



City of Alameda *Poet Laureate*

Statement of Purpose

The Poet Laureate is an honorary title given to a person who has demonstrated excellence in the literary arts. The Poet Laureate will work with cultural, educational and other organizations to encourage the community to express their literary creativity; promote the appreciation and knowledge of poetry among our youth; and to create a community environment in which literary talent can thrive and be encouraged.

Term of Service:

The Poet Laureate for the City of Alameda is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve a three-year term, commencing in September. Nearing the end of the Poet Laureate's term and prior to initiating the nomination process, the Poet Laureate Selection Committee may extend an invitation to the sitting Poet Laureate to serve a second (consecutive) term, based on his or her performance. A Poet Laureate may not serve more than two terms (six years).

Qualifications:

1. Applicant must be a resident of Alameda
2. Applicant must have an established history of activity in the Alameda literary community, i.e., readings, publications, public presentations, and/or teaching
3. Applicants will have demonstrated a commitment to and passion for poetry and embrace the opportunity to engage in community service to make poetry more accessible and available to all ages.
4. Applicants must be willing to promote poetry in Alameda

Selection Committee

The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Alameda based upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee shall consist the Library Director or their designee; one member of the Library Board or other library support group (Friends of the Library); and one member of the Alameda Island Poets.

The Selection Committee reviews the candidates' qualifications based on a blind reading of the poetry submitted and depending on the number of candidates, provides a short list of 3-5 qualified candidates to the Mayor for appointment. The Mayor will interview and select the Poet Laureate from that short list.

Application Packet

- ✓ Application form
- ✓ Current Resume (no more than 3 pages)
- ✓ THREE original poems, published or unpublished

Responsibilities of the Alameda Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate is a voluntary position with no honorarium offered
- The Poet Laureate will write at least one commemorative poem to be read at the City Council meeting at which their appointment is made
- The Poet Laureate encourages citizens to express their literary creativity
- The Poet Laureate will promote and showcase original works of citizens
- The Poet Laureate creates works of the written word that commemorates special events in the life of the City of Alameda

Nomination Deadline: 5:00 p.m. July 20, 2020

Nominations must be sent to the **Alameda Poet Laureate Review Committee** at the following address. Hand deliveries must be received no later than 5:00PM on the deadline date; mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Material submitted will not be returned.

All material must be clearly addressed to the **Alameda Poet Laureate Selection Committee**.

Mailing Address and Hand Delivery Address

Alameda Free Library
Attn: Alameda Poet Laureate Selection Committee
1550 Oak Street
Alameda, CA 94501

