

Seattle City Council

Finance and Culture Committee Meeting

2 p.m. Wednesday, August 13th, 2014

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Sierra Nelson**

Today's poet is **Sierra Nelson**

Sierra Nelson is author of the poetry choose-your-own-adventure book *I Take Back the Sponge Cake*, a founding poet-scientist of the performance group Vis-à-Vis Society, and an original Typing Explosion-ist, Seattle's renowned poetry-on-demand trio founded in 1998. Her poems have appeared inside Seattle Metro buses, with Nordic runes on lava stones in Reykjavik, Iceland, checked out with keys from the lobby of the Bridge Motel for the Motel Project, on the historic Wave Books Poetry Bus Tour across the U.S. and Canada, and most recently at the Seattle Aquarium in a poem series commissioned to accompany photographs of stained fish skeletons. A MacDowell Colony Fellow and recipient of a 2014 Seattle City Artist grant, she teaches poetry at the Richard Hugo House, in Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools program at Seattle Children's Hospital, and at University of Washington's Friday Harbor Marine Labs. She is also president of Seattle's Cephalopod Appreciation Society.

Requiring Your Immediate Attention

by Sierra Nelson

Please lift the heavy lid off the morning.

Insomnia never pays overtime
though I've worked this 3:00 A.M. shift
week after week.

FYI, some people are *very sensitive*
to overhead fluorescent lights
and what day is it today.

Mark on this form how many hours
expected in this month,

and of that number how many
ready to ship on demand.

Consider the cost-effectiveness of breathing

and take a moment's rest beneath
the summer trees finally
caught up on their paperwork –

the beautiful green triplicates of summer
we'll separate later to save
like receipts in our books.

Our records show last year's affection
was improperly filed.

We require your immediate attention
anytime during regular business hours
Eastern Standard Time.

-- end --