

# LORI DAVIS

Palm Desert, CA

---

## Writer, Educator, Designer

MFA in Creative Writing | 20+ Years in Education | Avid Graphic Designer

As a highly experienced and motivated educator and designer, I am attracted to the intersection where creativity and authentic solutions meet. My professional experiences have given me a deep understanding of a variety of communities and exigencies, including both youth and adult demographics. I take pride in meticulously designing effective learning and marketing solutions by focusing on engagement, available technologies, ease-of-use, and visual appeal – always with an equitable, human-centered approach in mind. As an employee, I am a good fit where operational and educational best practices are expected and honored, and clearly make a difference in the lives of those being served.

---

### TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

Canva | Microsoft Office Suite | Google Workspace | Google Classroom LMS | Canvas LMS | Miro  
Adobe Premiere | Powtoons | Trello | Screencastify | Schoology | Socrative | Formative | Loom

---

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**CREATE Center for the Arts | Palm Desert, California** 2022 - 2023

**Marketing & Development, Programming**

- Social media content and email marketing development and strategies
- Designed monthly newsletter
- Programming events, workshops, and high school intern program
- Fundraising, grant writing

**Xavier College Preparatory High School | Palm Desert, California** 2007 – 2022

**English Teacher | Grades 9-12 | English Department Chair**

- Broad experience in face-to-face, blended, hybrid, synchronous, and asynchronous learning modalities
- Regularly applied learner-centered, evidence-based learning theory to course design
- Delivered lessons and modules via learning management systems (Canvas LMS, Google Classroom)
- Measured and evaluated student achievement based on learning objectives
- Adapted instructional materials to meet varied needs, including students with learning, medical, and psychological accommodations
- Developed a “dual enrollment” creative writing college course for Saint Louis University
- Ongoing diversity and SEL training
- Facilitated “ShookFoil Poetry Reading Series & Open Mic” for 14 years.

**California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) Conferences** 2019 and 2020

**Conference Presenter/Speaker**

- *Voices Of Literacy In Pursuit Of Human Rights* - San Francisco
- *LA Confidential: Investigating Teaching, Texts, & Truths* - Los Angeles

**Writers in the Schools (WITS), University of California, Riverside | California** 2007

**Curriculum Designer | Adult Trainer**

- Trainer for professional writers hired to teach in Coachella Valley schools
- Created the training program, handbook, and workshops
- Presented learning styles and strategies for incorporation into lesson plans
- Managed the partnerships between the WITS writers and classroom teachers

- Gneiss Poetry Series | Palm Desert, California** **2001 – 2007**  
**Poetry Reading Series Host and Organizer**
- Organized and hosted the monthly reading series featuring nationally known poets
  - Provided local poets a venue to share their work in the open mic
- Palm Springs Desert Museum | Palm Springs, California** **2004 – 2005**  
**Poetry Reading Series Host and Organizer**  
 Organized and hosted the monthly reading series featuring regional and nationally known poets
- Tools for Tomorrow | Coachella Valley, California** **2002 – 2004**  
**Curriculum Designer**
- Developed creative writing curriculum for the after school arts program
  - Served on the advisory committee and the board of directors
  - Edited yearly writing and art anthology for multiple elementary schools
  - Designed monthly newsletter

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

**University of California, Riverside - Palm Desert Center | Palm Desert, California** **2012**  
**Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing - Poetry**  
*Cross Genre: Creative Nonfiction*

**California State University, Long Beach | Long Beach, California** **1985**  
**Bachelor of Arts - Radio / Television / Film**  
**Additional Art Courses:**  
*Fundamentals of Art*  
*Color Theory*  
*Two-Dimensional Designs*  
*Three-Dimensional Forms*  
*Drawing / Life Drawing*

**Teaching Credential: Clear California Multiple Subject K - 12 | State of California**  
 State of California Commission on Teaching Credentialing  
 ID Document #: 070326340

**District Teacher Intern Program | Los Angeles Unified School District**

**MBSR - Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Certification | Mindful Leader - October 2022**

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Guest poet at University of California, Los Angeles Extension Classes
- Organized and hosted the Poetry Stage at the Palm Springs Book Festival in 2006 and 2007
- Facilitated writing and poetry workshops and readings for The Braille Institute, Indio Senior Center, Coachella Valley Cultural Center & Museum, Palm Springs Art Museum, PEN America, and local events
- National poetry publications include: *Salt Hill*, *Atlanta Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Laurel Review*
- Studied poetry in Prague, Czech Republic and Inuit poetry in Ilulissat, Greenland
- Published Poetry Chapbook: *White Dime*, Caernarvon Press, San Diego
- Squaw Valley Community of Writers Poetry Workshop
- Yearly attendance at the Associated Writers Program (AWP) National Conference

## **Lori Davis, Poet - Acknowledgements**

List of publications in which these poems, or versions of them, have appeared:

*Atlanta Review* (Atlanta, GA): "After the Diagnosis"

*Cider Press Review* (San Diego, CA): "White Dime"

*Cimmarron Review* (Oklahoma State University): "The Woodcutter"

*Cream City Review* (University of Wisconsin): "Telling: Another Way of Saying," "Dandelion,"  
"The Stranger Experiment"

*Hayden's Ferry Review* (Arizona State University): "Caring For Your Spider Plant"

*Mosaic* (University of Manitoba): "It Was the Earth's Fault the House Caved"

*Salt Hill* (Syracuse University): "Oceanography"

*The Laurel Review* (Missouri State University): "Trickle Irrigation System," "User Assumes All Risk"

*Green Mountains Review* (Northern Vermont University): "We Take Turns Telling Each Other What to Do"

*Inlandia Anthology* (Heyday Books): "A Good Cry," "Ambiance Report: 8:30 AM Off the I-10"

*Blue Arc West, California Poets* (Tebot Bach): "On a Scale Between 1 and 10 (10 Being Best)"

### Poetry Chapbooks

*Opals & Oranges*, Gneiss Poetry Press, Palm Desert

*White Dime*, Caernarvon Press, San Diego

# Poet Laureate Application 2023

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Jun 11, 2023, 10:44:23 PM

Poet Name:

**Lori Davis**

Poet Email Address:

[Redacted]

Poet's Social Media Links: (if applicable)

**Instagram:** [Redacted]

**Facebook:** [Redacted] (many poetry-related entries)

Poet Phone Number:

[Redacted]

Poet Address:

[Redacted] Palm Desert, CA, 92260, USA

Eligibility:

- **At least 18 years of age.**
- **Resident of Palm Desert for at least one (1) year.**
- **Ability to remain a resident during the term of October 2023 - September 2024**

Letter of Nomination

**PDF** Candidate Letter for Poet Laureate 2023.pdf  
72.1KB

Please upload a minimum of 3 poems: (maximum of 5)

**PDF** 55.1KB

**PDF** 23.3KB

**PDF** 73.1KB

**PDF** 56.5KB

**PDF** 61.1KB

Please upload a current Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV):

**PDF** Lori Davis - Resume 2023.pdf  
95.8KB

Please provide an overview of publication history:

**PDF** Lori Davis - Acknowledgements - Publications.pdf  
79.5KB

Commitment to the literary community:

**In 2003, I selfishly started a poetry reading series and open mic event as a way to bring interesting writers to me when I moved here. We held the first events at La Gourmandise at the Gardens on El Paseo. Then moved to Augusta Restaurant's penthouse. Eventually, we landed at UC Riverside - PD campus. The events featured local and nationally known poets and were well attended (by most poetry standards). After hosting readings, book fairs, and teaching poetry workshops at many valley institutions and schools, I realized I had developed a personal poetry mission statement: to create ways to get people to run toward poetry, instead of away! This is still actively my passion. My most recent series has been at Xavier Prep, 15 years running.**

City culture and interest:

**I have happily lived in Palm Desert for 27 years. I raised my two children and established my professional, creative, and academic life here. As a Southern California native, I have lived in and visited many beautiful places, but I have always felt a sense of home here in the desert. The snowy mountains surrounding us, the wide vistas, the enduring influence of the Cahuilla Indians, the deep afternoon shadows, and the warm evenings all contribute to a more meaningful and peaceful lifestyle. We have so much to enjoy in this area: beautiful parks, public art, higher education, sports, world class resorts, shopping and dining, theaters, etc. Our cultural offerings are always expanding! Championing poetry over the years has been my small attempt to add to the cultural richness of our city. I appreciate the way Palm Desert grows and changes. I like that more people are living here year round and taking advantage of the full community calendar. It's time for more poetry to be offered!**

## Candidate for the City of Palm Desert's Poet Laureate 2023

June 11, 2023

Dear Poet Laureate Jury Panel,

I am grateful for this opportunity to apply for the position of Palm Desert's inaugural Poet Laureate. This city has always been committed to many forms of art, and I am delighted poetry will be added to the list this year. I am applying because I see this role as an expanded platform and a rare opportunity to continue the work I have been doing in Palm Desert and the wider valley for 20 years. In addition to being a poet and getting my MFA in Poetry at the University of California Riverside - Palm Desert, I realized early on that poetry needs every advocate it can get. It has been a strong passion of mine to bring poetry to all ages in a way that makes them lean in, rather than turn up their noses. Readings, workshops, book festivals, open mics, critique groups, etc. One highlight was bringing former U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins to Xavier College Preparatory High School for our Summit on Human Dignity. The theme was literacy and he gave a memorable public reading. The list of regional and nationally-known poets who have visited the valley is actually quite long!

The position's title, *Poet Laureate*, brings with it a legitimacy and sense of importance that will elevate poetry in the eyes of some of our community members. For many of us, the way we learned poetry in school was to analyze, decipher, plot rhyme schemes. No wonder the poetry section at Barnes & Noble is one small shelf, back by the bathroom! When we really take a moment to contemplate it, poetry is simply the artful exchange of emotion from the poet to the reader. It is a profound, concentrated, underrated way to communicate. Over the years, I have seen all levels of writers, ages 8 - 88, benefit from having their heart, soul, and voice heard in this way. We can turn to poetry for help in understanding our human condition. I am really encouraged that poetry will now be embedded in Palm Desert's cultural plan and amplify the creativity of the city's residents in this way. Bravo!

Sincerely,

Lori Davis

[REDACTED]  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
[REDACTED]

## **A Good Cry**

*Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get.*  
Robert Heinlein

Days like this are unlikely; unheard of, actually.  
The dunes didn't dissolve because of record rains.  
They muddied into a mobile spackle on purpose,  
as varnish for a lackluster system. In the flood water,  
I see a formula where some might see a sky  
floating by on its back or a puddle lit from underneath.  
The arroyos are unabridged; this storm is incomplete.

The wash will soon be full of monkey flowers  
and sand bells. A flute of Russian thistle.  
Each seed has a long climb inside it  
and rainbows are not as portable as they appear.  
The barrel cactus is finished fasting inside itself,  
overwhelmed by the slant of unending rain,  
the abundance, this staggering convenience.

Lori Davis

## **Alt Whitman**

I've been the clown. And I've been his washcloth.  
I've been the botched opera. And I've been likewise ungovernable...

Revive my words and I will spill the unedited details you crave. Except for a flyswatter,  
you won't need a weapon...

Hallelujah for jet propulsion.  
Hallelujah for a jigsaw puzzle's perimeter  
Hallelujah for the manufacturer of trash compactors.

My house is built in mid-century hollow Easter Bunny architecture. Why did only one branch  
of the ocotillo green this season? Twenty others stand brittle, bare.

These trees are full of birds I can't begin to name, and still, I am content being the least  
indigenous thing in this landscape...

Let's make a bet: which cloud is about to open up and bathe the birds?  
...not the one shaped like a scythe,  
...not the gray one either...it's only wind-smeared smoke.

My house is all dead bolts and peep holes and every poem is an ice-filled blister.

Blue, brown, green...the palette of our globe minus every blooming rose declaring its existence.  
For the moment...but not for very long, every dish I own is clean.



## **Telling: Another Way of Saying**

*Every time a man unburdens his heart to a stranger...*  
Germaine Greer

What I suggested: Let's go over God and the universe one more time.

What I meant to say: Undercurrents are the fluid part of the same conclusion.

What I almost forgot to say: Air has no landmarks to prove we passed this way.  
What you reassured me: From the sky we look down into the face of our lives.

What you admitted: I am a long distance swimmer in that river.

What I heard you say: I want to be the longest distance you've ever traveled.

What I think I told you: You feel like the part of a river that remains unfrozen.

What you heard me say: Don't be afraid. Where we are going, there is no water, only everlasting ice.

What we didn't say: Everything seems to describe the need to.

What you said instead: Every emergency exit has two reasons.

What I think you meant: Unlocked, I understand your math.

---

# We Take Turns Telling Each Other What To Do

you told me to find a cedar tree  
and touch it

I said find a dandelion  
and sleep with it as intact as possible under your pillow tonight

you know I will search for the cedar tree  
it takes on importance

then you said find a forest fire  
and touch it

this is the engrossing part of us  
you know I will feel like touching it

I said grow your beard  
because I think you had one the day we met

you said go find the day we met  
and don't touch it