



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 30, 2022

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
(414) 286-2994

MPL names Mario Willis 2022-2024 Poet Laureate

The Milwaukee Public Library has announced that Mario “The Poet” Willis will serve as the library’s Poet Laureate from 2022 – 2024. A Milwaukee native, Mario has been featured throughout the city and the Midwest as a spoken word artist, writing guide, and performance coach. **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** extends her congratulations to Willis for this deserving honor.

“I have had the privilege of knowing Mario since childhood as we were classmates at Harambee Community School, neighbors and as a regular performer in Riverwest and he has been a vital contributor to the Pancakes & Poetry event that occurs during Bronzeville Week, in addition to his other public service endeavors,” said Alderwoman Coggs. “He is an outstanding contributor to the community and an immensely talented artist. I could not be happier that he was named Milwaukee Public Library’s new Poet Laureate.”

The Milwaukee Poet Laureate project began in 2000. The project committee selects a local poet to serve as Milwaukee Poet Laureate for a two-year term, and the poet laureate makes several guest appearances during the term, promoting poetry throughout the community. Mario Willis becomes the 12th Poet Laureate in the program’s history. For additional information on Mario “The Poet” Willis, and the Poet Laureate program, please visit

<http://www.mpl.org/poetlaureate>.

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