

**Galway Public Library**  
**Application for “Arts & Literary Grant, Funded by Story Quilt Book”**

**Author’s Info**

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**Artistic / Literary experience professional and personal**

Suzanne’s style, professional skills, unique life wisdom and writing craft development creates an open and all-inclusive experience. She brings decades of experience in writing, publishing and facilitation to these workshops. She uses a combination of methods to develop a safe and welcoming workshop for all participants. As an experienced group facilitator, she borrows from The Amherst Writers & Artists (AWA) Expressive Arts Method, weaving in other modalities based on the needs and experience levels of the group.

We encourage viewers to explore Suzanne’s website in conjunction with the resume review for a more complete and contemporary journey of her personal and professional growth, continuing education credits and literary achievements. (<https://www.expressive-arts.com/>). A most recent resume/CV is attached to this application, though it is not as up-to-date as the website.

**Proposed location**

Galway Public Library - Community Room

**Target Audience**

Adult writers (teens and up): all skill levels and all genres encouraged. Intended group size: 6-10 participants.

**How will this project benefit the community which is served by the Galway Public Library?**

Strengthening the writer strengthens community — through cultivating the writer’s voice, active listening and providing constructive feedback to others in the group, the program

expands opportunities for the practice of collective creativity and builds capacity for community organizing. Communities are strengthened by members listening across differences and holding space for self-expression. Once the workshop is completed, participants will be invited to organize and lead their own versions of this workshop if the community desires more of them.

According to the Amherst Writers & Artists philosophy statement, there are five basic affirmations upon which the method is based:

1. “Everyone has a strong, unique voice.
2. Everyone is born with creative genius.
3. Writing as an art form belongs to all people, regardless of economic class or educational level.
4. The teaching of craft can be done without damage to a writer's original voice or artistic self-esteem.
5. A writer is someone who writes.” (“What to Expect”, AWA, <https://amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect/>).

There are also “Six Essential Practices” as follows:

1. “Everyone’s writing, including the leader’s, is treated with equal respect and value.
2. Writing is kept confidential and treated as fiction.
3. Writers can refrain from reading their work aloud.
4. Responses to just-written work reflect what is strong and successful.
5. Responses and exercises support the development of literary craft.
6. When Listening in an AWA workshop we enter the universe that the writer has created and leave our assumptions behind. We are asked to leave behind our own expectations and experiences. In an AWA workshop we listen for and notice what works. We listen for and notice the choices a writer has made that help to create success in the writing. We listen without preconceived ideas about what the story should be about, how the poem should sound, or what we might do differently.”

(“What to Expect”, AWA, <https://amherstwriters.org/what-to-expect/philosophy-practices/>).

These practices encourage mutual respect, deep listening and feedback that does not lead to shutting down a writer’s creative process. The emphasis of the workshop is on opening up and supporting creativity, style and voice, not as much on grammar or punctuation.

Writing prompts with supporting handouts are provided to each participant. They are designed to sensitize the writers to their sensory experience in order to draw out detail and explore the world (inner and outer) with greater clarity and depth.

**Proposed Dates**

Saturdays, January 20th and 27th, 2024, 10am-3pm. These are joint sessions: participants are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions as the first day introduces the method and the second day deepens the practice.

The program will consist of two 4-hour AWA Expressive Art- infused writing workshops. We are requesting a total time of five hours in the library each Saturday to include a one-hour lunch.

**Proposed Budget**

Artist’s fees - \$100 per participant (90% requested library funding, 10% participant). Participants will be expected to pay \$10 for admission. Fee will be waived for those experiencing financial hardship.

Requested funding is \$540 to \$900 depending on number of participants (i.e. 6-10 community members).