

Alexandria, Ever-Creating

--For Alexandria's 276th Birthday, Saturday, July 12, 2025

On a postcard by the waterfront, a drawing
of something stately, of buildings raised
in centuries-old iron, stone, and brick.

Always, the vapors of history mingling
with our comings and our goings, we walk
and re-walk these sites of liberty, of justice,
and of bondage, broken in courage.

But Alexandria is a city ever-creating, Here,
something new is rising all the time,
a community stronger, more radiant and just
than all that's come before.

We carve this monument ourselves
an ode to something greater than our greatest
histories and a salve to our most bitter.

We are building something together
that will stand for centuries more,
a true belonging:

between new neighbors and old friends,
between those who have always called Alexandria
home and those who embrace Alexandria as their new one.

This is the work of an entire city, becoming
a beacon of belonging, in daily words
and gestures, in song, in art, in prayer.

This is Alexandria, not a place that was,
but a place we are ever-inventing, ever-
renewing. Alexandria, our city, that we,
all of us, are ever, ever-creating.

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City of Alexandria Poet Laureate