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| I. *The Poem I am Planning*My idea is to give the city a poemto reflect its past and dreams.The poem I will write will containthe city's life in full, its jazz, its parks,its lights, its art, libraries, schools,orchestras, and certainly its poets,artists and their grand celebrations,and even for the way a favorite book sits lightly in a child'shands at bedtime.A poem with room for every good thing that is ours.The poem I want to writewill hold the dark moments, too,when tornadoes tear through,when we drive others away,when we lose our own,when fire blizzards strike,when the broader world comeswith its demand for soldiers madeto die in foreign lands.Here, in this poem I am thinking of,is room to mourn our lost children,room to welcome strangers, | inflamed with shadows, at home with birds, the sharp eyes of coyotes, raccoons,the broad symmetry of grassand sky, with pointillist flowersmeant to beautify and adornthe chambers of our lives. Wandering we get a senseof the land beneath the clouds,the shapes of their shadesmoving with grace. The light,then shadow, then light again,reflects something in our hearts,and we move like cloudsover the grasslands and fields,bed down with rivers of light;asleep in the backseat of peace,in the mystery and intimacyof night the way the first onesexperienced night, and our need to live and pass on the best of our vision in poetry, as gentle as the rise of the land, its sweeping fall,a vision of words that buzz and sting,words that curve outward as we pass,words left by the wake of our passing. |

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| A picture containing diagram  Description automatically generatedThis poem is the original work of Will Reger, Inaugural Poet Laureate of the City of Urbana, 2020. Please do not copy or distribute without written permission. Contact the author at wmreger@gmail.com | **A Poem for Urbana**Will RegerInaugural Poet Laureate2019-2020Written at the request of the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission for the City of Urbana, to celebrate its history, vibrant culture and life.Presented to Mayor Diane W. Marlin on October 29, 2020 |