

GLENN NORTH

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A proven leader in the arts and culture community with over 20 years of experience in multidisciplinary program development, community building, institutional outreach, and youth advocacy.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center– *Executive Director* 2018-Present
Oversees the operation of the cultural center. Responsible for charting the future of the Cultural Center ensuring its growth and sustainability. Curates both the permanent exhibit and incoming exhibits. Community engagement, programming, social and racial equity initiatives, and long/short term vision.

The Black Archives of Mid-America – *Director of Education & Public Programs* 2013-2018
Created new programming initiatives including “The Soul of Art” Pop-Up Gallery, The Mbembe Milton Smith Poetry Series, and the Horace Peterson III Lecture Series to raise the level of community engagement and buy-in as it pertains to the Black Archives. I have also cultivated partnerships for upcoming programs with other arts and culture organizations including The Nelson-Atkins Art Museum, The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and KCPT (the local PBS affiliate)

The American Jazz Museum – *Education Director/Poet-in-Residence* 2004-2013
Conceptualized and implemented interdisciplinary education programming emphasizing the relationship between jazz and other art forms and areas of academic endeavor. Produced special events such as the Annual City-Wide Kwanzaa Celebration and the monthly open-mic poetry series, *Jazz Poetry Jams*. Curated numerous art exhibits for the American Jazz Museum’s *Changing Gallery* along with developing the public programming to accompany those exhibits.

Created and facilitated educational tours of the permanent and touring exhibits. Served as an ambassador of the museum developing strategic partnerships with regional and national arts and culture institutions. Managed education staff, interns, and museum volunteers.

Kansas City Mentoring Initiative – *Director, Urban Transcendence Poetry Project* 2002-2004
Created pedagogy and methodology necessary to use poetry as a tool for mentoring urban youth. Facilitated poetry writing and performance workshops for area middle and high school students. Developed department curriculum to meet district standards. Served as Editor-in-Chief of *Urban Transcendence Poetry Magazine*. Supervised poetry magazine staff and interns.

Youthfriends, KCK – *Poetry Instructor* 2000-2002
Facilitated poetry writing and performance workshops in Wyandotte County after school programs and Jackson County Juvenile Detention Centers. Conducted weekend poetry workshops for Kansas University Health Careers Pathways Program. Developed lesson plans to demonstrate the relationship between poetry, math, and science.

Verbal Attack! – *Founder, Creative Director* 1997-2000
Developed vision for an open-mic poetry series that would serve as a nexus for poets and local artists of every discipline. Curated programming that featured poets, musicians, and visual artists. Managed small programming budget and hosted monthly performances.

EDUCATION

BLS , English, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Missouri	2006
MFA , Poetry, University of Missouri- Kansas City	2020

ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

- Ekphrastic Poetry/Poetry in Art Exhibits: “The Colors of Jazz” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, March 2011; “America: Now and Here” Leedy-Voulkus Art Center, May 2011; “Reflections of Jazz” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, July 2011; “Beyond Words: A Fusion of Poetry, Jazz, and Visual Art” American Jazz Museum Changing Gallery, April 2013; “Let The Church Say Amen” Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, August 2014; “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” Portfolio Gallery & Art Center (St. Louis, MO) October, “Can You See Me” Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, “The Hope and Gratitude Project” with Ada Smith as part of Art in the Loop.
- “The Art of Journaling” art-inspired journaling workshop for patrons of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- “Spaces Within Spoken Out Loud” ekphrastic poetry workshop for patrons of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- “*Impressions and Improvisations*” youth poetry workshop inspired by the art of Romare Bearden for The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- Poetry writing and performance workshops for Kansas City, Kansas (USD 500) Public Schools including Wyandotte HS, Washington HS, F.L. Schlagle HS, and Sumner HS.
- Poetry/journaling workshop for Gifted and Talented Teachers of Kansas City Missouri School District
- “Write On!” creative writing workshop for Greater Kansas City Writing Project. Introduced pedagogical approaches to help area teachers improve student writing abilities.
- “Cracking the Code” poetry interpretation workshop for 3rd and 4th grade students at Holliday Montessori (KCMSD) to improve poetry interpretation scores on Missouri Aptitude (MAP) Test
- Spoken word poetry workshops for numerous local arts organizations including Arts Partners, The Coterie Theater, and The Writer’s Place.
- Poetry writing and performance workshops for adjudicated youth in Jackson County Detention Center, and Hilltop and McCune Residential Centers.
- Identity and courage poetry projects for youth residing at reStart Inc. an Interfaith Ministry with Homeless Persons.
- Conceptualized and implemented language arts curriculum in conjunction with three-month study of drug addiction and the anatomy of the brain for students attending Summer Science Academy at Kansas University.
- Created and implemented “Music Across the Curriculum” 2 credit-hour course for Ottawa University graduate students.
- Designed and presented “Survey of Harlem Renaissance” poetry seminar for students of William Jewell College.
- Featured Artist, *Lincoln Heights* television series (ABC Family Channel)
- Writer (narrative poem) and voice over work for award-winning short film *May This Be Love*
- Writer, Director, *Something Simple: The Power of Langston Hughes*, commissioned by Kansas City Public Library and Metropolitan Ensemble Theater.
- Writer, *Who Was Sundiata?* dramatic poetry and storytelling presentation commissioned by Kansas City Public Library.
- Recordings projects of original spoken word poetry include: *Out of the Comfort* by the Jazz Disciples and *Check Cashing Day* by Bobby Watson & the I Have a Dream Project.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications include

- *Pro-Black Prosody (Master's Thesis)*
- *City of Song (Poetry Collection)*
- *The African American Review*
- *American Studies Journal*
- *New Letters*
- *Cave Canem Anthology XII*
- *Caper Literary Journal*
- *The Kansas City Star*
- *Platte Valley Review*
- *One Shot Deal*
- *The Sixth Surface*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Poet Laureate of the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District, Kansas City, Missouri	2016--Present
Crystal Field Poetry Award, Kansas City, Missouri	2010
Charlotte Street Generative Performing Artist Award, Kansas City, Missouri	2009
Cave Canem Poetry Writing Fellow, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2009-Present
Callaloo Creative Writing Fellow, St. Louis, Missouri	2008