

**Salem Zelalem – Creative Writing
Miller Arts Scholars
Spring 2020 Mini-grant Outcome Report**

With my mini-grant funding, I was given the opportunity to purchase twenty-five books. Eighteen were books of poetry, which have been greatly transformative for my writing style. In reading this wide selection of authors, I was able to really study how utilizing different techniques can make for richer poetry. For example, *& more black* by t'ai freedom ford is a book comprised entirely of sonnets. While I have studied a variety of sonnets throughout many courses, this writer is particularly innovative in the ways that she chooses to adhere to some rules, while breaking others. This has inspired me to work with more rigid forms in my own work, specifically the sonnet but also looking at the pantoum and sestina.

The other seven books were essays about poetry writing. This allowed me to have a deeper understanding of traditions, analysis and common mistakes poets fall into. As many of the books center on African-American poetics, I was able to read more deeply into niche subjects that are not covered within my courses.

This semester, I am a mentor for Flux Poetry and Spoken Word. This means that I will be continuing to lead workshops for underclassmen, many of them first years. As a result of this grant, I am able to supplement my workshops with relevant poems from different books, tailoring my suggestions to each individual student. Reading widely is such an integral part of a poet's education, and I am so grateful for Miller Arts and the funding that has allowed me to grow so much this summer!

Expenditures

Item	Price
Mess and Mess and	\$15
Fear, Some	\$16.51
Dispatch: Poems	\$14.67
Teeth	\$15.99
The Book of Delights	\$21.56
Bringing the Shovel Down	\$15.64
The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010	\$31.50
Fuchsia	\$14.67
Muscular Music	\$16.95
When I Grow Up I Want to Be A List of Further Possibilities	\$14.72
A Poetry Handbook	\$13.79
How to Be Drawn	\$18.00
Hip Logic	\$18.00
Lagos Noir	\$14.67
Wind in a Box	\$20.00

To Float in the Space Between: A Life and Work in Conversation with the Life and Work of Etheridge Knight	\$22.50
Renegade Poetics: Black Aesthetics and Formal Innovation in African American Poetry	\$39.95
Orpheus in the Bronx: Essays on Identity, Politics and the Freedom of Poetry	\$21.95
The Black Interior: Essays	\$15.00
& More Black	\$18.00
Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems	\$16.51
Shake Loose My Skin: New and Selected Poems	\$14.72
Citizen: An American Lyric	\$18.00
Freedom Time: The Poetics and Politics of Black Experimental Writing	\$24.95
Homie: Poems	\$14.72
Shipping Total	\$34.49
Total	\$502.06

Personal funds were used to cover expenses exceeding the \$500 award amount.