

Arts & Culture Alliance
KNOXVILLE POET LAUREATE
Information and Nomination Form

The Arts & Culture Alliance Poet Laureate Program aims to extend and build on Knoxville's rich literary heritage by recognizing and supporting citizen poets of exceptional talent and accomplishment. Each Poet Laureate serves a term of one year with the City's option to renew for one additional year. During this time, the Poet Laureate serves as a public voice of Knoxville, creating city-specific works and participating in literary outreach and educational programs. The Poet Laureate is encouraged to nurture appreciation of poetry and literature by conducting public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations in neighborhoods, schools, colleges, universities, and other public settings in geographically diverse areas of the city.

General Information

Term and Honorarium: The term of service for the Poet Laureate will be one year, commencing on July 1, 2023, with the City's option to renew for one additional year. The Poet Laureate will be paid an annual honorarium of \$3,000. The award should be considered honorific.

Nominators: Nominees should be legal residents of the City of Knoxville. Poets may not self-nominate. Those submitting nominations must be at least 18 years old.

Intellectual Property: The City shall retain license to use, reproduce, and compile the work created for the City by the Poet Laureate in his/her official capacity, but the Poet shall retain all other rights to the work.

Eligibility Requirements

Nominations of poets from all walks of life and all poetry forms are welcome. Nominated poets must have produced work of the highest caliber and must have contributed substantial service to the development of the literary arts. A poet who has served as Poet Laureate may not be re-nominated. In order to be considered for the position, nominated poets must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Poet must have been a legal resident of the City of Knoxville for at least one year (beginning on or before April 1, 2022).
- Poet must be at least 18 years old.
- Poet must have produced work of the highest caliber and have contributed substantial service to the development of the literary arts as demonstrated by the submitted application.

- Poet must have had at least one book of poetry published or the equivalent thereof.
- Poet's submitted work samples may be on any topic, although special consideration will be given to works representative of Knoxville/East Tennessee and its cultures. All forms of poetry will be considered.
- No award shall be given posthumously.
- Poet may not have previously served as Knoxville Poet Laureate.
- The nominee may not be an employee or officeholder for the City of Knoxville, the Arts & Culture Alliance, or from the immediate family or household of such employees or officeholders.

Position Requirements

The Poet Laureate is encouraged to nurture appreciation of poetry and literature by conducting public readings, workshops, lectures and presentations in neighborhoods, schools, colleges, universities and other public settings in geographically diverse areas of the city. The Poet Laureate shall be expected to:

- Have the ability to fulfill her/his term in residence within Greater Knoxville;
- Attend/Participate/Read/Perform at four (4) ceremonial/civic engagement events per year (possible such events may include Christmas in the City; Festival on the Fourth, a meeting of City Council, etc.);
- Participate in no fewer than two “poetry advocacy” events per year, during which the Poet Laureate shares the art and love of poetry with a non-traditional and/or underserved audience. Examples of poetry advocacy events could include, but are not limited to, a reading at a veterans organization; a workshop at a domestic violence shelter; a group exercise and performance at a correctional institution. Work already planned or scheduled by the poet can be considered.
- Undertake one community outreach project to make poetry available and accessible to people in their everyday lives;
- Create a body of work including three poems each year;
- Submit semi-annual reports on their work to the City of Knoxville and the Arts & Culture Alliance.

Selection Process

Once the nomination period has closed, a selection panel drawn from members of the literary community may select up to three finalists for interview (if necessary) from among the nominations. The finalist best representing the community shall be recommended to the City Mayor for appointment. All nominated poets will be notified of the selection outcome. The Poet Laureate shall be considered a civic appointment and one of honor.

The selection panel's recommendation to the Mayor shall be based upon the following criteria:

- Creative excellence, as evidenced by the submitted poetry samples
- Personal record of community service

- Exemplary professionalism, as evidenced by an established history of substantial and significant publication in journals and books, including at least one book of poems, or the equivalent thereof, and special honors, awards, fellowships, or other recognition
- Advancement of poetry in East Tennessee communities, as evidenced by an established history of activity in Knox County's literary community through readings, publications, public presentations, and/or teaching
- The community value of one or more proposed outreach projects, the purpose of which are to engender an appreciation of the literary arts to an underserved constituency within the City of Knoxville

**City of Knoxville
KNOXVILLE POET LAUREATE**

Nomination Form

Name and Contact Information for Nominator:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How long have you known the Nominee? _____

In what capacity do you know the Nominee? _____

Name and Contact Information for Poet Laureate Nominee (must have worked or resided in Knoxville for at least one year):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please confirm the following:

YES	NO	
		Nominator works within the corporate limits of the City of Knoxville or is a legal resident of the City of Knoxville.
		Nominee has been a legal resident of the City of Knoxville for at least one year (on or before April 1, 2022).
		Both Nominator and Nominee are at least 18 years of age.
		Nominee has had at least one book of poetry published or the equivalent thereof.
		Nominee is NOT an employee or office holder for the City of Knoxville, the Arts & Culture Alliance, or a member of such a person's immediate family or household.
		Nominee has ability to fulfill term in residence within Greater Knoxville.
		Nominee is able to attend/participate/read at four (4) ceremonial/civic

		engagement events per year.
		Nominee is able to participate in no fewer than two (2) “poetry advocacy” events per year, during which the Poet Laureate shares the art and love of poetry with a non-traditional and/or underserved audience. Examples of poetry advocacy events could include (but are not limited to) a reading at a veterans organization; a workshop at a domestic violence shelter; a group exercise and performance at a correctional institution. (Work the poet had already planned to undertake or already scheduled with underserved audiences can count).
		Nominee is able to undertake one community outreach project to make poetry available and accessible to people in their everyday lives. Nomination form must be accompanied by a description of such a project that the Nominee expects to undertake.
		Nominee is able to create a body of work including three poems each year of the term.
		Nominee is able to submit semi-annual reports on his/her work to the Arts & Culture Alliance.

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING TO THE NOMINATION FORM:

Note that nominations unaccompanied by the required attachments listed above will not be considered for selection.

- 1. Nominee Resume' or Curriculum Vitae**
- 2. Nominee work samples with cover sheet listing title, publisher, and publication date**
Although special consideration shall be given to works representative of Knoxville/East Tennessee and its cultures, samples may be on any topic.
- 3. Brief description of Nominee’s proposed community outreach project or projects**

Nomination forms with listed attachments should be submitted to the following address by **5 PM on Friday, March 31, 2023:**

**Arts & Culture Alliance at the Emporium Center
100 S. Gay Street, Suite 201
Knoxville, TN 37902**

Office hours: M-F 9 AM - 5 PM