



CALL TO ARTISTS

2011-2013 Tacoma Poet Laureate

Deadline: February 22, 2011

Stipend: \$2,000

Opportunity

The Tacoma Arts Commission and Urban Grace Church announce the fourth annual Tacoma Poet Laureate competition, the winner of which will be named Tacoma Poet Laureate for 2011-2013.

The Tacoma Poet Laureate will hold the title for a period of two years, from May 2011 to April 2013, and receive a stipend of \$2,000, payable in increments upon completion of specific deliverables such as workshops and poetry readings. He or she will provide a minimum of two free poetry related workshops each year, recite his/her original work at public events, participate in Art at Work: Tacoma Arts Month each November, and help produce the 2013 Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony to announce the next Poet Laureate.

Current Tacoma Poet Laureate Tammy Robacker will curate and host a poetry reading event in conjunction with National Poetry Month in late April 2011 at which the winner of this year's Poet Laureate competition will be awarded. The event will include readings by past Tacoma Poet Laureates as well as a selection of this year's competition applicants, who will share work addressing the competition's theme of *'Home.'*

Eligibility

- Applicant must be a resident of the City of Tacoma. Staff will verify addresses against official City limit map.
- Applicant must be a practicing artist, dedicated to producing work on a regular basis.
- Applicant must be 18 years or older.
- Applicant cannot be a previous Tacoma Poet Laureate title holder.
- Applicant cannot be a current Tacoma Arts Commission member, City Council member, City of Tacoma staff member, or Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel member.

Duties

The artist selected as Tacoma Poet Laureate must be willing and able to:

- Offer a minimum of two free public workshops each year relating to poetry (four workshops total.)
- Recite and/or perform his/her original work at City or community events as requested an average of once a month.
- Participate in Art at Work: Tacoma Arts Month programming each November.
- Help produce, with the assistance of the City of Tacoma's Arts Program and Urban Grace Church, an event in April 2013 to announce the winner of the 2013-2015 Tacoma Poet Laureate program.

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Tacoma Poet Laureate Background

The Tacoma Poet Laureate position was founded in 2008 by Urban Grace Church as a way of focusing attention on Tacoma's literary talent by organizing and hosting public readings and workshops in local schools and community events.

In 2011, upon the request of Urban Grace Church, the administration of the Poet Laureate program transitioned to the City of Tacoma's Arts Program. Urban Grace Church is recognized as a founding partner of the program and remains involved by providing transitional oversight, a free location for performances and workshops and participating in support roles.

Past poet laureates include William Kupinse and Antonio Edwards, Jr; the current poet laureate is Tammy Robacker.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic Quality (as exhibited in work samples)
- Demonstrated history of involvement and activity within the literary arts
- Willingness to reach out to the public to further the literary arts in Tacoma

Timeline

Application deadline:	February 22, 2011
Review of applications/selection:	week of March 7, 2011
Notification:	by March 21, 2011
Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony:	late April, 2011
Term of service:	May 2011 – April 2013

Submission

We prefer, whenever possible, that submissions be made online/via e-mail. Applications and any support materials must be submitted no later than 5pm on February 22, 2011 (postmarks acceptable.)

E-mail submission materials to:

Tacoma.Submissions@cityoftacoma.org with the words "Poet_Your Last Name" in the subject line. If your email is over 6 MB in size, you may need to send attachments in several batches.

Or mail/deliver submission materials to:

Tacoma Arts Commission
Tacoma Poet Laureate
747 Market Street, Room 900
Tacoma, WA 98402

Questions?

For questions or assistance, please call Cultural Arts Specialist Naomi Strom-Avila at 253.591.5191 or email nstrom-avila@cityoftacoma.org.

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Application Checklist

To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and submit a packet including all materials listed below. Incomplete applications and extra materials will not be considered.

Application Form

Fill out the online application form at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tacomapoetlaureate> **OR**, if you do not have internet access, fill out the Application Form on page 4.

Letter of Intent

Please type your answers to the following three questions. Limit each answer to no more than 150 words.

1. Describe why poetry is important to you and why you believe it is an important artistic and cultural practice.
2. Explain why you would want to serve as Tacoma Poet Laureate and what you would like to accomplish in the role.
3. Briefly summarize two sample workshops you might present that you think might appeal to public audiences.

Artist Resume

Resume should be no longer than three pages.

Proof of City of Tacoma Residency

Please submit a copy of your Washington State ID, Driver's License or current utility bill with a current City of Tacoma address.

Work Sample

Submit five poems of your own composition that capture your work; four of the poems should be of your choosing, one poem must relate to this year's theme of 'Home'. A CD, DVD, *or* online sample of ONE piece being read aloud may also be included in addition to the required manuscript. Submitted work samples will not be returned; please keep your originals.

Manuscript (Required)

Submitted poetry must have the applicant's name on the upper right corner of each page. Please include the word "Home" underneath the applicant's name on the Home-themed poem. All manuscripts must be typed with an 11 point font size or larger.

Please choose only one of the following as an optional addition to your manuscript.

Audio CD (Optional)

One audio CD of one piece read aloud. Please submit the portion of the work that you want the panel to listen to. If the CD contains several pieces, please indicate where you want the panel to start. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

DVD (Optional)

One DVD of one piece being performed. Please submit the portion of the work that you want the panel to view. If the DVD contains several pieces, please indicate which 'chapter' and title of the piece you want to be viewed. The panel will view a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Online (Optional)

A URL to one piece being read aloud. Please submit the exact URL; if the webpage contains several pieces, please indicate which piece you want to be viewed/heard. The panel will view a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Work Sample Description Sheet

One page or less, including:

- Applicant's name (upper right corner)
- Titles of pieces included in the work samples
- Description/synopsis of the included work samples (optional)

Tacoma Poet Laureate Application Form

Use this form only if you do not have internet access. If you have internet access, please fill out the online application form at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tacomapoetlaureate>.

Name:			
Address	City Tacoma	State WA	Zip
Email Address	Website (optional)		
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	Secondary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()		

References - Please list 2 professional references who can speak to how you would serve in a public role promoting poetry.

Name	Email Address
Title	Organization
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	
How do you know this reference?	

Name	Email Address
Title	Organization
Primary Contact Phone: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ()	
How do you know this reference?	

Assurances

- All statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.
- I certify that I am a resident of Tacoma, Washington and have been immediately prior to this application.
- I am eighteen years of age or older.
- I am not a previous Tacoma Poet Laureate title holder, a current Tacoma Arts Commission member, City Council member, City of Tacoma staff member, or Tacoma Poet Laureate selection panel member.
- I acknowledge that the City of Tacoma is not liable for damage or loss of materials submitted.

Signature _____

Date _____