Eighteen scorching Book Bingo summers at
The Seattle Public Libraries

Within the latticed windows of the Central Branch,
My fourth grade team placed third at the Global Reading Challenge
We cried boiling tears of defeat as
The autumn Seattle rain mourned with us

Hold paused—

I've gained fourteen inches and
Outgrew the South Park librarian
Her hair short like our winters
Her smile
Like a spring day at the UW quad

Check out—

One book
Passed
Loved
And passed on

Through setbacks and steps forward

The libraries are
Here
For me
For you
For us

Check in.

*Cindy Luong works for the Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and
makes art for fun.*

POETRY IN PLACE

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ficti
ons
&
fish

Poetry in Place

BRYAN WILSON

BRYAN WILSON

Atmospheric River

(In a city where rivers float in the sky)

braiding through cedars & buildings
like a sentence in a poem,
rivers rise as raindrops.

A city,
Heron-still —
staring into Sound
stones polishing words — storm-galoshing songs.

Before long, river-rain
makes watercolors of us,

gathers in its clay-blue turbidity:
vanishing sunbreaks & glaciers,
the neighborhood breakfast spot,
beaver's lodge packed with wildflowers,
stinging green of spring nettles,
eddies of garlic in a small kitchen
full of laughter,
tumbling sediment of dreams — fictions and fishes.

Sometimes, I'm a stone, mossy,
sometimes awash in whorling passage.

Sometimes, on a ferry
full of passengers, we greet the water
that connects us in torrents
of riverine imagination.

Bryan Wilson is a writer, illustrator, and educator. He is program manager at the Bureau of Fearless Ideas, where he leads writing and publishing projects with young authors.

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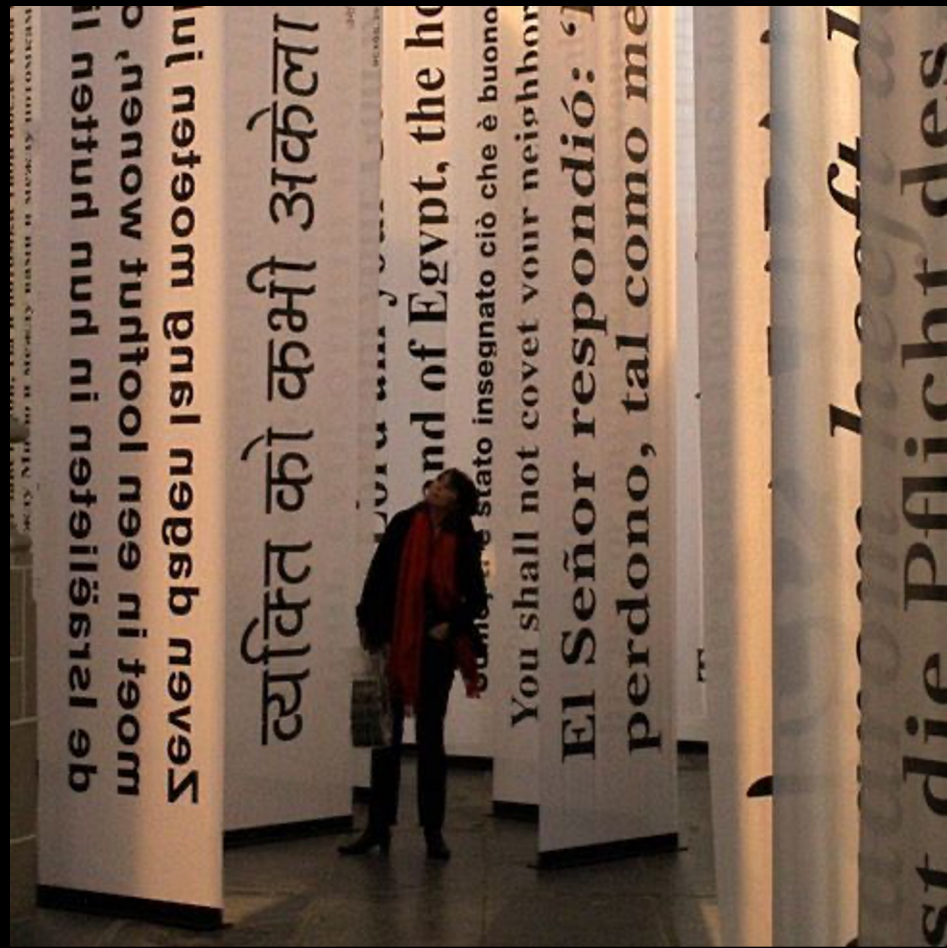
RIVERS RISE AS RAINDROPS

STONES POLISHING WORDS

STORM-GALOSHING SONGS

TUMBLING SEDIMENT OF DREAMS

FICTIONS AND FISHES



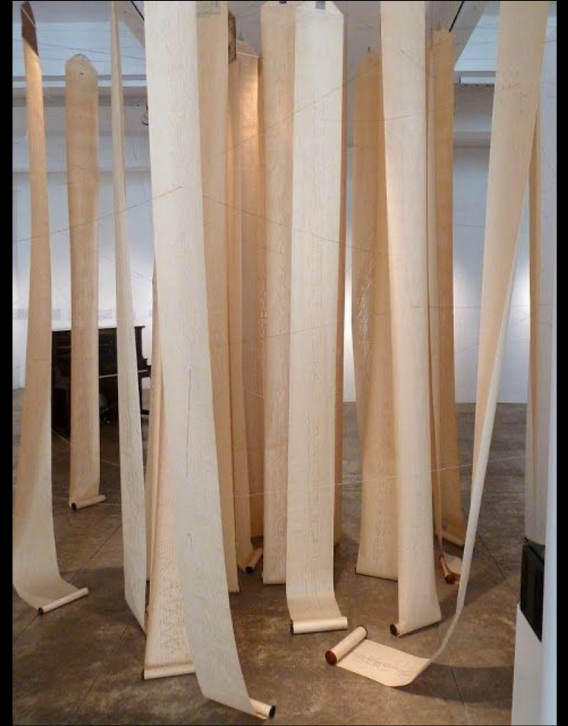
Large paper plotter prints
(using architectural paper)
hanging from above



The text on the plotter prints will be cut out

Paper will be draped,
using separate plotter
prints attached together
to create this effect.

banners will hit the floor



CREATE HOME the TABLE into

ĐỪA
CHIẾC BÀN
DÀO
MÁI ẤM
THÂN Ữ

Poetry in Place

BRYNA ANTONIA (Á THANH) CORTES

BRYNA ANTONIA (Á THANH) CORTES

Seattle's Little Sài Gòn

Fresh banh baking,
refrigerator hums.
Red stripes through yellow,
old and proud, the iconic nón lá.

Jackson and 12th street trails,
swinging doors gift savory winds.
Bowls of soup warming you
with just a scent.

Markets of clamor,
of every color.
A chorus of languages,
histories near and far.

Fruits, greens, mints,
a whole aisle of spices.
Items the same, or at least similar,
create the table into a home.

We dream of walking between storefronts, connected paths.
Friends of Little Sài Gòn to Mi La Cay,
no division of wide blocks, spaced concrete.
Centers and parks filled across generations.

Bryna Antonia (Á Thanh) Cortes (she/they) is a Mexican, Vietnamese artist who focuses on using nature and play to foster cultural and community connections.

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note:
gray background = glass window
black bars = bars of window

CREATE

ĐƯA CHIẾC BÀN

the TABLE

BRYNA ANTONIA (Á THANH) CORTES
Seattle's Little Sài Gòn

Fresh bánh baking,
refrigerator hums.
Red stripes through yellow,
old and proud, the iconic nón lá.

Jackson and 12th street trails,
swinging doors gift savory winds.
Bowls of soup warming you
with just a scent.

BRYNA ANTONIA (Á THANH) CORTES
Sài Gòn Nhỏ ở Seattle

Mùi bánh nướng thơm nồng
chiếc tủ đông ru nhẹ.
Màu vàng chen sọc đỏ
chiếc nón lá ngàn năm.

Phố Jackson, đường 12
cửa đóng đưa cho ta hương vị
Tổ phố nóng ấm lòng
phát một lần hương nhẹ.

ĐẢO MÁI ẤM

into a HOME

Markets of clamor,
of every color.
A chorus of languages,
histories near and far.

Fruits, greens, mints,
a whole aisle of spices.
Items the same, or at least similar,
create the table into a home.

We dream of walking between storefronts,
connected paths.
Friends of Little Sài Gòn to Mi La Cay,
no division of wide blocks, spaced concrete.
Centers and parks filled across generations.

Khu chợ búa đông người
từ muôn phương kéo đến.
Ồi chào tiếng nói cười
sử sanh tự ngàn xưa.

Cây trái, cải xanh, rau húng quế
cả một quầy gia vị như đón mời.
Món này ngon, món kia cũng thế,
đưa chiếc bàn vào mái ấm thân yêu.

Ta mơ đi giữa khu sầm uất,
Friends of Little Sài Gòn tới Mi La Cay.
Không có chi ngăn cách, gạch đá xi-măng hay phố lớn
khí những công viên và khu thương mại
Là cầu nối hôm nay và tương lai.

THÂN YÊU

POETRY IN PLACE

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON





Friends of Little Saigon, Little Saigon