

# Call for Lansing Poet Laureate

The Lansing Poetry Club, the Center for Poetry in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) at Michigan State University, and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) are seeking a

## Poet Laureate

to engage our community in the literary arts

**DEADLINE: For Receipt of Entries—Friday, March 3, 2017, 5PM**

- 2 year appointment with a stipend of \$2000 per year.
- In coordination with the Lansing Poetry Club, the RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU, and LEAP, the appointed Poet Laureate will have the opportunity to shape a scope of work that reflects her/his interests, skills and abilities.
- The applicant must be an experienced and skilled poet, dedicated to producing poetry in textual and/or oral traditions.
- The appointed Poet Laureate will serve as an “ambassador” for poetry within the community, working to stimulate the transformative impact of poetry and create excitement about the written and spoken word.

### SUBMISSION CALENDAR

February 5, 2017, 3 - 5 PM	<b>Workshop to assist w/ applications</b> , MICA Gallery, 1210 Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906
<b>March 3, 2017, 5 PM</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b> for Applications for Lansing Poet Laureate
March 6 - 20, 2017	Selection Committee Review Period
March 27-31, 2017	Interviews with top 5 finalists
April 3, 2017	Selection Committee recommendation goes to Sponsors
Week of April 17, 2017	Announcement of Lansing Poet Laureate
May 5, 2017	Lansing Poet Laureate Reading at Arts Night Out

*The Sponsors reserve the right not to select any artist at all, and reserve the right to change the process or schedule.*

**For information or to download the submission form, go to [www.purelansing.com/PoetLaureate](http://www.purelansing.com/PoetLaureate)**

# Lansing Poet Laureate—Guidelines

## Goals of Poet Laureate Program

- Promote poetry as an art form
- Expand access to the literary arts
- Connect the community to poetry
- Promote poetry as a literary voice that contributes to a sense of place

## Eligibility Criteria

- Resident of Ingham, Clinton, or Eaton County, 18 years or older
- Must be an experienced & skilled poet, producing poetry in textual and/or oral traditions
- Must be able to work independently & have good rapport with various audiences
- Must be an effective public speaker

## Selection Committee

Bill Castanier, Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
Guillermo Delgado, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities, MSU  
Meegan Holland, East Lansing Arts Commission  
Josh Holliday, LEAP  
Laurie Hollinger, RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU  
Aram Kabodian, Lansing Poetry Club  
Tim Lane, East Lansing Art Festival  
Debbie Mikula, Arts Council of Greater Lansing  
Teresa Purvis, Lansing Community College  
Rina Risper, The New Citizens Press  
Molly Signs, Clinton County Arts Council  
Ruelaine Stokes, Lansing Poetry Club

## Selection Criteria

Artists should bear in mind that the audiences will be broad-based and of all ages, and should use discretion when acting in the capacity of the Poet Laureate.

### ***Aesthetic Quality***

Do the written and recorded work samples exhibit strong aesthetic merit? Are the works consistently strong? Does the applicant produce poetry on a regular basis?

### ***Community Involvement***

Does the applicant demonstrate a history of involvement and activity within the literary arts?

### ***Potential for Engagement***

Are the poet's proposed projects achievable? Will they engage residents of the Tri-County Area in meaningful ways that further the literary arts in our community?

**Term:** The Poet Laureate appointment is for a two-year term, from May 1, 2017 — April 30, 2019.

**Stipend:** The Poet Laureate will be paid an honorarium of \$2000 per year (\$4000 in total).

## Submission Guidelines

Applicants will need to provide a resume, 5 written poetry work samples and be available to present their work in an interview if they are chosen as one of the top 5 candidates. In addition, applicants will provide a one-page proposal of how they would engage with the public as the Lansing Poet Laureate, including audience, community engagement strategy, and descriptions of workshops or projects that would support the focus or theme of their appointment.

## Scope of Work

- The selected Poet Laureate will offer *a minimum* of 3 instructional workshops and 3 readings per year.
- In addition, each Poet Laureate will plan at least 6 additional hours of contact time with the public per year, in a project that actively engages residents within the Tri-County Area.
- Each Poet Laureate will manage his/her own schedule, be the point of contact for all programming inquiries from the public, arrange details for their programs and coordinate press releases with LEAP.
- Each Poet Laureate will help to facilitate and transition the successor Poet Laureate.
- At the end of the 2 years, the Poet Laureate will write a reflection paper on what she/he has accomplished.

**Recognition:** The Poet Laureate will credit the Lansing Poetry Club, the RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU, and LEAP at all official functions of the position.

# Lansing Poet Laureate—Submission Form

1. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: Friday, March 3, 2017, 5 PM**
2. Submission packets should be sent, or hand-delivered to: LEAP, Attn: Lansing Poet Laureate Project  
1000 South Washington Ave., # 201, Lansing, MI 48910 or emailed to Josh Holliday at [josh@purelansing.com](mailto:josh@purelansing.com)
3. Poets agree that the sponsoring organizations and media may photograph them during their Poet Laureate workshops, readings or projects.
4. Poets agree to sign a contract with LEAP regarding the scope of their work.
5. For further questions or info, contact: Josh Holliday, [josh@purelansing.com](mailto:josh@purelansing.com) or 517-702-3387 x215

To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and submit a packet including all materials listed below. Incomplete applications and extra material will not be considered.

## Nominee Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification: I hereby submit my name for the position of Lansing Poet Laureate. I certify that the nominee information is true and accurate and that the work sample submitted is an accurate representation of my work.

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## (Optional) Nominator Information (if applicant is nominated by someone in Ingham, Eaton or Clinton Counties)

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- This Submission Form**
- Current Resume:** List employment history, published work and involvement in the Tri-County Area (Ingham, Clinton, or Eaton County) with emphasis upon your poetry/literary work within the community.
- Project Proposal:** Please describe a poetry project(s) with which you would engage the public if selected. (Note: each Poet Laureate will plan *at least* 6 additional hours of contact time with the public per year, in a project(s) that actively engages residents within the Ingham/Clinton/Eaton community.)
  - What would be the focus of your term as Poet Laureate?
  - Who would be your primary audience(s)? Which groups would you be most comfortable working with?
  - What would your community project and engagement strategy be?
  - Please present a projected timeline for your project.
  - **Please frame your response within 1000 words.**
- Proof of Residency:** A copy of your MI State ID, or a current bill in your name with a current address.
- Written Work Samples:** Submit five (5) written poems of your own composition that represent the quality of your work. Provide copyright information if appropriate. Please include your name at the top of each page. *Note: written work samples will not be returned, please keep your originals.*
- Work Sample Description Sheet:**
  - Applicant's name
  - Titles of pieces included in the written work samples.
  - Brief Description/synopsis of the included work samples (optional)
- References:** Please list 2 professional references. Please include name, organization, title, primary telephone, email and a brief description of how you know this person.
- Assurances:**
  - All statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.
  - I am eligible to apply for the Lansing Poet Laureate appointment based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the Guidelines for the Lansing Poet Laureate Program.
  - I am available to serve as Poet Laureate, if selected, for the entire 2-year term.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_