

Program Guidelines

CONNECTICUT STATE POET LAUREATE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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 Department of Economic and Community Development, CT 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.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Nomination Deadline: April 2, 2015
Application Deadline: April 24, 2015
Panel Review: May 2015
Award Notification: June 2015
State Poet Laureate Term: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020

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 (5) years.
- The State Poet Laureate will receive an annual stipend of \$1,000 for a total of \$5,000 for the five years as part of a grant contract.
- The State Poet Laureate must maintain Connecticut residency during his/her term.
- 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

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 and application must be submitted.

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.

**NOMINATION
PROCESS**

Any Connecticut citizen may nominate one (1) poet for the Poet Laureate position. A poet may not self-nominate and no award will be given posthumously.

Nominators must provide the following:

- Their name and contact information (*street address, city, state, zip, phone, & email*)
- Contact information for the Nominee (*street address, city, state, zip, phone & email*)
- A formal Letter of Support

Nominators must:

- Send the requested information listed above by email to tamara.dimitri@ct.gov
- Enter "Poet Laureate Nomination" in the email subject line.
- IMPORTANT NOTE: COA will respond with a confirmation email AND number. If you do not receive a confirmation number, then resubmit your email to ensure receipt.

**APPLICATION
PROCESS**

COA will contact nominated poets with an invitation to submit an application for consideration. Applications and requested materials must be submitted through COA's online e-granting portal. Nominated poets will receive online access following receipt and processing of nomination.

Applicants must provide the following as uploads into the online application:

- One (1) page narrative. Express your interest and commitment to this role, note past Connecticut poetry activities, and indicate why NOW is the appropriate time for you to serve as the State's Poet Laureate.
- Resume - list published works, public readings, awards, honors or other recognition. Include links to website(s), YouTube and/or Vimeo files, etc.
- Two (2) additional Letters of Support.
- Work sample of no more than ten (10) poems. The total work sample may not exceed 15 continuously numbered pages (8 ½" x 11" and no smaller than 12 point type). Please provide copyright information where appropriate.

**REVIEW
PROCESS**

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

- Outstanding reputation and distinction within the field of poetry.
- Excellence of the poet's work; substantial book and periodical publications.
- Commitment to fostering appreciation and participation in poetry.

COA and Panel Reviewers reserve the right to request further information from applicants and/or review publicly accessible information, articles, etc. about the applicants as a way to conduct a thorough and thoughtful panel review process.

Following the panel review process, COA staff will present recommendations to the Connecticut Arts Council for review and final approval.

CONTACT

For questions regarding the Connecticut State Poet Laureate, contact Tamara Dimitri by email at tamara.dimitri@ct.gov.

Further information about the State of Connecticut Poet Laureate, including a listing of past honorary poets is available on the [Poet Laureate webpage](#).

For general information about COA programs and services, visit www.ct.gov/cct.