



Proclamation



POETRY MONTH 2022

WHEREAS,

There's a poem in this place—
in the footfalls in the halls
in the quiet beat of the seats.
It is here, at the curtain of day,
where America writes a lyric
you must whisper to say.

(Amanda Gorman, from ["In This Place \(An American Lyric\)"](#)); and

WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996 to celebrate the legacy and ongoing achievements of poets in the United States, introduce the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and make poetry an important part of children's education; and

WHEREAS, "Poem in Your Pocket Day," which will take place this year on Friday, April 29, encourages people to select a poem and carry it with them to share with others; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro established the position of poet laureate in 2002 to enhance the presence of poetry in the social and civic life of Carrboro; and

WHEREAS, the Town's signature poetry event, the West End Poetry Festival, is held over one weekend every October to bring together poets of diverse styles, backgrounds, and stages of development to share poems and their love of poetry; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro's current poet laureate, Fred Joiner, was selected as a Laureate Fellow of the Academy of American Poets in 2019, one of thirteen poets of literary merit chosen from across the United States to "enable them to undertake meaningful, impactful, and innovative projects that engage their fellow residents, including youth, with poetry, helping to address issues important to their communities, as well as create new work"; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Carrboro's poets laureate have opened meetings of the Town Council by reading a poem; and during National Poetry Month this year, these readings will take place at the beginning of the Town Council meetings scheduled for April 5, 12, 19, and 26;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damon Seils, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be **POETRY MONTH** in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to celebrate poetry and poets by reading, listening to, and sharing poems. Moreover, I invite all residents to hear Poet Laureate Fred Joiner and his guests read poems at the beginning of upcoming meetings of the Town Council.

This the 1st day of April 2022.




Damon Seils, Mayor