



JERRY P. DYER
MAYOR

**NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR
TO BOARD OR COMMISSION**

TO: City Council
THROUGH: Todd Stermer, City Clerk
BY: Jerry P. Dyer, Mayor

____ Reappointment
 X New Appointment

Name of person replaced: Peter McDonald

Name: Jessica Giffen
Address: Fresno, California

Phone:

Appointed to: Poet Laureate Selection Committee (Category: Literary Arts & Education)
Term: Through 12/31/2024

Application Form**Profile****Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Fresno Poet Laureate Selection Committee: Submitted

Jessica

First Name

J

Middle Initial

Giffen

Last Name

Email Address

Home Address

Fresno

City

CA

State

Postal Code

What district do you live in? *☒ District 1

Home:

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Briefly explain why are you interested in serving on this board or commission?

I love supporting local arts in any capacity, and it would be such an honor to represent the Fresno County Public Library in this way. I am also an avid reader and writer, and have been following the national and local Poet Laureate selections for years.

Educational background, Schools Attended, Degrees and Certifications

My most recent degree is an MFA in Fiction, from CSU, Fresno, but I also have a BA in Linguistics and a BA in English Literature.

Briefly explain your qualifications or areas of demonstrated expertise for this board or commission.

As a former adjunct English teacher at Fresno City College, I am used to the portfolio reading format and using a rubric to assess writing. I also enjoy reading poems recreationally! While I tend to write fiction most of the time, I do also write poetry and use it as part of my journaling process, so I think that I would be able to approach the bodies of work as both a reader and a writer.

Do you or an immediate family member have any professional or financial relationship that may present a potential conflict of interest for this board, commission or similar body?☐ Yes ☒ No**Work History**

Jessica J Giffen

Fresno County Public Library
Employer

Library Assistant
Job Title

Work Address

City, State, Zip Code

Provide 3 Personal and Professional References. Provide name, address, and phone number where they may be reached during the day.

Jennifer Bethel

James Tyner

Jamie Kurumaji

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Jessica Giffen

EXPERIENCE

Fresno County Public Library — *Library Assistant*

October 2018 - PRESENT

Developed library programs and activities both independently and with librarians. Developed an online writing course geared towards adult learners, and formatted a corresponding cookbook consisting of patron recipes and essays. Attended outreach events in the community as a representative of the Fresno County Public Library. Constructed library displays and craft activities to be enjoyed and used by patrons. Assisted patrons in finding materials and utilizing resources both printed and online.

Fresno Unified School District — *Substitute Teacher*

August 2016 - August 2018

Subbed in classes from Kindergarten through high school, and also Special Education high school courses. Followed lesson plans provided by teachers for short-term placements, and developed lesson plans for long-term placements. Longer term placements also required grading and assessing of assignments.

Fresno City College — *Adjunct Faculty, English Department*

August 2006 - May 2012

Taught college level courses as required, at all levels. Developed courses within the guidelines provided by Fresno City College, and provided students with the critical thinking, analytical, and reading and writing skills needed to succeed in future college courses.

EDUCATION

California State University, Fresno — *MFA in Fiction*

August 1999 - August 2003

Participated in workshop courses and the critical study of poetry, non-fiction prose, and focused on fiction. Was simultaneously a teaching assistant for beginning fiction courses.

STRENGTHS

Working with students of all skill levels.

Adapting to the needs of the student and the institution.

Utilizing workshop skills in an accessible and productive manner.

CERTIFICATES

**TESOL Certification –
California State University,
Fresno**

**Certificate of Advanced Study
in Composition – California
State University, Fresno**

California State University, Fresno — BA in English Literature, BA in Linguistics

January 1996 - January 1999

Studied the analysis of Literature and Composition. Worked in the Writing Center on campus and gained invaluable experience tutoring other students in a professional and engaging setting. Studied the mechanics and structure of language through Linguistics, and how to apply this knowledge in teaching English as a Second Language.

PROJECTS

Flavors of Home— *Cookbook and Online Program*

Worked in conjunction with a Fresno County Public Library adult librarian to develop online programming during Covid. Developed and formatted the *Flavors of Home* cookbook and developed a PowerPoint presentation to be used during an online Zoom course, to help teach patrons how to write about cultural, familial food experiences, and to write a recipe accurately.