

## City of Stockton Poet Laureate Program

**Purpose:** Under the guidance and direction of the Stockton Arts Commission, the Poet Laureate is responsible for commemorating specific civic events through composing and reading poetry and increasing the public's awareness of the benefits and importance of poetry and the literary arts.

**Term:** Two-year term beginning July 1 and ending June 30 with a maximum of two terms.

**Yearly Stipend:** \$2,000 per year with a minimum of six events per year.

### Responsibilities:

- Provide a minimum of six readings per year as approved by the Arts Commission and City staff at specific events such as swearing-in ceremonies, City-sponsored special events and other occasions where the community comes together to commemorate significant milestones.
- Create a project, through the Arts Commission, to bring poetic art to those who might not otherwise have this exposure.
- Place an emphasis in bringing poetry and the literary arts to the youth of the community by serving as a liaison between the Arts commission and local schools, libraries and literary organizations.
- Serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of poetry and the literary arts.
- Serve as a scout for suitable poets who could appear at cultural performances sponsored by the Arts Commission.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be Eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- Candidates should have a connection to Stockton whether through family, history, and work produced or published or some other significant tie to the City.
- Ability to fulfill the full term and responsibilities of the position and be willing to assist in the process of recruiting and orienting the next Poet Laureate.
- Applicants who have previously published work are preferred.

### Process:

- Arts Commission will solicit applications for Poet Laureate position and establish a selection committee to review applicant qualifications.
- Candidates may apply on their own or be nominated by a Stockton organization or resident.
- Applicants will provide a complete listing of published work and samples of body of work, including poetry and literary compositions.
- Successful candidate must pass a background check as a requirement for the position as determined by the City of Stockton.

- The Poet Laureate may be removed from office for any reason by City Council.

**To Apply please submit the following:**

- A one-page cover letter that includes contact information for the applicant and the nominator, if applicable.
- A work sample not to exceed six (6) pages, 8 ½ x 11, no less than a 12-point font. The work sample may contain information that indicates where the piece has been published or performed, or if it has received any awards for merit.
- The applicant's résumé or curriculum vitae not to exceed two (2) pages.
- An explanation of what the applicant would hope to accomplish during the two years as Poet Laureate, including ideas for the Poet Laureate's special project (up to two pages).
- An application package submitted by a nominator must include a statement signed by the nominated poet indicating the poet's awareness of the nomination, willingness to participate in the selection process, ability to fulfill the requirements of the Stockton Poet Laureate, if selected, and verification that the work sample submitted accurately represents the poet's own work. The statement may be electronically signed as a .pdf or physically signed and scanned.
- Applications are due by Tuesday, March 31, 2015 and can be sent via email to [nelson.cortez@stocktongov.com](mailto:nelson.cortez@stocktongov.com) or mailed to:

The Stockton Arts Commission  
c/o the Stockton Community Services Department  
605 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

For questions concerning the Poet Laureate Program please contact Carolyn Godwin at [carolyn.godwin@stocktongov.com](mailto:carolyn.godwin@stocktongov.com) or at 209.937.8298