

Dr. Judith Carol Beale Bequest — Ad Hoc Committee Report and Proposals

Committee Members: Jonathan Giles, Regina Garcia, Joan Barasovska, Jennifer Weiss, Rob Merritt, Lynda Rush Myers, Bill Griffin (Chair)

March 14, 2022

Dr. Judith Carol Beale, PhD (June 27, 1940- May 15, 2019) provided for a bequest from her estate to the North Carolina Poetry Society. In December, 2021 NCPS received \$163,636.36; no restrictions or stipulations were made upon the funds. (A number of other individuals and organizations also received bequests, including Dr. Beale’s alma mater UNC Greensboro, specifically the Fred Chappell Creative Writing program).

Dr. Beale was a graduate of Elkin High School and the Women’s College of the University of North Carolina. She earned her Master’s degree from the University of Oregon and her PhD in physical education from the University of Southern California. She taught at the University of Texas at Austin, Winthrop University, Virginia Tech University, and Roanoke College. She believed in physical exercise and was an advocate for women’s sports. She played a variety of sports as a child and in her later years was passionate about her swimming group that met on campus at Virginia Tech. In addition to sports, she was a writer who wrote and shared poetry with her writers’ groups in Virginia.

At its January, 2022 meeting, the NCPS Board of Directors formed an ad hoc committee to gather suggestions and return to the Board a proposal for a global plan for the use of the funds received from Dr. Beale’s estate. The Committee has reviewed the NCPS mission and current implementation; solicited suggestions from all Board members and most Committee chairs; engaged a friend and fellow poet of Dr. Beale to inform the committee of her possible wishes; exchanged countless emails and had a lengthy virtual meeting.

After much discussion and collaboration, the committee submits the following proposal for the bequest received from Dr. Beale. The proposal includes expansions, enhancements, and additions to NCPS programming in order to serve all age groups, geographical areas, and demographics.

1 The bequest shall be named **The Dr. Judith Carol Beale Fund (of the North Carolina Poetry Society)**, hereafter referred to as **The Beale Fund**.

2 Monies from **The Beale Fund** shall be invested with **The Community Foundation of Western NC (CFWNC)**.

The treasurer will instruct CFWNC to invest in the lowest fee alternative available.

3 **The Beale Fund** will reserve \$150,000 principal, invested with CFWNC
Anticipated to spend 4% = \$6,000 annually beginning 2024 for continuing projects

The residual \$13,636 shall be spent to fund:

Annual continuing projects for years 2022 and 2023

Special projects for 2022 including 90th Anniversary events

- 4 Development Recommendations:** The Committee reviewed suggestions from Board members and Committee members before making the following recommendations. In order to achieve some programming and administrative enhancements, the Committee also recognizes the need by the Board to address additional priorities:

WORKSHOPS

Recruit for the currently unfilled position of Workshop Coordinator.

Consider a NCPS Bylaws change to elevate Workshop Coordinator to Board Member status.

Collaborate with other poetry organizations in NC to expand NCPS presence in areas currently poorly served: Nexus Poets, WSW, Charlotte Writers, NCWN West, etc.

Consider one or more workshops per year on *teaching poetry*; attract NC teachers to participate and investigate offering CEU credit.

OUTREACH

Consider ways of reaching into post-secondary institutions that are not traditionally represented in NCPS (Community Colleges, HBCUs) and offering programs or opportunities for engagement.

Consider focusing to recruit GCDPS college level mentees from such above institutions, or adding a GCDPS category specifically for this purpose (adding ~\$1,000 to GCDPS annual budget).

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Recruit, train, and retain volunteers at every level of the organization.

Focus on a plan of succession for each office and committee to insure continuity.

- 5 Spending Recommendations:** The Committee primarily recommends continuing annual expenditures to expand and enhance NCPS programming and administration, but also identified some one-time needs to be covered during the current year only.

SPECIAL PROJECTS for 2022 [ONE TIME EXPENSES]

90th Anniversary Readings

\$1,200

Three readers in each of four towns previously not well served, with honoraria of \$100

<i>NC Teacher / Language Arts contact database</i>	\$500
Enlist / hire a student to compile this; will serve to increase submissions to student contests and improve contacts with teachers to increase their participation in NCPS workshops & programs	
<i>NCPS History Pamphlet 2012-2022</i>	\$250
Updated history online and as printed pamphlet for 90 th anniversary	
<i>Update membership / marketing brochure</i>	\$250
To be completed after new projects / programs finalized	
<i>Train relevant Board members in use of Acrobat Pro DC</i>	[see Continuing Projects]
May not need a training course for 2022 but encourage new training and refreshers every 2-3 years	
TOTAL	\$2,200

ANNUAL CONTINUING PROJECTS

The Committee recommends budgetary additions of approximately \$6,000 per year.

<i>Board member and volunteer training in Adobe Acrobat ProDC</i>	\$600
Initial training; refreshers; every 2-3 years or as needed	
<i>Submittable annual subscription (plus annual CLMP membership)</i>	\$415
<i>Mailchimp upgrade, annual fee</i>	\$408
<i>PROGRAMS: One venue rental per year</i>	\$750
Hold one (or more) of our four annual programs at a site other than Weymouth, preferably in cities usually less well served by NCPS	
Consider expanding the <i>Sam Ragan Poetry Festival</i> as a literary/poetry/arts festival or “homecoming”	
<i>WORKSHOPS: Increase budget and number of workshops</i>	\$1,000
Budget includes venue rental, increased honoraria, refreshments	
Free workshop attendance for members	
Expand into areas not currently served	
Goal of five or more workshops annually	

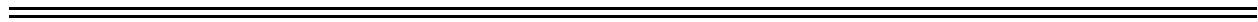
<i>WORKSHOPS: Teaching teachers to teach poetry</i>	\$600
Rotate annually through different school systems	
Offer CEU credit to teachers	
<i>CONTESTS: Split the High School and College Undergrad category</i>	\$300
This increases the Student Contests to FIVE	
<i>CONTESTS: Increase Adult Judges’ honoraria to \$150 (currently \$100)</i>	\$600
<i>CONTESTS: Increase Adult Contest prizes</i>	\$650
Poet Laureate \$150 > \$200; Other contests \$60 / \$30 > \$100 / \$50	
<i>PIPS: increase annual budget to provide for expansion</i>	\$500
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ANNUAL TOTAL	\$5823

6 Informing the NC Poetry Society and general public: The Committee has included a friend of Dr. Judith Beale, Dr. Robert Merritt, who not only joined her in writing groups and literary activities but also knew her personally. He has helped the Committee learn more of Judy’s love of literature and writing and his insights have tempered our considerations of how best to honor Judy’s memory and legacy through this wonderful bequest.

We recommend a session added to one of our programs in 2022 for our Membership to learn of the bequest, hear from some people who knew Judy, and perhaps share some of her poems.

We will also insure that information about the bequest is included in the updated history pamphlet being prepared during our 90th anniversary year.

This document may serve as a historical record of the receipt of the Judith Beale Bequest and the deliberations completed by the NCPS Board to honor Dr. Beale’s wishes that the money shall support the North Carolina Poetry Society.



APPENDIX

The Committee compiled additional suggestions which we elected not to incorporate into this proposal but which might be reviewed by the NCPS Board in the future if additional funds become available.

One-Time Expenditures

National/international poet (s) to do a virtual series addressing selected topics/issues in poetry.

Offer **scholarships** for some attendees who may represent marginalized communities (Jericho Brown comes to mind)

Honorarium for nationally known North Carolina poet for 90th anniversary year.

Workshop on how to do a workshop (in memory of Judy Beale).

Annual Recurring Expenditures

Travel funds for Board members

Honoraria for volunteers

Honorarium for cohort of readers who critique poems for new members

Add ongoing programs in new sites, ie. more than our current four.

Sponsorship of one or more small contests throughout the year.

Include lifetime membership as a part of the poet laureate prize.

Annual series of readings rotating among cities currently less served

Annual "Judy Beale Workshop" on the art of poetry critique

Community poetry writing workshops, in addition to readings, at community centers in underserved areas of NC

Provide workshops / readings in the schools; could be connected to annual contests and GCDPS

Scholarships for student membership to NCPS

Add a National Student Contest, eg. High School or Undergraduate

Youth Poet Laureate - work with the NC Department of Cultural Resources. NCPS helps with the selection process and provide some advice about programming, State provides funding.

Fund or help fund a short-term poetry-writing program yearly that targets underserved populations in a somewhat competitive process. NCPS will not be responsible for running the program but would support another organization with access to those we want to serve. We can work on specific parameters. I guess it could be a different organization each year?

Award small grants for a limited number of teachers across the state to develop and promote poetry writing in their classrooms.

Mail EVERY MEMBER a copy of Pinesong each year. (We estimate that the additional expense for this project, over and above the current annual Pinesong budget, would be approximately \$2000.)

Consider adding a second Poetry Fellowship, like the Susan Laughter Meyers Poetry Fellowship.

Need-based scholarships at UNCG and at an HBCU in Greensboro for a student who writes poetry and/or is an English major. (Since Dr. Beale's estate includes a bequest to UNCG the committee felt this part of the suggestion was unnecessary.)