



Department Source: Cultural Affairs  
To: City Council  
From: City Manager & Staff  
Council Meeting Date: July 5, 2016  
Re: Sidewalk "Puddle Poetry" Art Project

## Executive Summary

Requesting a resolution to authorize a temporary poetry-painting project on sidewalks in the downtown Columbia area.

## Discussion

Cities such as Boston, Seattle, and Atlanta have initiated "raining poetry" art projects throughout their downtowns. Stencils of selected inspirational poems are placed on downtown sidewalks and clear water-repellent spray is applied. When it rains the poetry is revealed. The spray wears off within 6-8 weeks and is 100% biodegradable.

Leanne Petronella, the poetry editor of *The Missouri Review*, and her students have received permission from the Downtown CID and from local businesses to stencil poems on their adjacent sidewalks. Poems will be linked to the business, i.e., William Shakespeare outside of Shakespeare's Pizza. The project date is during the months of July and August.

Sec. 24-2 – Obstructing streets and sidewalks – in our Code of Ordinances states: Any person who shall deposit, place, paint, write, erect, or maintain any structure, material, article, substance, decoration or thing on, in or above any street, curb, gutter, park, parkway, sidewalk or public place of the city, except as specifically authorized by the city council by resolution, or as otherwise provided for by ordinance or this Code, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A  
Long-Term Impact: N/A

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### [Vision Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Arts & Culture, Secondary Impact: Community Character, Tertiary Impact: Community Pride and Human Relations

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

## Suggested Council Action

Approve a resolution allowing the Puddle Poetry Art Project.