

CONNECTICUT STATE POET LAUREATE GUIDELINES

The honorary position of Connecticut Poet Laureate was established in 1985 by the Connecticut Legislature. As the state's representative poet, the Poet Laureate serves as an advocate for poetry and promotes the appreciation of and participation in poetry and literary arts activities among Connecticut citizens.

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) appoints a resident as the State Poet Laureate based on the recommendation of a panel of poets and literary professionals.

DUTIES

- Present at least one public event per year as requested by COA such as award ceremonies or other events conducted by COA
- Foster public appreciation of and participation in poetry and literary arts activities
- Serve as an ex officio member on the Culture & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

TERMS OF SERVICE AND REMUNERATION

- The State Poet Laureate will serve for a term of five years.
- The State Poet Laureate will receive an annual stipend of \$1,000 for a total of \$5,000 for the five years.
- The State Poet Laureate must maintain Connecticut residency during his or her term of office.
- COA reserves the right to revoke the tenure of the Poet Laureate if he or she fails to fulfill his/her duties.

WHO MAY BE NOMINATED

Any Connecticut citizen may nominate a poet for the Poet Laureate position. A poet may not self-nominate and no award will be given posthumously.

Eligible Nominees

- Nominees must be full-time Connecticut residents (for at least the past five years prior to the nomination deadline).
- Nominees must possess a distinguished career in the field of poetry.
- Nominees must be available to travel and give presentations.

Re-Nomination of Previously Nominated Poets

A poet who has been nominated before may be re-nominated. A new Nomination Form and updated materials are required.

Ineligible Nominees

- Students currently enrolled in degree-granting institutions
- Previous State Poet Laureates
- Culture & Tourism Advisory Committee members, DECD/COA staff and members of their immediate families

REVIEW PROCESS

A peer panel of poets and literary professionals will review eligible nominations. The selection criteria are:

- Outstanding reputation and distinction in the field of poetry
- Excellence of the poet's work; history of substantial publications
- Capacity to foster public appreciation of and participation in poetry through readings, public presentations and/or teaching in diverse communities