

# Lake County Library System

## Poet Laureate Program

### Eligibility

The Poet Laureate nominee must be at least 18 years old at the time of submission, a published poet through any media outlet, a resident of Lake County with a valid Lake County Library System card, and pass a background check paid and administered by Lake County. The poet must also have a nomination packet submitted by the selected due date determined by the panel.

### A. Terms of Service

- i. The Poet Laureate will serve a one year term.
- ii. If the Poet Laureate is unable to fulfill his/her term due to illness, relocation, or other incapacities to perform, the Poet Selection Panel may, at its discretion, review previous applications and select a new Poet Laureate to complete the term. The Interim Poet Laureate will be eligible to apply for the next complete term.
- iii. The Poet Laureate may apply for a second term, but shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms. An Interim Poet Laureate may serve out the previous Poet Laureate's term, then serve up to two additional terms consecutively.
- iv. No financial compensation will be given for any volunteer work done while in service as Poet Laureate.
- v. The Poet Laureate will be an ambassador for poetry throughout Lake County, and help foster the love of poetry to children, teens, and adults throughout the Lake County Library System via the provision of programs.
- vi. The Poet Laureate must therefore agree to four (4) volunteer programs in their term at any library in the Lake County Library System. Such programs can include:
  1. Hosting poetry readings.
  2. Hosting a minimum of one poetry program for children or teens
  3. Directing poetry workshops on how to write poetry.
  4. Writing a minimum of one poem specifically for a Poet Laureate Journal for Lake County with distribution rights to Lake County Library System.
- vii. If the Poet Laureate engages in criminal conduct, or behavior that reflects poorly the Lake County Library System while serving their term, the Poet Selection Panel reserves the right to terminate the term of the Poet Laureate and select a new Poet Laureate under terms described above. An appeal to this decision must be in writing and submitted 1 week (seven calendar days) after the decision, and may be overturned by a two-thirds vote by the selection panel.

### B. Application Process - Nomination Packet Requirements

- i. The poet must be self-nominated, or nominated by Lake County resident.

- ii. The packet must include:
  - 1. A cover letter consisting of contact information for both the Poet Laureate nominator and Poet Laureate nominee: full name, address, email address and phone number.
  - 2. A one-page statement describing the Poet Laureate nominee's qualifications for the role, including publications and relevant experience. It must also contain an outline of goals for the role, and how the poet would make a difference in the community.
    - a. Do not include any personally identifiable information of the Poet Laureate nominee in the statement.
  - 3. Three to five poems by the Poet Laureate nominee. The Poet Laureate nominee must be prepared to provide English translations if the submissions are composed in another language.
    - a. Do not include any personally identifiable information of the Poet Laureate nominee in the poems.

### C. Selection Process

- i. Description of the Poet Selection Panel
  - 1. The panel will consist of 3-5 members:
    - a. One member will lead the program. This person will be a Lake County Library System staff member.
    - b. One member will be a staff member at a member library in Lake County.
    - c. One member will be a staff member at a branch library in Lake County.
    - d. Any other members will be active community members in Lake County.
    - e. All panel members will:
      - i. Have interest and experience in literary arts.
      - ii. Be dedicated to advancing poetry in Lake County through libraries.
- ii. Process
  - 1. The Poet Selection Panel will judge all work submitted through a blind consideration of the poet's statement and poems. Points to be considered may include:
    - a. Quality of poetry.
    - b. Engagement in past projects that involve poetry, prose and other experiences related to the tradition of poetry.
  - 2. The Poet Selection Panel will next obtain the Poet Laureate nominee's contact information from the packet's cover letter and conduct face-to-face interviews of finalists. The panel members will then choose one as the Poet Laureate. Points to be considered may include:
    - a. Language and oral facility.
    - b. Suitability for public performance and interaction.
    - c. Philosophy and ideas for engaging the Lake County community.