



#### MEDIA CONTACTS:

Michael Wallenfels  
Communications Manager  
ArtsWA/The Washington State Arts Commission  
PO Box 42675 Olympia, WA 98504  
[michael.wallenfels@arts.wa.gov](mailto:michael.wallenfels@arts.wa.gov)  
360-252-9831

David Haldeman  
Communications & Content Director  
Humanities Washington  
130 Nickerson Street, Suite 304 Seattle, WA 98133  
[david@humanities.org](mailto:david@humanities.org)  
206-388-9921

## Nominations open for Washington's next State Poet Laureate

*Statewide call seeks established poets to consider for the 2023-2025 term*

OLYMPIA, WA – Nominations for the next Washington State Poet Laureate are now open. The call encourages Washingtonians from all corners of the state to nominate an established poet for the 2023-2025 term. For their service—which includes a monthly schedule of readings and workshops—the Laureate receives \$40,000 each year, one of the highest honorariums for a State Poet Laureate in the country.

The Washington State Poet Laureate builds awareness and appreciation of poetry through public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations. Laureates perform this work in culturally and geographically diverse communities throughout the state. The program is jointly sponsored by Humanities Washington and The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA).

"While many poet laureate positions around the country are largely ceremonial," said Julie Ziegler, CEO and executive director of Humanities Washington, "the Washington State Poet Laureate is a true ambassador and educator, someone who tirelessly travels the state bringing the power of poetry to classrooms, cultural centers, libraries, museums, and other community spaces. We're very excited for the next chapter in this great program."

The Washington State Legislature established the Washington State Poet Laureate program in 2007. To select the Laureate, the Governor reviews recommendations from a geographically and culturally diverse panel of representatives from Washington's arts, humanities and literary communities. The current State Poet Laureate is Rena Priest, the author of *Sublime Subliminal* and *Patriarchy Blues*. A member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation, she is the first Indigenous poet to assume the role. Priest will "pass the laurel" to the next Laureate when their term begins on April 15, 2023.

"Laureates draw upon heritage, history, community, and personal experience to connect us with our shared humanity," said Karen Hanan, Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Commission, the state agency that manages the program jointly with Humanities Washington. "Every Laureate has shaped the role through their singular voice and spirit. We look forward to the next link in this proud legacy."

Nominations are open now through December 2. To be eligible, nominees must "have significantly contributed to the poetic legacy of Washington State" and commit to serve as an ambassador for poetry. Self-nominations are encouraged. The full guidelines and links to apply are online at [arts.wa.gov/washington-state-poet-laureate](https://arts.wa.gov/washington-state-poet-laureate).

ArtsWA and Humanities Washington will host two information sessions about the nomination process. Both sessions are free to attend and will be recorded for future viewing. Register at the links below.

**Information session #1** | Friday, November 4, 2022 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | [Click here to register](#)

**Information session #2** | Monday, November 7, 2022 | 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | [Click here to register](#)

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**ArtsWA (The Washington State Arts Commission)** was formed by the Washington State Legislature in 1961. ArtsWA's mission is to be a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

**Humanities Washington**, Washington State's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a nonprofit whose mission is to open minds and bridge divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives.