

Brenna Courtney

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Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Application

Poetry Books, Website, and Contest Fees

This semester marks my formal dive into the study of poetics and English literature in a collegiate setting — whereas I've previously taken only writing workshops, my poetry education is now supplemented by more rigorous investigations of history, form, and criticism. As expected, my writing and reading are far richer for it: I now find myself more and more able to draw from the deep well of both established and contemporary English poetry when analyzing not only my own work, but the work of others.

This breadth of coursework has been invaluable to me, but I'd like to go beyond the excerpts and snippets that populate a fast-paced college syllabus. As such, many of the books below are extensive anthologies that would provide critical background for my studies outside the classroom. In addition, I would also like to invest in several poetry and fiction collections, pieces from which have been incredibly influential to my own conceptions of what it means to write. Indeed, several of these collections are by brilliant UVA creative writing professors, three of whom — Brian Teare, Kiki Petrosino, and Debra Nystrom — I have had the honor to write and read with in workshops. All of these books would serve as life-long resources for my ongoing English education.

Not only have I begun engaging more critically with poetry this year, but I've also started submitting my poems to small, online literary journals for publication. Thus, I'd like to create a website that compiles a list of published poems and links to where they may be read, along with a short bio and contact information. Having a personal website would allow interested readers to browse my other writings, or even reach out with questions and comments — it would also help to provide a platform for presenting myself and my work in case I decide to publish a chapbook or collection.

Finally, I would also like to seek funding to submit to the *Passages North* "Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize," as it would be another great opportunity to expose my work to a wider readership.

I sincerely thank the Artist Minigrants program for the consideration of my proposal.

Timeline

- Late March/Early April: Purchase books, submit to *Passages North*
- April/Early May: Develop and launch website
- Beyond: The website will be funded for a year. (The books will be used indefinitely!)

Budget

Books

Title	Author(s)	Price
The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms	Eavan Boland, Mark Strand	\$17.05
Practical Criticism: A Study Of Literary Judgment	I. A. Richards	\$20.49
The Norton Anthology of Poetry	Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter, Jon Stallworthy	\$102.39
A Primer for Poets and Readers of Poetry	Gregory Orr	\$12.30
A Poetry Handbook	Mary Oliver	\$12.29
The Hide-and-Seek Muse	Lisa Russ Spaar	\$11.49
Elizabeth Bishop: The Complete Poems	Elizabeth Bishop	\$39.99
Loose Sugar	Brenda Hillman	\$16.95
Night Sky Frequencies	Debra Nystrom	\$14.22
White Blood	Kiki Petrosino	\$15.95
Doomstead Days	Brian Teare	\$12.99
Lorine Niedecker: Collected Works	Lorine Niedecker	\$34.95
Peaces	Helen Oyeyemi	\$23.99
Science and Other Poems	Alison Hawthorne Deming	\$17.95

Other

Squarespace Personal Website (1 Year)	\$144
Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize	\$15

Total	\$502
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(Note: Any expenses over \$500 will be covered personally.)