



Legislation Text

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TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Anthony Halstead- Director of Library Services and Community Outreach
REPORT BY: Michelle Carreon - Staff Services Analyst
SUBJECT: Appointment of Napa County's Poet Laureate

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Library Services and Community Outreach requests the following actions:

1. Appointment of Aisha Rivera to serve as the Poet Laureate for a two-year term to commence May 16, 2023; and
2. Approval for the Chair to sign a letter of appreciation to Marianne Lyon for her service as past Poet Laureate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February, Napa County Library (NCL) announced a "Call for Nominations" for the next Napa County Poet Laureate. The Napa County Poet Laureate is appointed by the Board from a list of nominees developed by NCL and recommended by the Napa County Library Commission. The list of nominees is created through a competitive application process.

NCL interviewed four applicants and endorsed Aisha Rivera as Napa County Poet Laureate. The Napa County Library Commission reviewed the applications and concurred with NCL recommendation.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Staff Reports.
2. Public Comments.
3. Motion, second, discussion, and vote on the item.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On July 30, 2002, the Board of Supervisors established the honorary title of Napa County Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate is nominated by the Napa County Library (NCL) through a prescribed process with a term of appointment of two years and appointed by the Board.

As an ambassador for poetry, the Poet Laureate is expected to promote citizens' awareness of poetry as well as heighten their appreciation of the art form. The Poet Laureate will strive to forge a meaningful connection between poetry and the populace, undertaking projects that make poetry more accessible to people in their everyday lives. During the Poet Laureate's two-year appointment, they will be expected to officiate at selected public gatherings, initiate a dialogue between poets and the community, inspire others in their writing and personal expression and bring recognition to the history and tradition of poetry in Napa County.

This past spring, NCL announced a "Call for Applications" for the next Napa County Poet Laureate. The Napa County Poet Laureate is appointed by the Board from a list of nominees developed by NCL. The list of nominees is created through a competitive application process. The applications were reviewed by the Library Commission at the May 4th, 2023, meeting and recommended that Aisha Rivera be appointed as the next Napa County Poet Laureate.

Attached are the applicant forms, application guidelines, NCL letter of recommendation and letter of appreciation.