City of Northfield
Arts & Culture Commission
2018 Winning Sidewalk Poems

When you are young
and can walk forever
your steps may not ever
seem to be the star
of the life that you
are making
When you are old
and movements slow
you will want to know
how you made it so far
despite the steps untaken

-Brendon Etter

Plant your words wisely,
for they are not seeds to be thrown
carelessly into the wind,
but to be tended, watered,
and allowed to bloom.

-Anne Kopas

Lejos de mis ojos
Cerca de mi corazón

-Taide Rodriguez Marcial
Here there are no purple jacaranda or fresh hibiscus for tea and salad. The public square is not sun-warmed. We are dazzled not by our bright star above but by our snow-blanchèd luminous Earth.

-D.E. Green

Nosotras y nosotros
Creados de la espuma de las olas
Polvo y luz de estrellas
Volamos con las imágenes
De nuestros sueños

-Mar Valdecantos

The pressure’s changed, your absence now a damp day and I swear these days I can hear your laugh, bells, outside my window.

-Alekz Thoms

if we were trees the earth-strong tendrils of our limbs would tangle until we trip over each other’s roots and both grow sideways toward the light, laughing.

-Ellie Zimmerman
Huele a chile
el aire de mi casa.
Impregna la nieve
volviéndola picosa,
calentándola un poquito.
Bailamos como demonios
en las noches tempranas.
Entre risas y meneos
a la noche despertamos.
Apropiamos, encantamos
y al invierno subyugamos.

-Constanza Ocampo-Raeder

Eagles don’t
see everything.
Their willow-yellow eyes—
so sharp, so famous—
miss
the way my thoughts
wend across
rustling prairie grasses.

-Leslie Schultz

ABCs at the Zoo

A brown catfish drinks elegantly.
Fussy gorillas have issues.
Junior kangaroos like my nose.
Old parrots quote rabbits.
Shy tortoises understand valleys.
Why x-ray your zoo?

-Paul Fried