

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Poet Laureate Presentation



PROPOSAL TO CREATE A CITY OF GREENVILLE POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

Literary arts has long been a part of the rich culture in the City of Greenville and poetry as a literary art form transcends time and culture, conveying a sense of history while also articulating a vision for the future.

City staff is proposing to establish the honorary position of City of Greenville Poet Laureate to:

- foster an appreciation of reading and writing poetry
- enhance literary arts education
- increase literacy and access to literature
- enrich the City's artistic community
- promote the literary arts throughout the City.



POET LAUREATE PROGRAM DETAILS

- The Arts in Public Places Commission (AIPPC) will evaluate candidates according to the established criteria.
- City Council will appoint the Poet Laureate to a two-year term following the recommendation of the AIPPC.
- A Youth Poet Laureate will be appointed through the same process but with slightly different selection criteria and duty requirements.

Inaugural Term

Poet Laureate October 2022 – February 2024

Youth Poet Laureate May 2023 – April 2025

(Youth term is adjusted to align with the school year)



POET LAUREATE QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- be a resident of Greenville County (youth poet must also attend a school or homeschool in Greenville County)
- provide writing samples and a current resume
- provide evidence of a strong body of work
- youth poet applicants must be entering grade 11 or below in the coming school year

The selected Poet will be required to:

- Participate in five City of Greenville supported events per year (three for youth poet)
- Participate in a minimum of four community center afterschool or summer camp programs (one at each center)
- Compose a minimum of one commemorative poem per year related to a theme or topic integral to the City of Greenville
- Demonstrate a commitment to assuming a public role promoting increased awareness of poetry



POET LAUREATE TERMS OF SERVICE

Terms of Service:

- The Poet Laureate will receive a \$1000 stipend per year, which will be paid in a total of four installments of \$500 every six months of the term beginning the sixth month of the term. The Youth Poet will not receive a stipend.
- The Poet Laureate must maintain Greenville County residency during the term.
- The City reserves the right to review and approve in advance any work the Poet Laureate proposes to read publicly in the capacity of Poet Laureate.
- The City, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke the appointment of the Poet Laureate and/or withhold stipend payments if the Poet Laureate:
 - Relocates outside of Greenville County, South Carolina;
 - Fails to fulfill the duties and requirements of the Poet Laureate;
 - Fails to conduct himself or herself with due respect for social conventions and decency;
 - Willfully engages in any act or conduct or becomes involved in situations, which in the City's sole judgement, reflects unfavorably upon the City, or which result in the person being convicted of a crime, or otherwise coming into public disrepute.