

Seattle City Council
Finance and Culture Committee Meeting
2 p.m. Thursday, June 5th, 2014

Words' Worth
The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Judith Roche**

Today's poem is by **Maga Barzallo Sockemtickem**.

Maga Barzallo Sockemtickem is 18 years old, a Native American, Ecuadorian and a Seattle native. She wrote this poem during her treatment for AML (acute myelogenous leukemia) at Seattle Children's Hospital. Writing was an invaluable coping method during her hospital stays. This poem is a snapshot of her feelings on that particular day. Maga also loves to bake, swim, listen to music, watch sports with her dad, play chess with her mom, hang out with her friends, and of course, be with her cat.

Where I'm From

By Maga Barzallo Sockemtickem

I am from the beat
of drums, and songs
to be sung, beautiful rain,
sparkling down
I am from laughter,
movies, a drip of water
leaping high against
the slaughter.
I come from cracked
concrete, rose petals
falling into the deep.
I am from nights of
weeping, tears of joy.
I am from sighs of relief
and disappointed moans.

I've seen the
world, it's in my grasp.
I come from needles
and blood. I come from shortcuts,

gangsters and thugs.
I come from words and music,
so sorely missed.
Least of all,
I am cancerous.

Tree climber, jump roper,
skydiving, playing poker,
feel my feet against
my land, holding the soil in my hand.

I'm from raised voices
and hard fights, I am
from those red & blue
lights.

Broken glass, keys
on the floor.
A lit TV dinner, too early at 4.
I am from white sheets,
white pillows, white blankets
and white rooms. Rooms
with a window, a window through.
I am from denial,
acceptance, and
anger too. I won't
back down from you.
I am from stubbornness
and spitfire.
I am from refuse to give up.
I am not just cancerous.

You see all this
All things are true
I have my native blood

My life is not written in stone
It's written in the sky, the breeze,
water and fire, the morning
There's nothing you can take from me
as long as Earth is alive.

--end—