

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, February 1, 2019, 5PM

- 2-year appointment with a stipend of \$2000 per year provided by LEAP.
- 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 the Laureate's interests, skills and abilities.
- The applicant must be an experienced and skilled poet, dedicated to producing poetry in textual and 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 — 2019

Sat. Jan. 12, 10AM-Noon	Workshop to assist w/ applications, MICA Gallery, 1210 Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906
Fri., February 1, 5 PM	DEADLINE for Applications for Lansing Poet Laureate
February 6 - 18	Selection Committee Review Period
Feb. 25 – March 1	Interviews with finalists
March 1	Selection Committee recommendation goes to Sponsors
Week of April 1, 2019	Announcement of Lansing Poet Laureate
May 1, 2019	Term of new Lansing Poet Laureate begins

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

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 oral traditions
- Must be able to work independently & have good rapport with various audiences
- Must be an effective public speaker

Selection Committee

Ruelaine Stokes, President, Lansing Poetry Club
Laurie Hollinger, Asst. Director, RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU
Dillon Rush, Place Making Director, LEAP
Guillermo Delgado, Faculty, RCAH at MSU
Dawn Gorman, Arts Council of Greater Lansing
Teresa Purvis, Faculty, Lansing Community College
Kalli Dempsey, Windwalker Gallery, Charlotte
Rina Risper, editor, The New Citizens Press
Dylan Rogers, musician/actor/producer, The Robin Theater
Tim Lane, East Lansing Art Festival
Meegan Holland, East Lansing Arts Commission
Debi Daoust, Exec Director, Clinton County Arts Council

Selection Criteria

Artists should bear in mind that audiences will be broad-based and of all ages, and should use discretion when acting in the capacity of the Poet Laureate. Selection of the Poet Laureate will be made without regard to race, religion, gender, or sexual preference.

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 Potential for Engagement

Does the applicant demonstrate a history of activity within the literary arts?
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 & Stipend: The Lansing Poet Laureate appointment is for a two-year term, from May 1, 2019 — April 30, 2021. The Lansing Poet Laureate will be paid an honorarium of \$2000 per year (\$4000 in total) funded by LEAP.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants will need to provide a resume, 5 written poetry work samples, an optional **live** audio/video recording of a poem, and be available to present their work in an interview if they are chosen as one of the top candidates. In addition, applicants will provide a one-page proposal of a poetry project, including project goals and community engagement strategy.

Scope of Work

- The Poet Laureate will serve as an ambassador for poetry in the Tri-County Area (Clinton, Ingham & Eaton Counties).
- The selected Poet Laureate will offer *a minimum* of 4 instructional workshops/classes and 4 readings per year (including at least 1 workshop/class and 1 reading in each county per year. In addition, the Laureate will implement a project(s) that actively engages residents, increases public awareness of poetry, and leaves “a footprint” of the work accomplished, i.e. a tangible product, program, or placemaking initiative.
- Each Poet Laureate will manage the Laureate's own schedule, serve as the point of contact for all programming inquiries from the public, arrange details for programs and coordinate press releases with LEAP.
- Each Poet Laureate will help to facilitate and transition the successor Poet Laureate.
- The Poet Laureate will provide quarterly reports of the Laureate's work within the community to Dillon Rush at LEAP.
- At the end of the 2 years, the Poet Laureate will write a reflection paper on what the Laureate has accomplished.

Recognition: The Lansing 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, February 1, 2019, 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 Dillon Rush at dillon@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: Dillon Rush at dillon@purelansing.com or 517-331-0069.

To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and submit a packet including all materials listed on the back of this page. 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 implement a project(s) that actively engages residents, increases public awareness of poetry, and leaves “a footprint” of the work accomplished, i.e. a product, program or placemaking initiative.
 - 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 State of Michigan 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.*
- (Optional) Additional Work Sample:** one *live* video or audio recording, can be returned if you make arrangements
- Work Sample Description Sheet:**
 - Applicant’s name
 - Titles of pieces included in the written work samples, and, if included, the video/audio recording
 - Brief Description/synopsis of the included work samples
- 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 Lansing Poet Laureate, if selected, for the entire 2-year term.

Signature: _____

Date: _____