

OCT. 1-OCT. 31, 2021

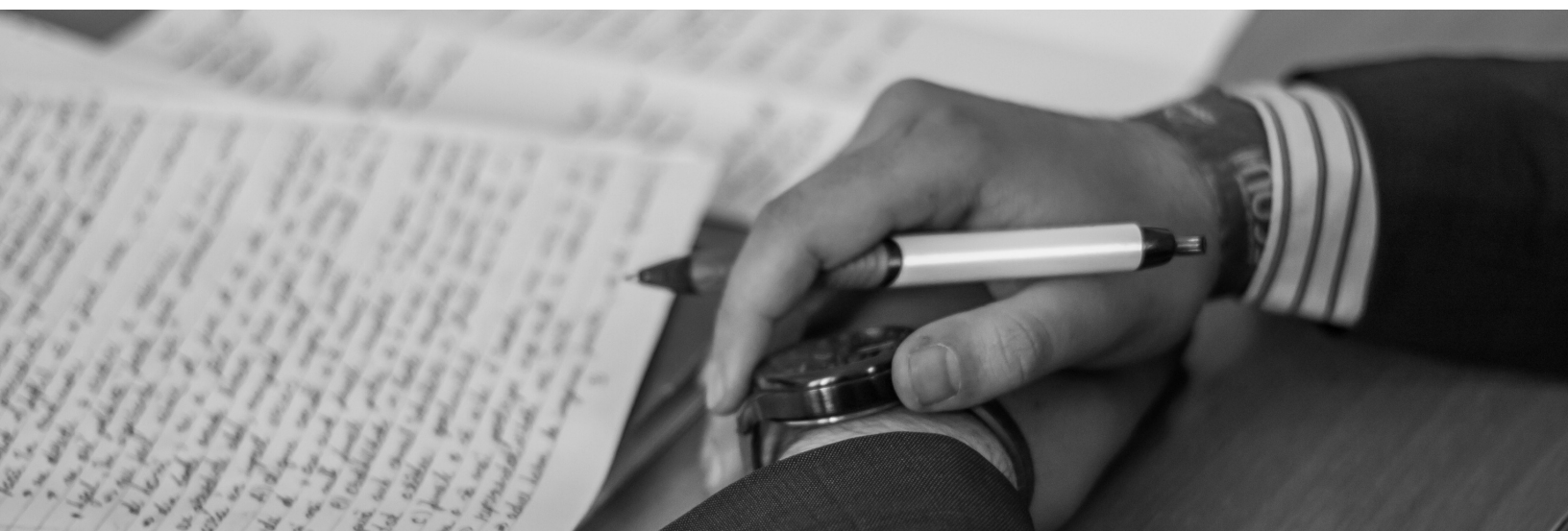
SHARED LANGUAGE POETRY PROJECT

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM'S FIRST BRANCH, THE RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY, FORMERLY THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR BRANCH LIBRARY.

The Premise

Born of a desire to show the similarities and differences among Oklahoma City residents, the Shared Language Poetry Project invites people of all ages to create poetry that is unified by shared words. Using a given list, participants will create poems using each of the preselected words to create poems illuminating an individual or group's experiences in the community or commemorating Ralph Ellison Library's presence in the neighborhood. The purpose of the poetry project is to demonstrate the idea our individual, singular stories of triumph or struggle can come together to weave a rich tapestry of radically divergent experiences found within our service area.

This event is in commemoration of the centennial of the Metropolitan Library System's first branch, the Ralph Ellison Library, formerly the Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch Library. This year we celebrate 100 years of service to our community, which has seen its library grow and adapt through five locations throughout the century.



Guidelines

Submission is open to all poets, writers, creative thinkers and anyone who wants to express their love for the community. A select few participants' poems will be featured in a Ralph Ellison Library Centennial zine in December.

- All 20 words must be used.
- The words may be used in any order but without changes in tense or form (for example, using "embraced" instead of "embrace" or "wearied" instead of "weary" would not count toward the 20 keywords). Changes in capitalization are fine.
- The poem must be no more than thirty lines of text in length (excludes title).
- Submissions will be presented to judges anonymously. **Please do not include your name anywhere in the text of your submission document.**
- In the text of your email, please provide:
 - your name as you would like it to appear upon potential publication
 - a short bio (>100 words)
 - the title of your submission
- Submit your entry as a .doc, .docx, or .txt file using size 12 font via email to ralphellison@metrolibrary.org.
- If you would like to submit a handwritten copy, please return to Ralph Ellison Library at 2000 NE 23rd St. OKC, OK 73111. Additionally, if you need writing materials, please ask a staff member at Ralph Ellison.
- Only one submission per participant.

Shared Language Poetry Project Words

ASCEND
COLLECTIVE
CONQUER
DESTINY
EMBRACE
ESTABLISHMENT
FEAR
FUTURE
GENERATION
HEALING
HOPE
ILLUSORY
JOYOUS
PERFORM
RELIEF
REVEL
STRIFE
UNDENIABLE
VOICELESS
WEARY

