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For Immediate Release
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Press Release

Madison's Poet Laureate Launches Children's Poetry Book *Unique Poems Reflect Childhood Hopes and Dreams*

Madison, WI, April 13, 2010 – The Madison Arts Commission is pleased to announce Madison's third Poet Laureate – Fabu Carter Brisco (known professionally as Fabu), has just released her first children's poetry book, ***"Poems, Dreams and Roses,"*** a compilation of poems. Fabu began writing at the age of 11 and has continued to create poetry throughout her adult life. The poems for the book were chosen because they are both relevant and inspirational to children and youth as they go through their own stages of growing up.

"We are so fortunate to have Fabu represent the City of Madison as our Poet Laureate," states Mayor Dave Cieslewicz. "For more than 20 years she has provided great insight about the importance of expressing oneself through poetry to students and adults in our community. Her new book is a shining example of how she has incorporated her own life stories with those she has heard from others, to create beautiful poems reflecting their innermost thoughts and dreams."

According to Fabu, "This book means so much to me because it allows me to finally express what so many students have shared with me over the years. I feel fortunate that I could put their thoughts into words, which will inspire and provide hope to other youngsters."

The book is illustrated by local artist, Kate Gillman and includes numerous pictures of Fabu from childhood to adulthood, along with yellow roses that represent her mother's favorite flower. Fabu's personal journey in life, first as an "Air Force brat" who lived in Tennessee, Virginia, and France, and later as an adult in Kenya and Madison, is illustrated as a "map" on the book's back cover. It provides insight on her life experiences that are reflected in her poems. She also

includes a guide for teachers. The final page of the book includes a mirror so that each reader can see how special and beautiful they are.

Karin Wolf, Madison Arts Program Administrator states, “We marvel at the time and energy that Fabu puts in every day to provide creative direction and support to the youth of our community – at schools, in libraries and other public venues. She thoroughly enjoys inspiring Madison youth to write poetry and participate in local poetry contests as a way to help them express themselves.”

Fabu is available for public and private readings of her new book and can be contacted through her website: www.artistfabu.com. Her new book can be purchased at her website and also at local books stores: Borders (on University Ave.), and AVOLS. She will be doing a book signing on April 24 at Celebration of Writing at the South Madison branch library, 2300 South Park St., from 2 – 4 p.m. Fabu’s schedule of other upcoming book signings and events is listed on her website along with the additional services she provides such as: workshops, storytelling, readings, lectures, public speaking, and “poet in residence” programs.

Fabu Carter Brisco was appointed as Madison’s third Poet Laureate by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz in 2008. Her appointment is supported by the Madison Arts Commission. Fabu holds a double Masters from the University of Wisconsin – in African Languages and Literature and African-American Studies. The University of Nairobi Press will publish “**In Our Own Tongues**” later in 2010 and Parallel Press in Madison will publish “**African-American Life in Haiku: Journey to the Midwest**” in 2011. She is also a founding member of the Hibiscus Collective, a local group of multi-cultural women writers, and a guest columnist for ***The Capital Times*** and ***The Capital City Hues***.