



**Duncanville Arts Commission  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

City Hall, Briefing Room  
203 E. Wheatland Road  
Duncanville, TX 75166  
City Hall - Briefing Room

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026  
6:30 PM**

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City of Duncanville Arts Commission meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. The Duncanville City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call (972) 780-5000 or email [city.secretary@duncanvilletx.gov](mailto:city.secretary@duncanvilletx.gov) at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request accommodation.

The City of Duncanville and Arts Commission reserves the right to reconvene, recess, or align the Regular Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment. Persons may participate by live broadcast via Swagit. To view the live meeting or previous meetings, click on the following link:

<https://duncanvilletx.new.swagit.com/views/454/>

1. Call to Order
2. Receive Public Comments, limit 2-minutes per individual speaker.

To submit a comment via email and for your comments to be read, the following information is required:

Submit a comment by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Email [alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov](mailto:alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov)

Email title: Arts Commission Public Comment – June 23, 2026

First and Last Name; and address.

3. Commissioners Reports (limit to 2 minutes each)
4. Items for Individual Consideration
  - A. Fieldhouse Mural Recommendation Request
  - B. The Arts Commission to consider application(s) for the Duncanville Poet Laureate and make a recommendation to City Council, selecting an applicant to fill this role from July 4, 2026, to July 3, 2027.
5. Presentations and Discussions
  - A. Old Rail Station and Junction with Tim Maiden
  - B. Receive the Master's Voice Christmas Concert Report
  - C. Receive the In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse report.

- D. City-Commissioned Original Art
- E. Review of Olden Year Museum Business Mixer
- F. Social Media Strategy
- G. Art Gifting Policy
- H. September/October Business Mixer

6. Adjournment

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting was posted in accordance with the regulations of the Texas Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board located outside the entrance to the City of Duncanville City Hall, next to the entryway doors, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the City's website [www.duncanvilletx.gov](http://www.duncanvilletx.gov) and said Notice was posted by the following date and time: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, by 5:00 P.M. and remained posted for at least two hours after said meeting was convened.

**Alex Hamby**  
**Communications and Marketing Administrator**



# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING:** - June 23, 2026

**TITLE:**

Fieldhouse Mural Recommendation Request

**Vision Statement:**

**“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”**

**Pillar:**

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:**

**Craig Brasfield**

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Duncanville Fieldhouse General Manager Craig Brasfield has commissioned multiple mural designs for the Arts Commission and City Council to consider. The Arts Commission will consider a mural recommendation and recommend approval of a mural permit.

**POLICY EXPLANATION:**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**ACTION ALTERNATIVES:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Mural Options x 5 June 2026

A



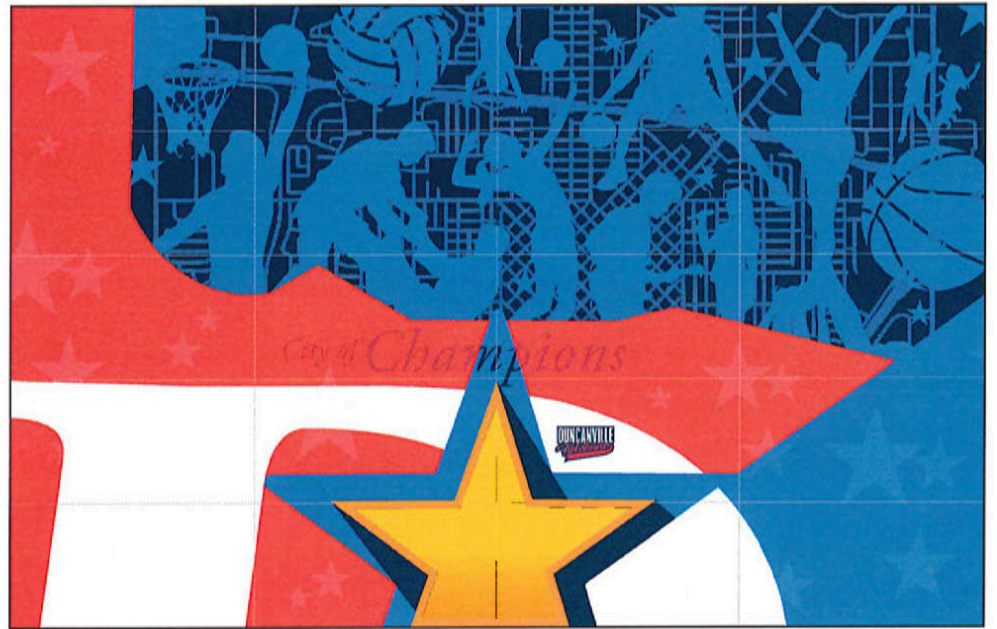
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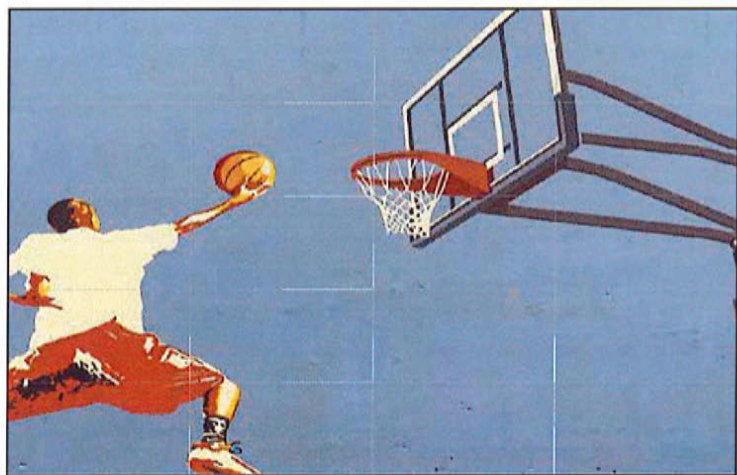
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# Kari Logen Cure

logencure@gmail.com

Submission Date Jun 9, 2026 5:50 PM

Name Kari Logen Cure

Address within Duncanville [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

How long have you lived in Duncanville? Please include month and year residency began. January 2021

Proof of Duncanville residency (copy of utility bill, photo ID, etc.)

 DL\_Cure.pdf

I understand I must maintain Duncanville residency during the term of service.  Yes

Phone Number [REDACTED]


Email [REDACTED]

How do you prefer to be contacted?  Call  Text  Email

Are you at least 18 years of age?  Yes

I am a Duncanville resident and have lived in the city for at least one year.  Yes

Upload a brief biography, maximum one page.

 Cure\_Brief\_Biography.pdf

Upload an artist statement describing your work, approach to poetry, and interest in serving as Duncanville Poet Laureate, maximum one page.



Cure\_Artist\_Statement.pdf

Upload a one-page description of your proposed community-focused poetry project or activities for Duncanville residents.



Cure\_Project\_Ideas.pdf

Upload poetry samples of up to 10 poems total.



Cure\_Writing\_Sample.pdf

Upload a resume or CV, maximum three pages.



Cure\_CV.pdf

I have experience in poetry, spoken word, publication, performance, teaching, workshops, or other literary activities.

Yes

I am willing and able to appear at City-sponsored events and participate in official program activities, including this year's Independence Day Celebration taking place at Armstrong Park on July 4th.

Yes

I understand the Poet Laureate serves a one-year term from July 1 to June 30.

Yes

I understand the role includes up to four official City or community events, at least one community-focused poetry project, and required midyear and final reports.

Yes

I understand this is an honorary position and not City employment.

Yes

I certify that the information submitted is true and complete.

Yes

# LOGEN CURE

• www.logencure.com •

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## Education

East Texas A&M University, MA English Rhetoric/Composition, December 2024  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, MFA Creative Writing/Poetry, May 2010  
Texas A&M University, BA English Literature, May 2008

## Literary Experience

Founder and Curator, *Inner Moonlight* podcast/live reading series (April 2018 - Present)  
Selection Panelist, Citywide Sidewalk Poetry Project, City of Dallas Public Art Program (2026)  
Co-Curator, “Say It Loud! Queer Poets Respond to History,” Badge of Pride (2025)  
Faculty Editor, *Aries*, Texas Wesleyan University’s literary magazine (Fall 2024 - Spring 2025)  
Book Reviewer for *The Wild Detectives* (April 2018 - Present)  
Judge, Randall Jarrell Poetry Competition, North Carolina Writer’s Network (2024)  
Guest Poetry Editor, *The Texas Observer* (September/October 2023)  
Judge, The Common Language Project presented by The Writer’s Garret (2021)  
Editor and Podcast Host, *Voicemail Poems* literary magazine (Summer 2016 - Fall 2023)  
Judge, *Yellowchair Review* chapbook contest (2016)  
Faculty Editor, *Script*, Tarrant County College-South’s literary and art magazine (Spring 2015 - Spring 2023)  
Teaching Artist, The Writer’s Garret (2014 - Present)

## Work Experience

Case Manager, Burch Law, PLLC (October 2025 – May 2026)  
Instructor of College Composition (full-time), Texas Wesleyan University (Fall 2023 - Spring 2025)  
Instructor of English, Tarrant County College-South (adjunct Fall 2013 - Spring 2017, full-time Fall 2017 - Spring 2023)  
Co-director for the Cornerstone Honors Program, Tarrant County College-South (Fall 2017 - Spring 2022)  
Academic Advisor, Tarrant County College-South (October 2013 - August 2017)  
Academic Advisor II, UT-Arlington College of Nursing (July 2011 - September 2013)  
Adjunct Instructor of English, UT-Arlington (Spring 2012 - Fall 2013)  
Staff Specialist, Duke University Registrar’s Office (August 2010 - June 2011)

## Publications

### **Full-length Poetry Collection**

*Welcome to Midland* (Deep Vellum Publishing, August 2021)

### **Poetry Chapbooks**

*Still* (Finishing Line Press, 2015)  
*Letters to Petrarch* (Unicorn Press, 2015)  
*In Keeping* (Unicorn Press, 2008)

### **Selected Works in Journals and Anthologies**

*Nasher Magazine*: “Permian Sea” (reprint) (September 2023)  
*D Magazine*: “Wait for It” (August 2022)  
*Prime Number Magazine*: “Dream in Which I am Wile E. Coyote” (January 2020)  
*2020 Texas Poetry Calendar*: “Scharbauer Hotel, 1973” (Kallisto Gaia Press, 2019)  
*Crab Fat Magazine*: “Confession” and “Lily” (March 2019)  
*Southern Poetry Anthology, VIII: Texas*, “Supernova” (Texas Review Press, 2018)  
*2019 Texas Poetry Calendar*: “Devil with Roots” (Kallisto Gaia Press, 2018)  
*Spiderweb Salon*: “This is Not My First Grey Hair” (April 2017)  
*Split Rock Review*: “Permian Sea” (March 2017)  
*Rogue Agent*: “After” (August 2016)  
*IndieFeed*: “Sixth Street” (January 2016)  
*Easy Street*: “Flash Floods,” “Grey Fox,” “Chaparral,” and “Laws” (December 2015)  
*The Boiler*: “Well-mannered Girls” and “Study” (September 2015)  
*The Poetry Question*: “The Power of Poetry #24” (August 2015)  
*Glitterwolf*: “Elementary” (July 2015)  
*Radar Poetry*: “Rainmakers, 1891” (July 2014)  
*Educe Journal*: “Lauds,” “Vespers,” and “Vigils” (May 2013)  
*Word Riot*: “These are My Best Gifts” (May 2013)  
*Sundog Lit*: “To Shed” (January 2013)

### **Literary Honors and Awards**

*Welcome to Midland*, honorable mention, Philosophical Society of Texas Book Awards (2022)  
*Welcome to Midland*, shortlist, Reading the West Book Awards (2022)  
Featured Poet for *Chicago Review of Books* (July 2021)  
Featured on *Texas Monthly Recommends* for *Inner Moonlight* podcast (June 2021)  
Best Book by a Texas Author for *Still, Fort Worth Weekly* (2015)  
Artist in Residence, WildAcres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC (June 2015)  
*Best of the Net* finalist for “To Shed” published in *Sundog Lit* (2013)

### **Collaborations**

Co-Curator for *Say It Loud!*, Badge of Pride & the Irving Archive and Museum (2025)  
*Inner Moonlight*/Southern Methodist University Project Poética ft. Luisa Muradyan, Denise Duhamel, and Aaron Smith (2025)  
Featured Poet for The Virtues art installation at Thanks-Giving Square, selected by Dallas Poet Laureate Mag Gabbert, Dallas, TX (2024)  
Featured Poet for *Praisesong for the People: Poems Celebrating the Heart and Soul of Texas*, selected by Texas Poet Laureate Amanda Johnston (2024)  
Featured Artist, Spiderweb Salon, C3 Visiting Artists at the Dallas Museum of Art (2019)  
Contributor, White Rock Zine Machine presented by Lisa Huffaker (2016)

### **Invited Talks**

Dallas Contemporary Third Thursday Series, Dallas, TX (October 2023)  
University of Texas Permian Basin and Pride Center West Texas, Odessa, TX (April 2023)  
Guest Lecture for Tarfia Faizullah, University of Texas at Dallas (February 2023)  
LitTalk presented by The Writer’s Garret and Writing Workshops Dallas (November 2022)

## **Conferences and Festivals**

Dallas is Lit! Festival presented by The Writer's Garret, Dallas, TX (May 2023, May 2026)  
Dallas Literary Festival, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX (March 2022)  
Texas Book Festival, "Texas Poets: New Work" panel, Austin, TX (October 2021)  
Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers Conference, Houston, TX (September 2019)  
Decatur Public Library Same Page Festival, Decatur, TX (September 2018)  
Houston Poetry Fest, Houston, TX (2016)  
Austin International Poetry Festival, Austin, TX (2015)

## **Selected Readings**

*American Literary Review* poetry series, University of North Texas, Denton, TX (March 2024)  
Desperate Literature, "Wandering through Iceland and West Texas: An evening with Kendra Greene and Logen Cure," Madrid, Spain/Zoom (November 2022)  
*Welcome to Midland* launch presented by Deep Vellum, Dallas, TX (August 2021)  
Spiderweb Salon Cheers for Queers, Denton, TX (October 2018)  
Art & Words Show, Fort Worth, TX (October 2017)  
Texas Poetry Calendar Reading, San Antonio, TX (October 2016)  
Spiderweb Salon at ARTS ALL NIGHT, Denton, TX (April 2016)  
Wildcatter Exchange Telling Stories, Fort Worth, TX (November 2015)  
BookWoman Second Thursday Reading, Austin, TX (October 2015)

## **Interviews**

*Does it Have Pockets?:* "A Conversation with Logen Cure" (June 2024)  
*The Midland Reporter Telegram:* "'Welcome to Midland' author reflects on growing up queer in Midland." (September 2021)  
*Point of Departure* podcast: "Logen Cure" (March 2019)  
*storySouth:* "Interview with Logen Cure" (April 2016)  
*Yellow Chair Review:* "Interview with Logen Cure" (January 2016)  
*Easy Street:* Poet in Residence (December 2015)  
*Fort Worth Weekly:* "Xs & Os: Dealing with Unrequited Love" (October 2015)  
*Speaking of Marvels:* "JeFF Stumpo and Logen Cure" (June 2015)

## **Professional Honors**

Sam Taylor Fellowship Award recipient, *Aries* literary magazine, 2024-2025  
*Script 2021:* 1<sup>st</sup> place Cover Design, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall Design, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall Excellent, Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Contest  
*Script 2020:* 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall Design, Honorable Mention Cover Design, Honorable Mention Overall Excellence, Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Contest  
*Script 2019:* Outstanding Literary Magazine Award, Sigma Kappa Delta; 3<sup>rd</sup> place Best Magazine for Southwestern Region, Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Award; 1<sup>st</sup> place Cover Design, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Overall Excellence, Honorable Mention Overall Design, Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Contest  
*Script 2018:* 2<sup>nd</sup> place Best Magazine for Southwestern Region, Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Award  
*Script 2017:* 1<sup>st</sup> place Best Magazine for Southwestern Region, Community College Humanities Association Literary Magazine Award

## Permian Sea

My father told me  
once all this desert was vast inland sea:  
all mollusks and trilobites,  
amphibians bigger than my imagination.  
He pointed westward,  
explained the Guadalupe Mountains  
are an enormous ancient reef.  
*All this*, he said,  
*everything was water.*

Then the sea stagnated,  
temperature skyrocketed,  
acid rained from the sky,  
everything died:  
the most massive extinction  
in recorded history.  
All those fossils,  
oil now. Of course.

I was born here,  
to the pasture,  
spiny mesquites,  
cracked red earth.  
I imagined being born underwater,  
born a suggestion

of what's to come,  
something so basic  
it could survive  
when earth starts over,  
a nautilus, maybe,  
all tentacles, no memory.

I dreamed of it, the sea before  
its horrific death,  
before millions of years  
sun blazed over lifeless desert.  
Sometimes, waking I thought  
I heard the waves.

## Lucifer at the Tea Party

My mother will tell you about reading the invitation to me—  
Hannah Miller's 4th birthday, a dress-up party—  
the way I said, *Oh good, I'll wear my devil costume,*  
how she explained that's not at all what they meant.  
*Think tea party. Think fancy.*

*Oh, I said. Then I'm not going.*

When Hannah's mother asked me at preschool pickup  
if I was planning to attend,  
my mother explained the misunderstanding  
after I said, *Nope.*  
*Oh, Hannah's mother said,*  
*just bring her in whatever she wants to wear.*

I don't believe I remember this.  
Isn't it strange? The way story blurs  
with memory, the sweet mythology  
we make of ourselves.

Ask my mother and she will show you the photo:  
little girls clad in lace, sashes, tiny gloves,  
sitting in a circle, heads bent  
as Hannah opens a gift,  
and me, kneeling in the background,  
dark eyes looking square at the camera,  
my horns crooked, the hellfire on my red, red cape  
just visible at the edge of the frame.

## Prelude

Hard to believe Leah had lived in this town  
all of her sixteen years and hadn't seen the used bookstore.  
You had to know it to find it,  
downtown behind the old pharmacy with the soda counter.

There were no other patrons, only a man  
behind the counter reading a fat paperback.  
We chose different entries into the labyrinth of shelves.  
I moved quietly, stopping to touch spines of rare books,  
listening for her footsteps.  
I never let her get too far from me.

*Hey!* she said, as she popped around the corner,  
*You gotta see this.* She took my wrist, led me  
into the romance section, pointed at the row of covers.  
*Look,* she said, *they're all the same.*

Each cover displayed couples embracing,  
their open mouths trapped in the instant  
just before the kiss. I remembered last summer,  
the playground at night, how she stood  
so close to me, how my breath stopped  
when she looked at me, how she looked away.

*Let's look for a cover where they're actually kissing,* she said.  
We searched every shelf together and didn't find a single one.

## Shipwreck

In history, I learned about explorers:  
fleets of ships, grossly inaccurate maps,  
successes and debts, naming everything for kings.

My teacher told us all about *La Belle*,  
the French ship wrecked  
off the Texas Gulf coast in 1686,  
how they unearthed the whole thing in 1995  
from the sludge of Matagorda Bay.  
*It was extraordinary*, she said,  
*truly an archeological feat.*

This is what I remember:  
a survivor's journal reported  
the crew was stranded,  
dehydrated, starving,  
denied supplies by their drunken pilot.  
They were warned  
not to eat the cactuses.  
A desperate man greedily shoved  
a whole prickly pear in his mouth.  
He couldn't have known  
about the invisible spines,  
how they would lodge in his throat,  
how quick the swelling,  
how slow the suffocation.

Remember: I love the surprise  
of yellow flowers, red fruit  
ripening purple, the fact that  
some beautiful things  
should never be touched.

## Coyote

Driving downtown with my mother,  
I saw a coyote lope over a crosswalk,  
golden in broad daylight,  
tongue lolling in the heat.

I learned legends in school,  
coyote as trickster or god.  
My father told me  
folks hate them,  
been trying to thin them out  
for decades with all manner  
of torture—poison, traps,  
rifles in helicopters—but  
they just adapt.  
Kill them and they just  
keep coming.

This is what I know:  
they'll care for an injured mate  
'til death; they live on cottontails  
but pressured, they'll take a sheep;  
it's not a good idea to leave a small pet  
out at night; they're the only  
creature to thrive like this,  
desert turning concrete,

hunters always  
coming. Listen. As sunset  
dissolves to darkness  
you can hear them.

## Parting Gift

Leah slid into my passenger seat  
and said *I've got something to show you.*

It was August and against all odds  
it was raining, brutal afternoon swelter  
lifting into darkened sky.

She directed me to a patch of woods  
off the side of the road,  
flanked by desperate yellow fields.

As I followed her on foot toward the trees,  
I did not consider the empty dorm room  
eight hours away that waited for me.

A draw separated the woods from the field.  
She did not hesitate to cross on a fallen tree.  
I stopped. She turned back. I looked at her,  
the wilderness behind her  
haunting and lovely, and I thought  
if I tried to cross, I'd fall.  
She held out her hand.  
I took it.

She led me through pathless forest to a clearing.  
We looked up at the domed canopy,  
lush and sudden green, drumming with raindrops.

I kissed her  
and she kissed me back.  
She touched my face.  
This was what they mean  
when they say *falling*,  
when they say *fireworks*.  
This was every lie I was ever told  
illuminated, everything they said  
I couldn't have.  
This was also goodbye.

She didn't say anything,  
not a single damn thing.  
It was August and I didn't feel the rain.

I have a few ideas for potential community-focused poetry projects or activities:

1. I specialize in reading series. Duncanville does not currently have a consistent reading series that I am aware of. I propose a monthly open mic reading in collaboration with a local business that would serve as venue. My experience curating *Inner Moonlight* has shown me the value in consistent events that offer a safe space for creativity. This initiative also opens the possibility for a physical publication. Reading participants could submit work they've performed at the open mic for a print anthology at the end of the first year. The ideal would be to create the infrastructure for the series to continue after my term as laureate ends, meaning a continuation of the monthly event and annual anthology.
2. I also specialize in making literary magazines with students. It looks like Duncanville High School has a defunct literary magazine called *Panther Lit Mag*. I would love to facilitate the revival of that publication or to create a new publication in collaboration with Duncanville High students. The previous magazine published only Duncanville High students; I propose an expansion of submissions to include all Duncanville ISD students of any age. For this initiative, I envision including high school students as the editorial staff for a print and online magazine. To raise awareness and generate creative work for submissions, I envision either sending poets (including myself) to Duncanville ISD campuses to visit students and talk about poetry or developing materials for Duncanville teachers to deliver alongside their established poetry curriculum. I envision an event to present the final issue of the magazine to include readings from contributors. Ideally, I would establish an infrastructure that would allow the publication of the magazine to continue after my term as laureate ends.
3. Duncanville is the home of 17 public parks. For this idea, I propose a series of events at public parks, led by a poet (including myself) inviting participants to write poetry that connects with nature and community. These poems could be collected into a culminating anthology. I envision an event to present the final anthology to include readings from contributors. If possible, some of these poems could be installed at the parks themselves, as plaques or paintings, integrating poetry into our physical environment.
4. I also have experience facilitating ekphrastic projects. Ekphrasis is the literary tradition of writing poems in response to visual art. I have participated in exhibitions of this kind in the past, and I led a semester-long ekphrastic collaboration between my college creative writing class and a studio art class. This idea would involve collaborating with visual art initiatives to pair writers and artists to create new work in response to one another, culminating in an exhibition, printed anthology, or both.

## Cure – Artist Statement

I am excited to apply for the Duncanville Poet Laureate position; the initiative’s emphasis on community aligns with the passions that drive my work. I am a long-time poet, educator, and community-maker with experience editing publications, organizing events, making audio content, publishing work with literary magazines and presses, and teaching everyone from beginners to experts. Everything I do is based on the belief that poetry is for everyone, and that support is vital across literary spaces. I’ve been a lucky poet—I’ve benefited tremendously from the support of my family, teachers, mentors, and friends. I gained a valuable education from my MFA program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. There are countless ways to be a poet, and there is no single definition of success. As an educator and mentor, I strive to empower others to forge a path that aligns with their own values, vision, and voice.

My full-length poetry collection, *Welcome to Midland* (Deep Vellum Publishing, 2021) is a coming-of-age story alongside a natural and cultural history of my West Texas hometown. The overarching concern of the book is survival in a harsh environment. *Welcome to Midland* was shortlisted for the Reading the West Book Awards, and *The Texas Observer* hailed it as a “moving debut.” I was honored to be featured in the 2021 Texas Book Festival, and I have received countless messages from my target audience, small-town folks.

Connection drives my work, including *Inner Moonlight*, the podcast and live reading series I have curated at The Wild Detectives in Dallas since 2018. *Inner Moonlight* has been featured in articles in *Poets & Writers* and *The New York Times* covering the Dallas literary scene, and *Texas Monthly* praised the podcast for increasing access to literature, platforming diverse writing styles, and foregrounding underrepresented voices. The live show has its own brilliant, dedicated community of folks who show up every month, and I am deeply proud of the space we have created.

Additionally, I have more than 14 years of experience as an educator. I have taught creative writing, composition, literature, and publishing courses to all levels of writers from middle school students to graduate students. I am an innovative instructor, and my teaching practices represent the most recent developments in writing pedagogy.

Finally, I have participated in the signature projects of two poets laureate: Dallas Poet Laureate Mag Gabbert’s Thanks-giving Square and 2-1-Form projects, and Texas Poet Laureate Amanda Johnston’s *Praisesong for the People* project. I am absolutely thrilled that Duncanville has decided to launch a Poet Laureate program, and I would be honored to direct my ambition and abilities toward amplifying the power of poetry in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Logen Cure is a poet and educator. She is the founder and curator of *Inner Moonlight*, the monthly reading series and podcast at The Wild Detectives in Dallas. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her debut full-length poetry collection, *Welcome to Midland* (Deep Vellum Publishing 2021), was shortlisted for the Reading the West Book Awards. Learn more at [www.logencure.com](http://www.logencure.com).

# Donald Mac Browning

donald.m.browning.jr@gmail.com

Submission Date Jun 12, 2026 1:38 PM

Name Donald Mac Browning

Address within Duncanville [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

How long have you lived in Duncanville? Please include month and year residency began. Oct 2013

Proof of Duncanville residency (copy of utility bill, photo ID, etc.)



I understand I must maintain Duncanville residency during the term of service. Yes

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

How do you prefer to be contacted? Text

Are you at least 18 years of age? Yes

I am a Duncanville resident and have lived in the city for at least one year. Yes

Upload a brief biography, maximum one page.



Upload an artist statement describing your work, approach to poetry, and interest in serving as Duncanville Poet Laureate, maximum one page.



Browning\_Artist\_Statement.docx

Upload a one-page description of your proposed community-focused poetry project or activities for Duncanville residents.



Browning\_Proposed\_Community\_Focuse... .docx

Upload poetry samples of up to 10 poems total.



Browning\_Poem\_Examples.docx

Upload a resume or CV, maximum three pages.



Donald\_Browning\_Resume\_8.docx

I have experience in poetry, spoken word, publication, performance, teaching, workshops, or other literary activities.

Yes

I am willing and able to appear at City-sponsored events and participate in official program activities, including this year's Independence Day Celebration taking place at Armstrong Park on July 4th.

Yes

I understand the Poet Laureate serves a one-year term from July 1 to June 30.

Yes

I understand the role includes up to four official City or community events, at least one community-focused poetry project, and required midyear and final reports.

Yes

I understand this is an honorary position and not City employment.

Yes

I certify that the information submitted is true and complete.

Yes

## Browning Artist Statement

Poetry, like all art, is meant to capture or to express. I endeavor to capture a moment in time, a single state of action or beauty, refine it into concentrated words and phrases until a poem forms, with the moment caught.

I also seek to express emotions, reactions to external stimuli, or internal traumatic struggles I struggle to express in other ways. I am then able to do this safely and effectively.

If I can encourage others with captured moments or express emotions and reactions in safe and effective ways, then I would seek the opportunity to serve the Duncanville community in this way.

If I can encourage others that they too might try to capture and to express in poetry, then this too would be a noble cause.

## Browning Bio

I earned my BA in Liberal Studies in 1990, and my CA teaching credential in 1995. I taught 6 years of jr high English and 5 years of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I earned my certificate in applied linguistics in 2008 when we joined Wycliffe Bible Translators as missionaries for 8 years. I earned my MA in Global Leadership in 2015, and I earned my Texas teaching certificate in 2017. I have taught high school grade levels of English in Texas for 6 years, and have experience in all 4 levels.

## Browning Poem Examples

### **Music Magic**

Sound's emotion-  
Lifting, swirling  
Around until  
Crashing downward  
In bass-filled rush,  
Only to pause-  
It's silence plied  
In pregnant sigh,  
Broken lightly  
By solemn notes  
Lingering close.  
Suddenly up  
Again to soar  
With heaven's birds,  
Impassioned trills,  
Building, forceful,  
Resonance knit.  
Then melody  
Repeatedly  
Reaching inward  
With music magic,  
To carry sound's  
Emotive song.

## **Music's Play**

Can the music of the dawn  
Renew the hope to carry on?

Can it lift with trilling light,  
Warm the heart with smooth delight?

Will this song remove from me  
Dark that hinders me to see?

Will the French horns call for peace;  
Will the trumpet give release?

Will the hope of music's play  
Lift my heart to sing each day?

## Arting

When the image,  
When the music,  
When the singer  
Stops all movement,  
Alters timelines,  
And takes your breath,  
Then it's art has  
Captured heartbeats,  
Emboldened souls  
To bravery,  
Compassion's work,  
Or peaceful bliss.

When the arting,  
When the feeling,  
When the passion  
Starts a movement,  
Alters thinking,  
And gives it breath,  
Then its life now  
Just beginning,  
Emboldens us  
To word and work,  
A joyous place.

## Twirling 'Round

Will you dance  
When I provide  
The music  
And the sway?

In step with Me,  
To follow as  
I lead this dance  
In turns a  
Twirling 'round?

Will you let  
Yourself be free  
And safe to move  
Within the sound,  
That swings a  
Twirling 'round?

Let your heart now  
Listen to  
The rhythm  
Of the beat,  
And feel  
The turns a  
Twirling 'round,  
A twirling round,  
A twirling round

## Art

What is art  
That cannot slay  
That monster hate?  
It renders us  
And leaves us weak,  
Or empowers some  
With courage built,  
A strength to speak,  
A power to stand.

What is art,  
That sense to soul  
And mind to think?  
A fragile touch,  
The sweetest taste,  
A thrumming beat,  
The vision set  
In colors wrapped,  
Swirling soft,  
Or boldly strike

What is art  
That feeds the heart,  
Both whole and spent?  
It lifts the mind  
To heights regained,  
Of Hope's regard,

For love's new hope.

## **Heart of Poetry**

Poems Are...

Romantic and soft

For lovers to share.

Moments in time

Held still for always.

Colors and smells

Of experience made.

The mood of a song,

The feel of a sound.

Poems are also...

Grief-stricken lashing,

Gut-wrenching passion.

The screaming of silence,

Or softness of chaos.

Home to the broken,

Of dreams never tossed.

Strength for the hopeless,

And joy for the morn!

## Points of Light

Does a star

Shine in

Solitary

Illumination?

Does it light,

Alone,

The sky

Above us?

Or does it join

The vastness

Of the myriads,

The countless

Points of light,

A symphony

Of sight

Above us?

## **Ebbing Sight**

Momentary

Beauty kept,

Fleeting light

Of color wrapped

And flung across,

An ebbing sight-

Orangey-yellow,

Purply-pinks,

And bleeding to

All blues and grays.

No captured view

Or image caught

Compares to this

In memory's light,

Of color wrapped

And flung across,

An ebbing sight

Of momentary

Beauty kept.

## **Flourish**

Let His moment  
Grow and prosper.  
Let it flourish  
As a blossom,  
Color bright,  
And beauty grasping.

Sing and shout  
Of glory captured,  
Words of life,  
And faith in action.  
Declare delight  
Upon this pathway,  
Steps alive,  
In hope residing.

Captured heart  
Within His moment,  
Holy fruit  
He'd have all  
To grow and nurture.

## End of Race

Feel the peace  
And know His grace,  
A blanket placed  
To take the chill.

His hand is still  
On shoulder freed  
From life's disgrace.

His heart has touched  
That broken place,  
That tear stained face.

His will has set  
This kingdom race,  
For loving grace,  
As mercy's face,  
To lift you up  
At end of race.

## Browning Proposed Community Focused Activities

Of course, keeping open and aware of the needs and desires of the community, these proposed ideas will be subject to adaptation.

I can see a benefit in offering a forum, a panel of guest poets, to the community where poets may share stories and inspirations of their personal journeys as poets. They might also offer advice to budding poets in the audience and answer questions.

The community responds well to poetry and spoken word open mic events, so finding a local space and hosting one or more of those would be appropriate.

Poet Laureates often share their work at city events and celebrations. Writing verse to capture and share those moments would also be encouraging for listeners who enjoy hearing poetry.

# Donald M. Browning Jr

## OBJECTIVE

My primary objective is to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment that encourages both students and their families in their spiritual growth and development. I aim to facilitate the development of the many volunteers working with our children as they seek to bring the Gospel to the body of the church, and outward to the wider community.

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.

## ADDRESS

Duncanville, TX

## PHONE

[REDACTED]

## EMAIL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## EXPERIENCE

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JAN 2025-PRESENT

High School English Teacher | Midlothian ISD | Midlothian, TX

AUG 2019 - JULY 2022

High School English Teacher | Village Tech Schools | Duncanville, TX

AUG 2015 - AUG 2017

High School English Teacher | Newman International Academy | Cedar Hill, TX

FEB 2007 - FEB 2015

MISSIONARY | WYLCIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS | ORLANDO, FL

AUG 2002 - FEB 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher | Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD | Yucaipa, CA

AUG 2001 - JUNE 2002

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher | Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD | Yucaipa, CA

AUG 1996 - JUNE 2001

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher | Perris Union HSD | Perris, CA

**Skills included:** Teach English Language Arts and Reading to secondary students using an engaging personality and instructional aids such as multimedia and classroom technology to inform students while fostering a desire to learn. Demonstrate mastery of administrative tasks such as attendance and grading, while preparing creative lesson plans on a regular basis. Create lessons and educational projects that meet state/board standards while reinforcing practical aspects of instruction. Intervene with students/parents as student outcomes warrant or upon request. Confer with administrators to receive direction or adjust methods as needed.

## EDUCATION

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Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

Master of Arts Degree, Global Leadership

Simpson University, Redding, CA  
Teaching Credential Program

Cal State University, San Bernardino, CA  
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Liberal Studies

## **COMMUNICATION**

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Accomplished training and education professional with 20+ years of experience. Powerful communicator with expertise in implementing successful methods and systems that improve knowledge, retention, and productivity for individuals and teams. Solve complex issues to boost performance and transform organizations through training and enforcement of best practices.

## **LEADERSHIP**

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As Team Leader overseas: established new language based NGO in West Asia, trained and oriented new team members as they arrived in country, built and maintained good relationships with foreign and local leaders building foundational infrastructure for future partnerships, managed team language programs, set annual budgets, and resourced team activities, and chaired the planning committee for the international conference focused on minority groups in West Asia.

As Faith Church member: chaired deacon board, led life group, co-taught Sunday School class, and volunteer in the nursery monthly and during VBS.



# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING:** - June 23, 2026

**TITLE:**

Receive the Master's Voice Christmas Concert Report

**Vision Statement:**

**“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”**

**Pillar:**

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:**

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

**POLICY EXPLANATION:**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**ACTION ALTERNATIVES:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Re\_ Reminder\_ Final Report Required for Arts Grant - Alex Hamby - Outlook

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**Re: Reminder: Final Report Required for Arts Grant**

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**From** Deb Faulkner <defaulkner@sbcglobal.net>  
**Date** Fri 6/5/2026 12:57 PM  
**To** Alex Hamby <alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov>

I am so sorry that I missed this step. Here is the info that I have regarding this event.

**Master's Voice Christmas Concert at First Christian Church of Duncanville.**

The event was held on December 8th at 7pm open to the public. Attendance was approximately 200 people. Many members from the community immensely enjoyed the music and some were called to participate in the "12 Days of Christmas" song. Great fun was had by all.

Non-perishable Donations were received to benefit our community through Duncanville Outreach. We gathered 6-7 egg cartons of fund stuffs which were delivered on December 9th.

The program was a great success with the support of Duncanville Arts Commission and the event calendar. This event had approximately doubled from past events because of this support.

The funds granted for the project were used to pay the Master's Voice Quartet for their talents and travel from Oklahoma. I know that some of their die-hard fans traveled to see them as well. I do not however have access to data regarding Hotel impact although I heard several attendees making plans to go eat locally after the event.

If there is further information needed, I will be more than happy to gather whatever is required. If this should be submitted in an official form, I would be happy to provide same if you could point me to the location of the form.

We are so thankful for the Support from the Arts Commission for this event. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Respectfully,  
Deborah Faulkner  
Worship/A-V Chair

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 03:41:44 PM CDT, Alex Hamby <[alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov](mailto:alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Faulkner,

I hope you are doing well. This is a friendly reminder that recipients of the City of Duncanville Arts Grant are required to submit a final report within 45 days of completing their project or event, based on the completion date listed in the original application.

The final report is an important part of the grant process. It helps document how grant funds were used, highlights the outcomes and community impact of the project, and supports future funding efforts for the arts program.

Please submit your final report as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Reports should include the following information:

- Project outcomes
- Financial details
- Attendance and public engagement
- Tourism or hotel impact, if applicable

Please note that failure to submit the required final report may affect future eligibility for Arts Grant funding. Under current policy, failure to report will result in ineligibility for 4 grant cycles.

The Arts Commission uses final reports to support oversight of the program and to provide updates to the City Council on the use of funds, grantee outcomes, and economic and tourism impact.

If you have already submitted your report, please disregard this message. If you have any questions or need assistance completing the report, please feel free to contact me at [alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov](mailto:alex.hamby@duncanvilletx.gov) or (972) 780-5043.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your contribution to arts and culture in Duncanville.

**Alex Hamby**

Communications and Marketing Administrator



*Public Information Office*

*Customer Advocacy Office*

203 E. Wheatland Road

Duncanville, TX 75116

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# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING:** - June 23, 2026

**TITLE:**

Receive the In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse report.

**Vision Statement:**

**“Duncanville, a City of Champions, is a safe, vibrant, diverse community committed to excellence in education, business, and good governance.”**

**Pillar:**

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:**

Alex Hamby, Communications and Marketing Administrator

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

**POLICY EXPLANATION:**

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**ACTION ALTERNATIVES:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Project Outcome Report In The Words Of A Sistah

## **Project Outcomes Report**

### **In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse**

**Date:** March 21, 2026

**Location:** Kingsmen Coffee

**Address:** 714 W. Wheatland Road, Duncanville, TX 75116

**Curated and Produced by:** B. Randall

### **Project Summary**

*In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse* brought together community members for an inspiring evening of spoken word, storytelling, music, and meaningful conversation. The program featured three accomplished poets who shared powerful personal narratives and original works that explored themes of identity, resilience, love, healing, and self-discovery.

Through poetry, song, and a live interview segment, attendees gained deeper insight into each artist's creative journey, influences, and inspiration. The event created an intimate and engaging atmosphere that encouraged connection, reflection, and appreciation for the literary and performing arts. Audience members were invited into a space where authentic stories were shared, fostering empathy, understanding, and community dialogue.

The program successfully fulfilled its mission of creating opportunities for artistic expression while highlighting the voices and experiences of women through poetry and storytelling.

### **Financial Details**

**Grant Award:** \$3,000

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Three Performance Poets (\$400 each)	\$1,200
Interviewer	\$200
Videographer/Photographer	\$400
Venue Deposit	\$600
Marketing and Ticketing	\$180
Administrative Costs	\$420

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

All grant funds were fully utilized to support artist compensation, event production, venue costs, audience outreach, documentation, and administrative coordination.

### **Attendance and Public Engagement**

The event welcomed **44 attendees** in a venue with a capacity of **75**, resulting in approximately **59% occupancy**.

Audience members remained engaged throughout the evening, interacting with performers and participating in thoughtful discussions inspired by the themes explored in the presentations. The combination of poetry, music, and artist interviews created a unique experience that encouraged active listening and meaningful exchange.

The event provided a welcoming environment for artistic expression, cultural storytelling, and authentic community engagement. Attendees represented a diverse cross-section of the community, contributing to an atmosphere of inclusion, creativity, and shared learning.

### **Tourism or Hotel Impact**

Not applicable.

### **Future Growth and Sustainability**

The enthusiastic response to *In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse* demonstrated a strong community interest in women-centered spoken word and storytelling programs. The event reinforced the value of creating spaces where artists can share their stories and audiences can engage in meaningful cultural experiences.

Building on this success, organizers intend to explore opportunities to establish the program as an **annual event** and expand its reach within the community.

Future goals include:

- Expanding marketing and promotional efforts to reach a broader audience.
- Securing a larger venue to accommodate future attendance growth.
- Strengthening community partnerships and outreach initiatives.
- Increasing opportunities for artist engagement and audience interaction.

- Continuing to provide a platform that elevates diverse voices through poetry, storytelling, and performance.

## **Conclusion**

Overall, *In The Words Of A Sistah: Stories and Verse* successfully fulfilled its objectives of fostering artistic expression, encouraging meaningful community dialogue, and celebrating cultural storytelling. The event provided a memorable and impactful experience for both performers and attendees while laying a strong foundation for future programming and continued community engagement.