



April is National Poetry Month. This year the challenges of 2020 and the hopes for 2021 are reflected in poems by six poets who share the work of social justice & cultural preservation with the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center.

## Budding

Vivid hues, perfumed budded bloom,  
my fingers feel fuzz greening on your stem.  
I sink deep within soil from whence you came,  
Escape in my brain to sunbaked landscapes.

Blossoms surround.

Unfold my heart,  
individually gathering emotions into one bouquet.

—Andrea Vocab Sanderson

## The Path of Friendship

It coursed, accelerated tempo, it paused only to sigh with relief for the connection. It serenaded us like star dust stippling the sky with elutriated bursts of melody.

It spoke without words at times, because the silence said everything for us. It calmed us down with anticipation that rose into the rafters of our thoughts. It shook us like tremors rippling through fault lines,

sobering our minds.

It showed us iridescent pathways that lead us to sanctity and surrender.

It held us close like bonds that can only be formed through separation. It shed tears through our eyes and let them saturate our memories.

It coaxed us past acquaintance and made us comfortably bare our souls in its safe space.

It painted us in more colors than black and white, male and female, and denominations. It took us beyond. Gender and culture combined couldn't exasperate our progress. We dared to push past boundaries, offense, & differences to learn and celebrate each other simply because our hearts told us it was the right thing to do.

From A to

Z and every letter  
in-between,

I love you.

—Andrea Vocab Sanderson

### BIO

Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson is the first black Poet Laureate of San Antonio 2020-2023. She serves as a Teaching Artist for Gemini Ink and artist-in-residence with The Carver Community Cultural Center. Her debut book is entitled, *She Lives In Music*, Flower Song Press, February 2020. Her music is available on all music streaming platforms. See [www.andreavocabsanderson.com](http://www.andreavocabsanderson.com) for more info.

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