

## SUMMARY

Former research engineer turned writer, organizer, and community builder, with experience in civic leadership, grassroots advocacy, and the literary arts. Combines analytical problem-solving with creative practice to strengthen local communities, support meaningful change, and foster human connection.

## CONTACT

Lexington, KY   
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## EDUCATION

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
B.S. Mechanical Engineering  
*Cum Laude* | May 2019

## LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

"The Violinist's Ballad." Poem.  
*Yearling*, Vol. 5, forthcoming 2026.

"Rebel Until It Becomes Another Latte Flavor." Poem. *All the Broods are Hatching at Once*, Lexington Poetry Month, 2025.

"The Serpent's Utopia." Short story. *Blah, Blah, Blah Anthology, Volume Three: Crossroads*, 2025.

## WRITING INTERESTS

**Genres:** spoken/written poetry, hybrid/experimental writing, literary fiction, satirical performance skits

**Themes:** resistance, social critique, digital technologies, capitalism, alienation, intersectionality, self-confrontation

# CARINA GRADY

## LITERARY EXPERIENCE

### ACCENTS PUBLISHING, *Intern*

*Kentucky-based independent press publishing poetry.*

**Lexington, KY | February 2026 – Present**

- Produced poetry videos, promotional materials, and merchandise supporting publications, authors, and marketing.
- Advised on website development and digital outreach strategies to strengthen audience engagement and expand visibility.
- Completed a five-month Poetry Bootcamp focused on developing, revising, arranging, and preparing a poetry manuscript for publication.

### LEVEE ART COLLECTIVE, *Manager*

*Grassroots activist space for marginalized creatives and organizers.*

**Lexington, KY | June 2025 – Present**

- Managed community space operations and coordinated large-scale fundraisers, cultural events, and community gatherings.
- Facilitated the Q-BIPOC Writing Group for racialized and queer writers, cultivating a supportive space for creative expression.
- Organized and taught monthly Latin dance lessons and socials.

### CARNEGIE CENTER, *Student & Volunteer*

*Non-profit literacy center offering education and community literacy initiatives.*

**Lexington, KY | June 2025 – Present**

- Completed poetry and fiction classes, including the yearlong Poetry Gauntlet, focusing on craft, workshop, and consistency.
- Supported community writing groups, literary events, readings, and conferences through active participation and volunteer involvement.
- Founded and led Young Poets Society, facilitating recurring writing sessions and discussions centered on Gen Z themes.

### FRIENDS BOOK CELLAR, *Volunteer*

*Non-profit used bookstore supporting the Lexington Public Libraries.*

**Lexington, KY | March 2026 – Present**

- Assisted customers and operated the register while evaluating, pricing, and organizing donated books for resale.
- Provided recommendations on social media and promotional content to strengthen visibility and engagement.

### WRITER FEED, *Staff*

*International writing community connecting writers across genres.*

**Remote | October 2019 – July 2022**

- Moderated discussions, supported members, resolved conflicts, and upheld standards across an international writing network.
- Encouraged participation through writing activities, workshops, critiques, and guidance on craft development.

## SCHOLARSHIP

### *Awarded 2015–2019:*

- Multicultural Vision Scholar, Iowa State University
- National Buick Achievers Scholar
- Iowa Rotary Club Scholar
- Community Foundation of the Great River Bend Scholarships

## PERFORMANCES

### *Featured Poet:*

- Queerapalooza. Frankfurt, KY, June 2026.
- Plural Connection Summer Solstice Festival, Lexington, KY, June 2026.
- Live Poets' Society. Lexington, KY, November 2026.

## EXHIBITS

*They tell me that writing is a form of art founded on rules, Living Art Exhibit: Visual Poetry, Levee Collective, Lexington, KY, May 2026.*

## READINGS

### *Open Mics in Lexington, KY:*

Poetry at the Table  
Bespoke Karmic Experience  
Multifarious Collective  
Soulbrations

## MEMBERSHIPS

Lexington Writer's Room  
Kentucky State Poetry Society  
Levee Art Collective  
Fayette County Climate Action

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

**First Author:** Grady, C., et al.  
"Design Tool for Estimating Adsorbent Hydrogen Storage System Characteristics for Light-Duty Fuel Cell Vehicles."  
International Journal of Hydrogen Energy 47 (2022): 29847–29857.

## CIVIC EXPERIENCE

### **LIVING STREETS LEXINGTON, Member**

*Grassroots group transforming streets into vibrant, safe, accessible spaces.*

**Lexington, KY | April 2025 – September 2026**

- Advocated for safer, more inclusive transportation by canvassing, engaging city council members, and supporting biking, walking, and public transit initiatives like the Week Without Driving campaign.
- Assisted in organizing Lexington's first street-art mural, designed by a local artist to slow neighborhood traffic while bringing color and cultural vibrancy to the surrounding streetscape.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, Chair**

*Municipal commission advancing sustainability and climate resilience.*

**Lexington, KY | March 2025 – November 2025**

- Chaired commission meetings, guided committee work, and represented the commission in city government discussions on environmental, sustainability, and community priorities.
- Led initiatives on public solar installations, low-income energy-efficiency incentives, sustainability ordinances, and pollinator gardens supporting resilience and biodiversity.

## ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

### **GUIDEHOUSE, Senior Consultant**

*Utility clients in the Energy, Sustainability, & Infrastructure segment.*

**Remote | August 2022 – August 2025**

- Led project management and evaluation of utility energy-efficiency initiatives, overseeing delivery, budgets, client needs, and compliance with residential and industry standards.
- Analyzed large energy and survey datasets, including heat-pump performance, consumption trends, and retail pricing, to develop recommendations and predictive models for research and planning.

### **SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL**

### **LABORATORY, Engineer**

*Research and development institution for environmental stewardship.*

**Aiken, SC | July 2019 – July 2022**

- Simulated nuclear material logistics to optimize drum movement, scheduling, and facility operations, identifying opportunities for significant time and cost savings for government.
- Modeled hydrogen fuel-cell systems for light-duty vehicles and onboard storage, contributing to published research and hands-on work in batteries, additive manufacturing, and nanomaterials.

### **PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC, Intern**

*Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant of 2200 MW capacity.*

**Avila Beach, CA | June – Aug 2018**

- Reduced maintenance costs by resolving eight maintenance issues and presenting preventive-maintenance recommendations.