On behalf of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, Arts Council Napa Valley (ACNV) in partnership with the Napa County Library (NCL) announces the opening of the position of 2023 Napa County Poet Laureate.

Application Deadline: March 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Application: https://artscouncilnapavalley.submittable.com/submit

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As an ambassador for poetry, the Napa County Poet Laureate is expected to promote public awareness and heighten the appreciation of all forms of poetry, including spoken word. The Poet Laureate will strive to forge a meaningful connection with the community, undertaking projects that make poetry more available and accessible to people in their everyday lives. During the Laureate's two-year appointment, they will be expected to present at selected public gatherings, initiate a dialogue between poets and the community, and inspire others to write, perform, and express themselves in poetry.

MISSION & GOALS OF THE NAPA COUNTY POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

- Celebrate through poetry where we live and who we are
- Inspire others in their writing and personal expression
- Promote poetry through the media and through cultural organizations and to reach out to community institutions
- Encourage writing in all age groups

- Promote poetry at cultural events
- Create and perform new work
- Create and/or read poetry at civic occasions, celebrations and moments of public transition
- Bring attention to poetry in less traditional settings

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The position of Napa County Poet Laureate will be filled by a writer/performer who has contributed to Napa County's arts community, written and performed poetry of merit, and is comfortable with public presentation and interaction. Through poetry, the Poet Laureate should address themes that bring attention to Napa County's community and history.

POSITION DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Napa County Poet Laureate will:

- Be introduced at the Napa County Board of Supervisors upon approval
- Be a contributing judge at any ACNV poetry contests during their tenure
- Perform at least one reading at an ACNV and/or NCL event

The Poet Laureate may also participate in civic events and outreach activities. Official Napa County Poet Laureate schedule of events must be arranged in advance with the program manager. These activities may include:

Events:
- Inaugural events/ceremonies
- Community celebrations
- Readings at ACNV and/or NCL events
- Participation in literary events, such as Napa Valley Writers' Conference

Outreach Activities
- Regular poetry column for a local paper
- Radio/TV appearances
- Bookstore readings
- Presentations or readings at libraries, senior centers, and schools

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to serve as Napa County Poet Laureate, the applicant must be:

- Actively writing poetry and working within Napa County's literary community
- A current resident in Napa County for at least 3+ years, planning to maintain residency during the term
- Experienced publishing or presenting poetry/spoken word
- Recognized as a poet of merit by peers

POSITION TENURE & COMPENSATION

The volunteer, non-paid position of Napa County Poet Laureate will be an honorary title to be held for a term of two years. With the support of the County of Napa and sitting Poet Laureate, ACNV and/or NCL may solicit and receive donations, grants or funds or other revenue, from public or private sources, and expand those monies to develop a stipend for the Napa County Poet Laureate or for any other expenses associated with implementing this program.

REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants will be garnered through the following process: ACNV and NCL will solicit nominations through a "Call for Nominations" to be posted to the ACNV website (www.artscouncilnapavalley.org) and through direct contacts at non-profit organizations, colleges, literary groups, etc. Selection will be achieved through a competitive nomination process.

Director, Chief Officer, or their designee of Napa County Library and Arts Council Napa Valley will interview applicants to make a recommendation to the Napa County Library Commission for review. The panel will select one applicant to present to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors has the right of refusal, in which case the panel will select a second applicant. The award decisions are made based on a combination of the applicant's past literary contributions to the community, current samples of poetry and proposed activities. Applications will be screened for adherence to guidelines. Those not meeting criteria will be removed from consideration.

It is important to know that the Review Panel:

- May ask finalists to submit further work
- Participate in an interview and an oral presentation
- Will review the nomination forms, sample work and proposals
- Is not required to provide feedback to individual poets
- Reserves the right to ask for further information from the nominator and/or applicant

The Napa County Board of Supervisors will appoint the Napa County Poet Laureate in April 2023 from a list of applicants provided by the NCL Commission, including a recommended candidate.

TIMELINE

- **2/1/23**: Call for Applicants Opens
- **3/10/23**: Application Deadline
- **3/21/23 - 3/24/23**: Review Panel Interviews
- **5/16/23 (tentative)**: Board of Supervisors appoints new Napa County Poet Laureate.

Appointee is strongly encouraged to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting and be prepared to present an original work.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Limit one application per applicant. **The following must be submitted online by 5:00 PM on March 10, 2023:**

- Completed application form with contact information
- Applicant's resume
- 1 letter of interest from the applicant
- 1 letter of support for the applicant from individuals or organizations in the community
- 5 Orginal poetry samples consisting of no more than 5 pages or 2,500 words (may be in audio or video formats)

DEADLINE TO APPLY

MARCH 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS: EMAIL INFO@ARTSCOUNCILNV.ORG OR CALL (707) 257-2117

CONTENT QUESTIONS: EMAIL ANTHONY.HALSTEAD@COUNTYOFNAPA.ORG