



WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE 2020–2022 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 26, 2019 (5:00 p.m. PST)

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) and Humanities Washington seek applications for the 2020-2022 Washington State Poet Laureate.

- *ArtsWA is the state agency established in 1961 to conserve and develop the state’s artistic resources.*
- *Humanities Washington is the state’s flagship nonprofit organization that provides and supports reading, writing, lecture, and discussion programs based in the humanities.*

Background: In April 2007 the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that recognized the value of poetry to the culture and heritage of the state by establishing the Washington State Poet Laureate. The legislation resulted from a multi-year effort of a coalition including the Washington State Arts Commission, Humanities Washington, the Washington Poets Association, poets and poetry lovers from across the state, and key legislators.

Past Washington State Poets Laureate:

2007-2009 Samuel Green
2012-2014 Kathleen Flenniken
2014-2016 Elizabeth Austen
2016-2018 Tod Marshall
2018-2020 Claudia Castro Luna
(current)

Washington is one of several states that appoint an official state poet laureate. Poetry is recognized at the national level as well. The Librarian of Congress annually appoints the U.S. Poet Laureate.

Role of the Poet Laureate: The Washington State Poet Laureate serves to build awareness and appreciation of poetry—including the state’s legacy of poetry—through public readings,



workshops, lectures, and/or presentations in communities, schools, colleges/universities, and other public settings in geographically diverse areas of the state. The selected Poet Laureate will implement a two-year plan of activities as outlined in his/her application materials in consultation with the Washington State Arts Commission and Humanities Washington. More about the activities of the current Washington State Poet Laureate can be found at the [Washington State Poet Laureate](#) website.

Goals of sponsoring organizations related to the Poet Laureate position: ArtsWa and Humanities Washington, through the Washington State Poet Laureate and other programs, work to further the health of the arts and humanities community in the state of Washington. They share several common goals:

- Creating programs with statewide reach
- Building broader public participation in the arts and humanities
- Using the arts and the humanities to engage people in cross-cultural and community-wide exchange of ideas, stories, and culture

Annual compensation for the Washington State Poet Laureate

- \$10,000 per year for professional services
- Up to \$1,500 per year for travel and services
- Up to \$2,000 per year additional for related program costs

Term of service: January 16, 2020 to January 15, 2022

Application procedure

Selection of the Washington State Poet Laureate is governed by state regulation. To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria listed below and [submit an application online](#) (see online application tips section, below). Incomplete applications and extra materials cannot be considered. **Applications must be submitted electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 26.**

Qualified applicants must meet the eligibility requirements:

- Be a current resident of the state of Washington
- Have had at least one full-length book of poetry published by an established press (please, no self-published or subsidy-press books)
- Be engaged in the poetry community



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- For the specified two-year period, be willing and able to promote poetry and the legacy of poetry throughout Washington State
- Possess a working knowledge of Washington State Poets and poetry, as well as the history of poetry in our state
- For the specified two-year period, be willing and able to travel statewide to engage with, and be accessible to, diverse communities

Note: the current and former poets laureate are eligible to apply.

Review of applications

Staff of ArtsWA and Humanities Washington will review all applications to ensure the eligibility requirements are met. A selection committee will then review all eligible applications in accordance with the following criteria:

- Your work
- Poetry promotion & outreach
- Proposed activities

The selection committee will schedule interviews and/or other meetings with finalists, after which they will make a recommendation to the boards of ArtsWA and Humanities Washington. The name of the selected candidate will be forwarded to Gov. Jay Inslee for his review and final approval.

Application requirements

To apply, [complete the online application](#), including responses to the following:

1. **Your Work (6 points)**
 - a. Describe your work as a poet.
 - b. What significant experiences have shaped your approach to and/or your beliefs about poetry?
 - c. What aspects of poetry are you most drawn to and most passionate about?
2. **Poetry Promotion & Outreach (6 points).**
 - a. What experience do you have that would contribute to serving as the Washington State Poet Laureate?
 - b. How have you contributed to promoting poetry in Washington?



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- c. Please name three other poets (including at least one Washington poet) and describe why you appreciate their work, and how their poetics intersect with and amplify the experiences of Washington communities.

3. Proposed Activities (8 points)

Washington State's Poet Laureate is expected to design and present activities and programs that contribute to the appreciation and creation of poetry, and the legacy of poetry in Washington State. This could include readings, workshops, lectures, presentations, publications, and other possibilities of the Poet Laureate's choosing. Poet Laureate activities are largely self-driven and funded through the honoraria, stipend, and travel allowance. Some ArtsWA and Humanities Washington support is available for promotion and outreach.

Outline up to four activities you would pursue as Poet Laureate, describing how these activities/programs would promote the appreciation and/or creation of poetry, and contribute to the appreciation of Washington poets and poetry. Please be sure to include (as specifically as possible):

- a. Goals for each activity.
- b. Information regarding settings, target audiences.
- c. How you envision promoting these activities to ensure participation.
- d. Please note what resources (e.g. your time, time/expertise of HW or ArtsWA staff, and/or volunteer time, as well as financial resources) you would require to complete your project(s), if any, beyond the \$10,000/year honoraria and \$3,500/year travel/supplies reimbursement already provided.
- e. Information on the qualifications and experiences you have that are relevant to these activities/programs.
- f. How you would document the impact of the activities and programs you present.

In addition, please attach the following documents to your application:

- Resume (up to two pages)
- Publication credits (up to one page)
- Application narrative (up to four pages total)
- Work sample of up to four pages of published or unpublished poetry, representative of your work

Please also submit a digital video recording (up to five minutes) of yourself presenting poetry (your own poems or that of another poet). A web link (using YouTube or Vimeo) is preferred, although one copy of a CD or DVD may be mailed to:



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Julie Ziegler, CEO/Executive Director
Humanities Washington
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Online application tips

New applicants

When applicants click on the online application link, they will be taken to a login page and asked to create an account. Once this account has been created, the applicant should log in and on the “**Application Page**” click on the blue link titled “**Washington State Poet Laureate Application 2020-2022**” and begin completing the application. Applicants can draft and update applications prior to submitting a finished application using this system.

Returning applicants

Applicants who have previously applied for the Poet Laureate position using the online system should log in using their previously created email address/password combination. (If you have previously created an account but have forgotten the password, there is a link in the login site to create a new password.) Once logged in, you will see the “**Application Status Page**” which gives an overview of previously submitted applications. To access the 2020-22 application, look to the upper left portion of the page and click on “**Apply**” under the “**Requests**” heading. Applicants can draft and update applications prior to submitting a finished application using this system.

For more information, please contact:

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or

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