



CALL TO ARTISTS

2015-2017 Tacoma Poet Laureate

Deadline: March 2, 2015

Stipend: \$2,000

Opportunity

The Tacoma Arts Commission announces the sixth annual Tacoma Poet Laureate competition, the winner of which will be named Tacoma Poet Laureate for 2015-2017.

The Tacoma Poet Laureate will hold the title for a period of two years, from May 2015 to April 2017, and receive a stipend of \$2,000. He or she will actively contribute to and advance Tacoma's literary community in meaningful ways through readings, performances, workshops, presentations, publications and/or special projects; participate in Tacoma Arts Month each October; and help produce the 2017 Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony to announce the next Poet Laureate.

In keeping with the City of Tacoma's Equity and Empowerment Initiative, the Tacoma Poet Laureate should actively strive to engage the breadth of Tacoma's citizenry, expanding access to the literary arts to underserved/underrepresented audiences including people of different races/ethnicities, ages, sexual orientation and identity, ability, and income.

Applicants are encouraged to attend a free workshop on **DATE TBD (Feb 10, 11, or 12), TIME TBD, at LOCATION TBD** which will address questions about the application and selection process. Current poet laureate Lucas Smiraldo and former poet laureates Josie Emmons Turner and William Kupinse will talk about their experiences as Poet Laureate and how they each addressed the community engagement aspect of the position. Following the workshop, **at TIME TBD**, there will be an open mic in which the general public is invited to share their poetry.

Current Tacoma Poet Laureate Lucas Smiraldo will curate and host a poetry event in conjunction with National Poetry Month, **planned for April 24, 2015 [Actual date TBD]** at which the winner of this year's Poet Laureate competition will be awarded.

Eligibility

- Applicant must live in Pierce County and be actively engaged in Tacoma's creative community. Staff will verify addresses against official Pierce County map.
- Applicant must be a practicing artist, dedicated to producing poetry (in any form, genre, or style) 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

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

- Offer a minimum of two free public workshops in Tacoma each year relating to poetry (four workshops total.)
- Actively contribute to and advance Tacoma's literary community in meaningful ways through readings, performances, workshops, presentations, publications, special projects, etc. as negotiated with the City's Arts Program staff.
- Participate in Tacoma Arts Month programming each October.
- Competently handle administrative duties including being the point of contact for all programming inquiries from the public, managing a schedule, arranging details for programs, and coordinating press releases with City's Arts Program staff.
- Help produce, with the assistance of the City of Tacoma's Arts Program, an event in Tacoma in April 2017 to announce the winner of the 2017-2019 Tacoma Poet Laureate program.

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 the founding partner of the program. Past poet laureates include William Kupinse; Antonio Edwards, Jr; Tammy Robacker; and Josie Emmons Turner. The current poet laureate is Lucas Smiraldo.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic Quality (as exhibited in written and recorded work samples)
- Demonstrated history of involvement and activity within the literary arts
- Ability to engage the breadth of Tacoma's citizenry in meaningful ways to further the literary arts in our community

Timeline

Application workshop and open mic: DATE TBD (Feb 10, 11, or 12), TIME TBD, at LOCATION TBD
Application deadline: March 2, 2015, 5 pm
Review of applications/selection: between March 30 and April 10, 2015
Notification: by April 17, 2015
Tacoma Poet Laureate ceremony: April 24, 2015 [Actual date TBD]
Term of service: May 2015 – April 2017

Submission

We prefer, whenever possible, that submissions be made via e-mail. Applications and any support materials must be submitted no later than 5pm on March 2, 2015 (postmarks acceptable.)

E-mail submission materials to:

Tacoma.Submissions@cityoftacoma.org and include "Poet_" followed by your last name in the subject line. If your email is over 10 MB in size, send attachments in several batches; do not email .ZIP files.

Or mail/deliver submission materials to:

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

2015-2017 Tacoma Poet Laureate Call to Artists

Tacoma, WA 98402

Questions?

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

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 Application Form on page 5.

Letter of Intent

Please type your answers to the following three questions. Limit each answer to no more than 250 words.

1. Describe your relationship to Tacoma.
2. What do you see is the role a Poet Laureate should play in a community?
3. How would you serve the community as Tacoma Poet Laureate?
4. Outline your proposed community engagement strategy. How will you encourage others, especially underserved/underrepresented poetry audiences, to participate in the literary arts?
5. Briefly summarize two sample workshops or projects you think might appeal to public audiences that you would consider presenting as Tacoma Poet Laureate.

Artist Resume

Resume should be no longer than three pages.

Proof of Residency

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

Written Poetry Work Samples

Submit five written 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 'Spirit of Place'.

Type your name at the top of each page. Please include the words "Spirit of Place" underneath your name on the themed poem. Poetry should be typed with an 11 point font size or larger. Written work samples will not be returned; please keep your originals.

Recorded Poetry Work Sample(s)

Submit a CD, DVD, *or* online sample of you reading or performing up to two pieces of your own composition. At least one recorded piece should be the same composition as one of the written poetry samples you are submitting. Recorded work samples will not be returned; please keep your originals.

Audio CD

One audio CD of you reading up to two pieces of your own composition. 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

One DVD of you reading or performing up to two pieces of your own composition. Please submit the portion of the work that you want the panel to view. If the DVD contains several pieces, please indicate which 'chapter(s)' and title(s) of the piece(s) you want to be viewed. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

Online

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URL(s) of you reading or performing up to two pieces of your own composition. Please submit the exact URL(s); if a webpage contains several pieces, please indicate which piece(s) you want to be viewed/heard. The panel will review 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 Written and Recorded work samples
- Description/synopsis of the included work samples (optional)

Tacoma Poet Laureate Application Form

Name:			
Home Address	City	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 am eligible to apply for Tacoma Poet Laureate based on the Eligibility criteria outlined on page 1.

Signature _____

Date _____