

Lawrence Poet Laureate Application and Overview

Statement of Purpose

The City of Lawrence announces the creation of a Poet Laureate for Lawrence. The City views the position as a means to further enhance the profile of poets and poetry in the city and beyond. The Poet Laureate is expected to bring poetry to segments of Lawrence's community that have less access or exposure to poetry: youth, schools and communities, seniors, etc. The Poet Laureate will be a person of vision with the ability to enact his/her vision.

Duration

The Poet Laureate will serve for a two-year term, 2017 & 2018. A contract will be derived with expectations detailed as to the public benefit required of the position, which will be jointly determined with the final applicant and review committee. The expectation is that the position will support and expand poetry in the city. Arts Lawrence/City of Lawrence will support the Laureate in networking within the community but actual work must be accomplished by the chosen candidate.

How to apply

Deadline: Postmarked by May 5, 2017

Candidates for Lawrence Poet Laureate must provide the following:

- Cover letter with contact info including name, address, phone number, email, website (if applicable)
- Proof of residence demonstrated by sending a copy of a utility bill, lease, phone bill. (a jpg image of a current bill or statement is fine if emailing application, or a photocopy of statement if mailing application)
- Curriculum Vitae / Poetry-Related Bio
- Up to 20 pages of original poetry
- One to three-page vision statement with details as to how you will implement the public benefit component

How to submit

1. Either email PDFs of the above items to: Jessica Valentin at jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com with Poet Laureate in the subject header
2. Or mail the following documents to: Lawrence Public Library
c/o Poet Laureate Search Committee
51 Lawrence Street Lawrence, MA 01841

Selection Process for Poet Laureate of Lawrence

A committee, comprised of local poets, teachers, and arts administrators, will review the applications based on the evaluation criteria and select no fewer than three and no more than six applications to be finalists. Finalists will be interviewed in May with the expectation that they will further refine their proposed vision and public component for the position. The interview process will also provide the selection committee the ability to inquire more of the candidate. Based on the four criteria below, the committee will select a final candidate and alternate who will be presented to Mayor Dan Rivera for his approval.

Evaluation Process for Poet Laureate Nomination

The Poet Laureate will be reviewed and chosen on the basis of the four criteria (percentage weights included):

- Excellence in craftsmanship, as demonstrated by submitted original poems. (25%)
- Providing a vision for the position. How will you work with the community, schools, nonprofit or municipal arts and service departments? Please convey your vision for the position with details of outreach and collaborations. (25%)
- Professional achievement in the field of poetry. Merit shall be proven by publication credits either in small press or large press publications; also, awards or recognition such as grants, fellowships, prizes, and/or other recognition. (25%)
- A history of actively promoting the visibility of poetry in Lawrence and in literary communities through readings, publications, promotion of events, public presentations and/or workshops and other types of teaching and literary community involvement. (25%)