

Good Hart Artist Residency workshops provide students, residents artistic insights

ARTS

*By Harbor Light News Staff
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Cori McKenzie teaches a "collaborative quilted memoir" workshop at Pellston High School. (Courtesy photo)

As Northern Michigan slowly thaws, two writers in residence at the Good Hart Artist Residency bring warmth with two writing workshops.

On February 12, Cori McKenzie taught workshops to the students of Rachel Kwiatkowski's English classes at Pellston High School.

McKenzie challenged students to write about memories associated with "warm" or "cool" colors, then write poems about their memories. Working in small groups, they "stitched" their poems into a piece of visual art, then reflected how their poems formed a collaborative "quilted" memoir.

"Cori's lesson was fantastic," said Kwiatkowski. "My students were very engaged with the lesson and produced some pretty stellar poetry in a short amount of time. It was a fantastic experience all around."

Cori McKenzie writes fiction, and is no stranger to teaching, as she taught junior- and senior-high school English in Wilton, Iowa, for five years before teaching at the collegiate level at SUNY Cortland in New York and Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. She's also no stranger to Michigan: in 2017 she received her PhD. in Curriculum, Instruction & Teacher Education from Michigan State University.

In March, the Artist Residency will welcome poet Alecia Beymer. Beymer brings her experience as assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Cincinnati to a poetry workshop at the Petoskey District Library on March 12, 2026 at 4:30-7:00PM.

"The Infra-Ordinary: All that Goes Unnoticed" will focus on moving through the mundane and the ordinary while recognizing all the components of life. Attendees will work on becoming aware of what is around them and explore other modes of being in the world: the sensory,

felt, and affective experiences otherwise avoided. The workshop is intended for ages 13 and older; space is limited and registration is required. Food and drinks will be provided.

“In my work and in this workshop,” says Beymer, “I return to Georges Perec’s question: “How should we take account of, question, describe what happens every day and recurs every day: the banal, the quotidian, the obvious, the common, the ordinary, the infra-ordinary, the background noise, the habitual?” And further, how do we become attuned to and aware of what rests in the unseen, the unnoticed parts of the daily in order to possibly “rediscover something of astonishment?”

The Good Hart Artist Residency hosts artists, writers, and composers at a house and studio located in Good Hart. While artists spend most of the 10-21 days of their residencies working on their craft, community engagement is an important component of the residency, with residents offering classes, workshops, and lectures at more than a dozen partner organizations, including libraries and schools.



Writer Alecia Beymer will teach a writing workshop at Petoskey District Library on March 12.
(Courtesy photo)