

City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr.  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, ARTSPEAKSgny Inc. presents the City of Gainesville's Inaugural Bard & Broadside: North Central Florida Poetry Festival (April 13-16) in recognition of National Poetry Month; and

WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as National Poetry Month in 1996; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month seeks to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, introduce Americans to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and make poetry an important part of our children's education; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month, under the leadership and direction of the Academy of American Poets, is now the largest literary celebration in the world; and

WHEREAS, poetry enhances and enriches the lives of all Americans today as an essential part of the arts and humanities. It affects every aspect of life, including education, the economy, community pride, and development; and

WHEREAS, poetry has produced some of the nation's leading creative artists in the fields of music, theatre, film, dance, and that have a poetry background.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April, 2023 as

**National Poetry Month**

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in recognizing the important role poetry plays in creating and sustaining this great cities artistic communities with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 27th day of March, A.D., 2023.



  
Harvey L. Ward, Jr.  
Mayor