



Emily Thornton Calvo

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Writing Goal

Craft creative, artful language to inspire empathy, critical thought, and artful expression that helps heal and elevate our human experiences.

Literary Leadership

Chicago Slam Works • 2009 to 2017 • Co-founder, board member and “*Slambassador*” • Established education program, Poets with Class, and produced dozens of readings and events.

How to Promote Your Poetry

2011, 2017 • Chicago Poetry Fest Harold Washington Library, Chicago, IL • Panelist and Moderator (respectively).

Integrating Poetry into Other

Subjects • 2005 • Chicago Public Schools Magnet Cluster Institute Speaker for 100+ CPS elementary school principals.

Teaching Artists Collective • 2005

Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago, IL Panelist on teaching poetry for instructors.

Awards and Recognition

30 Writers to Watch • 2019

Guild Literary Complex, Chicago, IL

Individual Artist Grant • 2014

City of Chicago Department of Culture and Special Events, Chicago, IL

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award

2007 • Guild Literary Complex, Chicago, IL • Semi-finalist

Current Projects

Caught on Tape —My Gay Dad and His Secret Life

A memoir based on more than 6000 audio cassette tapes that my father, a gay Chicago artist recorded from 1977 to 2000. The tapes are archived at the Kinsey Institute. I digitized and heard more than 250 tapes, and transcribed relevant dialogue. The book will reveal my relationship with my father, and his complex struggle to thrive in a culture that too often oppressed the LGBTQ community. Expected completion: Fall 2021.

Wall Poems

A series of my poems integrated into original watercolor paintings. The project also includes collaborations with poets Nikki Giovanni, Marc Kelly Smith, Cin Salach and others. To do so, I created a process that allows lengthy text to be arranged using computer graphics. Then the poem is digitally printed on tissue paper, and applied to the art. The result expands exposure to the poems by taking them off the page and putting them in full view for an unlimited time.

Before It's Too Late (Working Title)

My collection of poems and art inspired by the awareness of mortality, which took hold after surviving breast cancer and leukemia in 2010 and 2012 respectively.

Supportive Work for Literary Communities

One Poetic Voice • 2005 to 2018

Co-founder/organizer of six international two-week exchanges involving 30+ writers from France and Germany. Performance venues have included the Poetry Foundation, the Lycée Français de Chicago, the French Consulate, Lakeview High School and others. Working with foreign organizers, the project books and houses multiple groups of poets who collaborate with Marc Kelly Smith to “perform” poems in different languages thereby simultaneously interpreting both languages for multi-lingual audiences.

National Poetry Slam Championships • 1999, 2003

Marketing Director for national competitions in Chicago that hosted more than 50 teams of poets performing in multiple venues throughout five days. Events also featured workshops and finals at the Chicago Theater and Skyline Stage attracting more than 2000 people.

Highlights of Published Books

Lending Color to the Otherwise Absurd • 2014

First collection of original poems and art. Self-published with a grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

When I'm Old ...The Fun Begins • 2005

Dogs Dressed Up ...and No Place to Go • 2005

First Comes Love: The Truth about Brides & Grooms • 2004

Sisters ...Wit, Wisdom, and Fun • 2004

New Seasons, an imprint of Publications International, Ltd.

Wrote humorous captions for line of books sold in gift markets.

25 Words or Less...How to Write Like a Pro to Find That Special Someone Through Personal Ads • 1998 • Contemporary Books

Co-authored an “how-to” book that applies the principles of excellent writing and relationship building to help people find successful relationships using personal ads.



Anthology Highlights

American Gun: A Poem by 100 Chicago Poets

2019 • Big Shoulders Books
DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Nourish • 2018
Online literary journal

Dictionary of Midwestern Literature, Volume Two • 2016
University of Kentucky
Co-authored, *Poetry Slam* entry
with Marc Kelly Smith

Helium180, A Journal of Contemporary Writing • 2014

Journal of Psychological Poetry • 2010

After Hours • 2002, 2004, 2007, 2009 • Chicago, IL

Coléré • 2002 • Coe College,
Cedar Rapids, IA

Memberships and Affiliations

Chicago Writers Association
Member • 2011 to Present

Chicago Sister Cities
International • 2004 to Present
Paris Committee Member

American Writers Museum
2017 to Present

Society of Midland Authors
2002 to Present

Association of Writers and
Writing Programs • 2005 to 2010

The Poetry Center of Chicago
2005 to 2008 • Board Member

Technical Skills

Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and
Acrobat Pro • Audacity audio
editor • Mail Chimp • Microsoft
Office applications • Social Media
platforms • Wix website builder

Selected Literary Readings

OutSpoken • 2019 • SideTrack, Chicago, IL
LGBTQ series featured an excerpt from my
memoir *Caught on Tape* • Featured Storyteller

Traveling Molly's • 2019, 2014
Oak Park, IL • Featured poet

Maud Martha Out Loud • 2018 • Logan
Center for the Arts, University of Chicago and
Poetry Foundation • Featured reader

Tiger Salon • 2018 • Curated series featuring
writers reading work-in-progress • Evanston, IL
Presented chapter from *Caught on Tape*.

Pop-Up Poetry • 2017 • Art Institute of
Chicago, Chicago, IL • Poetry Foundation
sponsored series • Featured poet who wrote
ekphrastic poems based on assigned art.

Chicago Poetry Festival • 2016
Not Your Grandma's Poetry Show
Harold Washington Library, Chicago, IL
Featured poet

Poetry with Vision • 2016 • Loyola
University, Gender Studies Program,
Chicago, IL • Collaborated with poet Andy
Karol to present gender-relevant poems

Uptown Poetry Slam • 2015, 2017, 2018
Green Mill Jazz Lounge, Chicago, IL
Featured poet

Applied Words • 2011 • Guild Complex &
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
Featured poet and artist

The Body Politic of Pierre Marie Brisson
2011 • Th!nkArt Gallery, Chicago, IL
Featured poet

**Atropolis, A Celebration of Art, Antiques
& Culture** • 2011 • Merchandise Mart,
Chicago, IL • Featured poet

War & Peace • 2009 • Th!nkArt Gallery,
Chicago, IL • Fundraiser for Chicago Sister
Cities International Paris Committee
Featured poet

Encyclopedia Show • 2009 • Chopin
Theater, Chicago, IL • Featured poet

Poetry Month Webcast • 2009 • WBEZ
Harold Washington Library, Chicago, IL

Ben Around Town • 2003
WYCC-TV, Chicago, IL • Featured poet

Central Air Radio • 2003 • WHPK, University
of Chicago, Chicago, IL • Featured poet

Civic Center Arts Fest • 2001, 2002
Fontenay Le Comte, France • Featured poet

Poetry Month Celebration • 2000
Lincoln Library, Springfield, IL • Featured poet

Educator

Writer's Week • 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Niles North High School, Skokie, IL
Featured poet. Also lectured on careers
for writers.

Hands on Stanzas Poet-in-Residence
2001 to 2004 • Young Women's Leadership
Charter School, Chicago, IL
A 20-week middle school residency through
The Chicago Poetry Center.

Poetry Month! • 2005, 2008 • South
Middle School • Mount Prospect, IL
Conducted two-day poetry workshops.

Unity Junior High School • 2004, 2005
Cicero, IL • Taught one-day workshops.

Joseph Sears Elementary School • 2007
Kenilworth, IL • Guest poet for two-day
performances and workshops for middle
school students.

Education

**Crafting Memoir: How to Outline Your
Own Hero's Journey** • 2019
Instructor: Tammy Letherer, author of 9th
Annual Chicago Writers Association Book of
the Year.

Writing Memoir with Pieces • 2018
Instructor: Suzanne Scanlon, author of *Her 37th
Year, An Index* • Story Studio, Chicago, IL

Preparing for Publication • 2018
Instructor: Amin Ahmad of Northwestern
University • Intensive workshop designed for
fiction or narrative non-fiction writers.

Industrial Psychology, BA • 1986
Loyola University, Chicago, IL