

Seattle City Council

Public Safety, Government Relations, and Arts Committee Meeting

Friday, 2:00 PM, September 8, 2006

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Jeannette Allée**

Today's poet is **Kelli Russell Agodon**

Kelli Russell Agodon is the author of two books of poetry, *Small Knots* and *Geography*, winner of the Floating Bridge Press Chapbook Award. Her work has been featured on NPR's "The Writer's Almanac" with Garrison Keillor and appears in Keillor's second anthology, *Good Poems for Hard Times*. She is the recipient of two Artist Trust GAP grants, The James Hearst Poetry Prize, and a Puffin Foundation grant for her broadside series, "The Making of Peace." Kelli was born and raised in Seattle and educated at the University of Washington. She is currently completing her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Pacific Lutheran University.

Thankful Season

By Kelli Russell Agodon

Begin autumn with a thankfulness

that summer is over and it's time to pack away

the short-shorts, the swimsuits, anything

that shows a little skin.

Eat an extra bowl of spumoni today

knowing five extra pounds hide easily

under a wool sweater, extra-spacious
cargo pants, a bulky coat from REI.

Forget the blonde girls on Stairmasters, the commercials
for gym memberships.

There is not enough reason to reinvent
exercise, no reason to dig in the overgrown garden
—it is raining today.

Welcome the beautiful storm, not a sprinkle
where there could be a debate
on whether to go for a walk. This is a wet curtain

slamming into the ground. Be the audience
on the other side of the window
nibbling on cinnamon toast, sipping hot cocoa
wrapped in a blanket with a book. Ignore every impulse

to move more than a finger. Perfect round
pumpkins grow bigger in the garden.
Turn the page, hold tight to the vine.