



## WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE 2016—2018

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 31, 2015 (5:00 p.m. PST)

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) and Humanities Washington seek applications for the 2016-2018 Washington State Poet Laureate.

*ArtsWA is the state agency established in 1961 to conserve and develop the state's artistic resources.*

*Humanities Washington is the statewide nonprofit organization provides and supports reading, writing, lecture, and discussion programs based in the humanities.*

**Background:** In April 2007 the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that recognized the value of poetry to the culture and heritage of the state by establishing the Washington State Poet Laureate. The legislation resulted from a multi-year effort of a coalition including the Washington State Arts Commission, Humanities Washington, the Washington Poets Association, poets and poetry lovers from across the state, and key legislators.

Past Washington State Poets Laureate:

2007-2009	Samuel Green
2012-2014	Kathleen Flenniken
2014-2016	Elizabeth Austen (current)

Washington is one of several states that appoint an official state poet laureate. Poetry is recognized at the national level as well. The Librarian of Congress annually appoints the U.S. Poet Laureate (<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/>).

**Role of the Poet Laureate:** The Washington State Poet Laureate serves to build awareness and appreciation of poetry—including the state's legacy of poetry—through public readings, workshops, lectures, and/or presentations in communities, schools, colleges/universities, and other public settings in geographically diverse areas of the state. The selected Poet Laureate will develop a two-year plan of activities in consultation with the Washington State Arts Commission and Humanities Washington. More about the activities of the current Washington State Poet Laureate can be found at the Washington State Poet Laureate web site (<http://wapoetlaureate.org/>).

### Goals of Sponsoring Organizations Related to the Poet Laureate Position:

ArtsWa and Humanities Washington, through the Washington State Poet Laureate and other programs, work to further the health of the arts and humanities community in the state of Washington and share several common goals:

- Statewide program reach
- Building broader public participation in the arts and humanities
- Using the arts and the humanities as a tool to engage people in cross-cultural and community-wide exchange of ideas, stories and culture.

## **Annual Compensation for the Washington State Poet Laureate**

\$10,000 per year for professional services

Up to \$1,500 per year for travel and services

Up to \$2,000 per year additional for related program costs

**Term of Service:** February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2018

## **Application procedure**

Selection of the Washington State Poet Laureate is governed by state regulation. To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria listed below and submit an application online: [Click Here](#)  
Incomplete applications and extra materials cannot be considered. **Applications must be submitted electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31.**

### ***Qualified applicants must meet the eligibility requirements:***

- Be a current resident of the state of Washington.
- Have had at least one full-length book of poetry published by an established press. (Please, no self-published or subsidy-press books.)
- Be engaged in the poetry community.
- For the specified two-year period, be willing and able to promote poetry and the legacy of poetry throughout Washington state.

**Note:** the current and former poets laureate are eligible to apply.

## **Review of applications**

Staff of ArtsWA and Humanities Washington will review all applications to ensure the eligibility requirements are met. A selection committee will then review all eligible applications in accordance with the following criteria:

- Quality of work
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting poetry
- Proposed activities as described in the application narrative

The selection committee may schedule interviews and/or other meetings with finalists, after which they will make a recommendation to the boards of ArtsWA and Humanities Washington. The name of the selected candidate will be forwarded to Gov. Jay Inslee for his review and approval.

## **Application requirements**

To apply, complete the [online application](#) including responses to the following:

### **1. Your Work (3 points)**

Describe your work as a poet. What significant experiences have shaped your approach to and/or your beliefs about poetry? What aspects of poetry are you most drawn to and most passionate about? Please name three other poets (including at least one Washington poet) and why you appreciate their work.

### **2. Poetry Promotion (3 points)**

What experience do you have that would contribute to serving as the Washington State Poet Laureate? How have you contributed to promoting poetry in Washington?

### **3. Proposed Activities (4 points)**

Washington State's Poet Laureate is expected to design and present activities and programs that contribute to the appreciation and creation of poetry, and the legacy of poetry in Washington State. This could include readings, workshops, lectures, presentations, publications, and other possibilities

of the Poet Laureate's choosing.

Please describe up to four activities you would pursue as Poet Laureate. Be as specific as possible, including information regarding settings, target audiences, goals, promotion, etc. How would these activities/programs promote the appreciation and/or creation of poetry, and contribute to the appreciation of the Washington's poets and poetry? What would you require to make these efforts succeed? How would you prepare? What qualifications and experience do you have that is relevant to these activities/programs? How would you document the impact of the activities and programs you present?

In addition, please attach the following documents to your application:

- Resume (up to two pages)
- Publication credits (up to one page)
- Application narrative (responses to narrative questions provided below; up to three pages total)
- Work sample of up to four pages of published or unpublished poetry, representative of your work

Please also submit a **digital video recording** (up to five minutes) of yourself presenting poetry (your own poems or that of another poet). A web link (using YouTube or Vimeo) is preferred, although one copy of a CD or DVD may be mailed to:

Julie Ziegler  
Executive Director  
Humanities Washington  
1015 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite B  
Seattle, WA 98109

For more information, please contact Julie Ziegler, Executive Director, [Humanities Washington](http://Humanities Washington), at [Julie@humanities.org](mailto:Julie@humanities.org) or 206-682-1770 x110; or Kris Tucker, Executive Director, [Washington State Arts Commission](http://Washington State Arts Commission), at [Kris.Tucker@arts.wa.gov](mailto:Kris.Tucker@arts.wa.gov) or 360-753-3860.

WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE  
APPLICATION FORM

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Email Address</b>			<b>Website</b>	
<b>Primary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )			<b>Secondary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )	
<b>Address</b>		<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
				<b>County</b>

**Biographical Statement** - 125 words maximum (*this box will expand as you type*)

REFERENCES: Please list three professional references who can speak to how you would serve in a public role promoting poetry.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Primary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )	<b>Secondary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )
<b>How do you know this reference?</b>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Primary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )	<b>Secondary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )
<b>How do you know this reference?</b>	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Primary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )	<b>Secondary Contact Phone:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Business ( )
<b>How do you know this reference?</b>	

APPLICATION AGREEMENT

My signature below certifies that I have read and understood the application guidelines for the Washington State Poet Laureate, and that all information contained within my application is accurate and truthful.

<b>Signature</b> (please sign in blue ink)	<b>Date</b>