

laureate /'lɔːriət/

noun

- 1. a person who is honoured for outstanding creative or intellectual achievement

Poet Laureate

noun

- 1. a poet officially recognized by a nation, often one appointed to write poems for state occasions.
- 2. a poet considered to be both significant and representative of a region etc.

The Canadian Oxford Dictionary (2 ed.)

Many cities across Canada have Poets Laureate who are engaged as ambassadors for the arts in their respective cities. Duties of the Poet Laureate vary from location to location, but in general each is charged with working towards a number of ends over his or her tenure:

- To create artistic work which reflects the life of the city. This is done both to commemorate official city functions, and to develop their own body of writing and performance.
- To promote poetry, the literary arts, and the arts in general in their communities.
- To act as civic engagers and animators by creating programs, events and legacies that raise the profile of the arts among citizens.

A Poet Laureate participates actively in the cultural life of the city and serves as a literary ambassador. A Poet Laureate writes poems, but also takes on the role of facilitating connections across the city. These connections are numerous: between the different literary communities, between the literary community and other sectors/disciplines within the arts, and between the arts, the city, and the citizens.

Poets Laureate are also often charged with creating programs and legacy events that raise awareness of the arts, building connections between artists and civic government, the business community, the education system, and more. A successful Poet Laureate in a modern context must have both a mastery of the art form as well as a public profile. The public component of the Laureate's duties are as important as the creation of literary works - the two aspects of the position work in tandem.

Winnipeg's Poet Laureate is modelled on these same principles - the creation of new works of poetry and of programs which foster meaningful community expression among Winnipeg's citizens.

Qualifications

Winnipeg's Poet Laureate will be a resident of the City of Winnipeg (continuously since September 1, 2012) who is of significant and outstanding achievement: a professionally published (not self-published) or professionally presented poet or spoken word artist with an established body of work. The Poet Laureate's achievement need not be measured by the total amount of works produced or published, or by the length of time spent as a professional poet, but must be recognized for artistic excellence and have had a demonstrable impact upon and recognition by the literary community, regardless of the length of the individual's career.

Administration

The Winnipeg Arts Council manages the Poet Laureate program overseeing the selection process, including appointment of the selection committee, as well as acting as a liaison between the Poet Laureate and the City of Winnipeg and assisting the Poet Laureate in carrying out their duties.

Term & Remuneration

The Poet Laureate will be selected by a jury to serve a two-year appointment commencing Fall 2017. An honorarium of \$5,000 per year for each of the two years will be paid to the artist. Additional funds for project/legacy costs or where travel is required to fulfill official duties will be worked out collaboratively between the Poet Laureate and the Winnipeg Arts Council.

Duties

Over the course of the two-year appointment, the Poet Laureate will serve as a literary ambassador for the City of Winnipeg and participate actively in the artistic life of the city. The Poet Laureate will, at a minimum,

- appear and present/perform new works of significance to the citizens of Winnipeg
 - annually at the Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts
 - at least once per year in front of City Council
 - at a minimum of 2 other events per year coordinated with the Winnipeg Arts Council
- create and produce a signature legacy event related to poetry for the public in Winnipeg in collaboration with the Winnipeg Arts Council

Reporting & Intellectual Property

The focus of this position is to be on artistic practice, however the Poet Laureate will be required to work with the Winnipeg Arts Council in the coordination of his or her official duties. Updates on the Poet Laureate's activities will be required from time to time as requested by the Winnipeg Arts Council and the Poet Laureate will be required submit a report at the conclusion of their term.

All original materials produced by the individual during his or her term as Poet Laureate (notes or completed works) remain the property of the artist in perpetuity. The Winnipeg Arts Council will retain the right to use the Poet Laureate's poems in its own publications, for example the Annual Report. Such usage will be solely for the purposes of publicity and awareness of the program and of the Winnipeg Arts Council and will not be used for commercial or other purposes.

Application & Appointment

Individuals may be nominated OR self-nominate for consideration. A selection committee appointed by the Winnipeg Arts Council will select the Poet Laureate from the eligible submissions. The committee will be assembled in accordance with the Winnipeg Arts Council's *Peer Assessment Policy*. A complete nomination package will include

1. **A completed nomination form**
2. **A nomination letter** (2 pages maximum) outlining why the artist should be Winnipeg's Poet Laureate. This letter should address
 - the significance of the artist's work to Winnipeg and its citizens
 - the artist's contribution to the literary and arts communities
 - the artist's influence upon their artistic peers locally, nationally, or internationally
3. **A support letter** (2 pages maximum). The letter must be from a relevant source and address the same points.
 - a. In the case of a self-nomination, a second letter of support is required.
4. **The artist's CV** (3 pages maximum)
5. **A program proposal** (2 pages maximum). The proposal must be written by the artist and give a clear indication of how they will promote the arts in civic life if appointed Winnipeg's Poet Laureate. The proposal must describe how the artist will engage citizens and what the program's desired outcomes/objectives will be. Proposals should be achievable within the two-year time frame and a total budget of \$1,500 - \$2,000 annually. A timeline and expected outcomes should be included.
6. **Reviews of the artist's work** (3 pages maximum). Up to three pages of reviews from publications, journals, or other relevant sources may be included.
7. **Samples of the artist's work:**
 - Up to 20 pages of printed material
 - Up to 20 minutes of audio or video
 - Samples of digital work

NOTE: This is not intended as samples from online journals, but rather to allow poets whose primary medium is online and whose work takes advantage of digital technologies to present their work to the assessors in its proper context.

All poets, regardless of the primary medium of work (page, performance, web, etc.) are encouraged to submit audio or video samples of their work for review by the jury.

Submission Process

Applications must be received by the Winnipeg Arts Council no later than Thursday, August 31, 2017. They may be delivered to the Winnipeg Arts Council offices or submitted online; please review the instructions for each option below. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the nomination to ensure that the materials are legible and complete. Applications which are late or which are received without all of the required material may be declared ineligible.

All application materials including registration form, nomination letter, letter(s) of reference, CV, program proposal and critical reviews **must** be provided in PDF format. Please respect the page limits outlined in these guidelines

Support materials:

- Written materials in PDF format (maximum of 20 pages total)
- Audio/visual materials (to a combined maximum of 20 minutes total)
 - Audio materials must be provided in MP3 format
 - Video must be provided in MPEG4 format
- Samples of digital work: provide URLs on the form provided

If you are delivering your package to the Winnipeg Arts Council office:

(mail, courier, hand-delivery)

Supply an electronic storage device (CD/DVD/USB stick) which contains all of the above materials to

Winnipeg's Poet Laureate
Winnipeg Arts Council
103-110 Princess Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K7
204-945-6351

Please ensure that your storage device is clearly labelled with your name and contact information. Storage devices will not be returned.

If you are submitting your package electronically:

Use WeTransfer to send all the required files to dom@winnipegarts.ca using "Poet Laureate Submission [Last Name]" in the message. [WeTransfer](#) is a simple way to share files with no sign-up required. Allow time for uploading large files. Please do not use other file transferring programs or websites such as Google Docs, Hightail, or YouSendIt. **Do not send your materials in a direct email.**

<https://wetransfer.com/>

**THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IN EITHER
FORMAT IS THURSDAY AUGUST 31, 2017**

If you have questions about the Poet Laureate program please contact

Dominic Lloyd
Program & Arts Development Manager
Winnipeg Arts Council
204-943-7668
dom@winnipegarts.ca



The Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports, and champions development of the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg.