

### **Windsor’s Poet Laureate & Storytellers Program to Launch New Collection “In the Middle Space – Windsor’s Public Art”**

The City of Windsor, through the Poet Laureate & Storytellers Program, is gearing up for the upcoming launch of the next book in the City’s South Shore Collections series.

*In the Middle Space* celebrates Windsor’s Public Art collection – including artworks, monuments and memorials throughout the community – with a book of poems and prose works inspired by the public art pieces themselves. Thirteen well-known local authors are featured in the collection, including Barry Brodie, Carlinda D’Alimonte, Irene Moore Davis, Peter Hrastovec, Maya Jessop, Dorothy Mahoney, Christopher Lawrence Menard, Mary Ann Mulhern, Rawand Mustafa, André Narbonne, Vanessa Shields, Laurie Smith and Teajai Travis. The collection also includes a foreword by Salina Larocque, Cultural Development Coordinator for the City of Windsor, introduction by Alex McKay, and original sketches by Julia Sanders.

The book is being published by Windsor’s Black Moss Press, in partnership with the City of Windsor and the University of Windsor’s Editing & Publishing Practicum program. Additional support for the publication comes from the Canada Council for the Arts and Museum Windsor.

The book launch event takes place Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Court Auditorium at Mackenzie Hall Cultural Centre, 3277 Sandwich Street West. Tickets are FREE and can be reserved through [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca).

*In the Middle Space* will be available for purchase at the launch event, and afterwards at [www.BlackMossPress.com](http://www.BlackMossPress.com), and will soon be available at the gift shop at Museum Windsor’s Chimczuk Museum, and at [Biblioasis Bookshop](#) in Windsor and [River Bookshop](#) in Amherstburg. Onsite at the launch event only, \$5.00 from the sale of each book will be donated to the Windsor Endowment for the Arts (WEA) [Changing the Odds](#) program. This WEA initiative seeks to make the arts more accessible to local youth living with challenging social, emotional, financial, physical or mental health circumstances, and who tend to be under-served due to their life situations.

The book is the fifth offering in the *South Shore Collections* series through [Windsor’s Poet Laureate & Storytellers](#) program. These books help capture, preserve and share Windsor’s stories with the community – one of the primary goals of the program.

## Other Books in the *South Shore Collections Series*

Volume 1 - [\*Because We Have All Lived Here\*](#) (2017) celebrates Windsor's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Canada and Ontario. Within its pages, a 'Group of Seven Poets' honour the five towns on the south shore of the Detroit River as it flows from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie, or as we read from Sandwich through Riverside. The project looks at what meanings poets might make of a city when the city in question is their home.

Volume 2 - [\*A Dance of Self-Isolation: Covid Poems From the Biggest Little City in Canada\*](#) (2020) includes poems written by the poets laureate reflecting on and capturing the impact of the pandemic, as well as the hopes, dreams, challenges, triumphs and fears of an entire community navigating lockdown and the first glimpses of recovery.

Volume 3 - [\*Walk in the Woods: Portrait of the Ojibway Prairie Complex\*](#) (2021) includes poems and photos capturing the best and worst days of the year through walks taken in the jigsaw puzzle of the wetlands, forest, savannah, and prairie areas that hug the near edges of Windsor, Ontario. The book includes photography from Mary Gervais, and poetry from Gervais, Mary Ann Mulhern, and Alexei Ungurenaşu.

Volume 4 - [\*A Manor of Words: Poetry at the Manor 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology\*](#) (2022) celebrates ten years of one of the most unique poetry events in Canada with works from 36 poets laureate from across the country.

All four collections are available for purchase through [www.BlackMossPress.com](http://www.BlackMossPress.com), and are presented through the City of Windsor's Poet Laureate & Storytellers program, and, on occasion, through partnerships with community institutions and organizations.

### Quotes:

"Public art creates chance encounters on a pleasant walk or bike ride, it becomes a landmark, a gathering place, navigational aid, urban atmosphere, a point of civic pride, a place of play, or quiet contemplation and imaginative leaps, daydreams and contemplative wanderings."

**-Alex McKay, Visual Arts Editor for the Windsor Review**

"When public art speaks, it can transport, captivate, and inspire. It can flirt, play, surprise, and ignite. It can honour our loved ones, the brave who have fallen, our heroes, our history..."

**-Salina Larocque, Cultural Development Coordinator – Public Art, City of Windsor**

"This isn't just a book *about* Windsor's public art – this book *is public art* itself. It was inspired by the most creative partnership and collaboration of 13 authors and a little more than a dozen students from the University of Windsor."

**- Marty Gervais, Windsor's Poet Laureate Emeritus & Black Moss Press Publisher**

“University of Windsor practicum students have achieved a collaborative feat, documenting in an elegant anthology the ongoing conversation between Windsor’s writers and the city they inhabit.”

**-André Narbonne, author of *Lucien & Olivia***

“Through the South Shore Collections series, our poets laureate and storytellers, and other community writers, use poetry, photography and other mediums to record their individual experiences and to provide a snapshot of our community’s consciousness, all while creating artifacts to help tell future generations the stories of the city of Windsor.”

**-Christopher Lawrence Menard, Supervisor, Community Programming – Cultural Affairs, City of Windsor**

For more information and details, visit [www.CityWindsor.ca](http://www.CityWindsor.ca).

-30-

**Media Contacts:**

Marty Gervais  
Poet Laureate Emeritus  
for the City of Windsor  
519-903-2966  
[martygervais@gmail.com](mailto:martygervais@gmail.com)

Christopher Lawrence Menard  
Cultural Development Coordinator  
City of Windsor  
519-253-2300 ext. 2752  
[cmenard@citywindsor.ca](mailto:cmenard@citywindsor.ca)