



## **Norwalk Poet Laureate Program**

Sponsored by the Norwalk  
Arts Commission and the  
Norwalk Public Library System

*The mission of Norwalk's Poet Laureate Program is to communicate the value of poetry to our community. The Poet Laureate of the city of Norwalk serves as an ambassador of the community's vibrant artistic and literary life, promoting the literary community and celebrating the written word.*

### **Objectives of the Poet Laureate Program**

- Promote poetry as a form of communication having value—informing, teaching, inspiring and entertaining—in the everyday life of Norwalk residents.
- Inspire an emerging generation of critical thinkers and writers.
- Encourage the reading and writing of literature and poetry.
- Promote poetry as a form of literature that has deep roots among people of all ages and cultures.

### **Potential Roles of the Poet Laureate**

- Promote reading, understanding, and writing of poetry.
- Develop working relationships with other poets and teachers of poetry to present poetry writing workshops to teenagers and adults.
- Develop an Introduction to Poetry program for members of the public who are curious about poetry and would be interested in learning how to read, understand, and perhaps write poetry.
- Develop a poetry program involving local poets that could broadcast on local media outlets.
- Upon invitation, is a guest in local schools to complement the teaching of skills and understanding needed by students for reading, writing, and listening to poems.
- Read published or commissioned poems at public events (e.g., swearing-in ceremonies, holiday celebrations, convocations, graduations) and community-based group events.

### **Terms of Service**

- The term of the Norwalk Poet Laureate is one year. The Poet Laureate may apply for a second term but shall serve for no more than three consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy between terms, an interim Poet Laureate may be appointed by the Search and Review Committee to serve until the following April.
- The poet laureate of Norwalk is an honorary position and carries no stipend.

### **Eligibility**

- To be considered, a nominee must be a poet and a resident of Norwalk, and available and willing to collaborate with other town poets to develop and present poetry-related activities that address the objectives of the Poet Laureate program.
- Interested poets can self-nominate or be nominated by others.

## Criteria

- Breadth of experiences in poetry including writing, publishing, teaching, critiquing, leading groups, planning and presenting activities, attending poetry courses, reading poems in public.
- Comfort level with public speaking.
- Ability and willingness to advance poetry in the public domain, and to participate in various public gatherings and educational sessions throughout his or her term.
- Distinguished achievements.

## Application Review and Selection Process

A Search & Review Committee, the members of which are appointed by the mayor of Norwalk, may represent the following:

- Norwalk Arts Commission
- Mayor's office
- Norwalk Public Library System
- Norwalk Public Schools
- Norwalk Community College

## Application Process

All nominees must submit two copies of the following information:

- A completed application form, available for download from the city's website.
- A brief artist's statement or personal philosophy that describes how the nominee intends to approach the scope of the work and the objectives of this program.
- A sample of up to five poems by the nominated poet, citing sources if the work has been published
- A resume or CV
- Two letters of recommendation

**Application Deadline:** December 31, 2018.

All materials must be addressed to the Norwalk Poet Laureate Search & Review Committee. Hand deliveries must be received at Norwalk Public Library 1 Belden Avenue Norwalk, CT 06850 no later than 5 p.m. on the deadline date. Mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Submissions will not be returned.

Search Committee review of all nominations will be completed on or before March 1, 2019.

Poet Laureate will be introduced to the city by the mayor on or after April 1, 2019.

## For more information:

Cynde Lahey, Director of Library Information Services

Norwalk Public Library

1 Belden Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06850

[clahey@norwalkpl.org](mailto:clahey@norwalkpl.org)

203-899-2780 ext. 15133

## Norwalk Poet Laureate Application Form and Materials

Submit application, along with two copies of the following documents: brief artist's statement or personal philosophy that describes how the nominee intends to approach the scope of the work and the objectives of this program; a sample of up to five poems (published or unpublished); and two letters of recommendation to: Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850, Attn: Norwalk Poet Laureate Search & Review Committee. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2018.

Name:

Address:

Phone/Email:

Website:

Please include the following (attach separate pages if necessary):

Memberships in literary organizations:

Publications where your work has appeared:

Literary awards and dates awarded:

Poetry-related experiences, including writing, publishing, teaching, critiquing, leading groups, planning and presenting activities, attending poetry courses, and/or reading poems in public.

I, authorize my name to stand for nomination for the position of Poet Laureate of Norwalk, CT and affirm that I am 21 years of age or older and that I currently reside in Norwalk. I verify that the representations made in this application are true and complete and that the work samples submitted with my application are my own work.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_