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## FAQ: Lansing Poet Laureate Application

### 1. What are the requirements to become LPL?

- 18 years or older with primary residency in Ingham, Clinton, or Eaton County.
- Must be an experienced & skilled poet within the literary and performance formats.
- Must be able to work independently and have good rapport with various audiences.
- Must be skilled at communicating in public.
- Must have strong social media and promotional skills.
- A commitment towards understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### 2. What are the responsibilities of the LPL?

- To serve as an “Ambassador for Poetry” throughout the Tri-County Area, working to promote poetry as an art form, expand access to the literary arts, and promote poetry as a literary voice that contributes to a sense of place.
- To 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.)
- To implement a project(s) that actively engages residents, increases public awareness of poetry, and leaves a tangible impression, i.e. a product, program, or placemaking initiative of the work accomplished.
- 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, coordinate press releases and other publicity with LEAP, and promote Laureate events/projects on social media and the website.
- To help to facilitate and transition the successor Poet Laureate.
- To provide quarterly reports of the Laureate’s work within the community to Emma Bostwick, Tri-County Development Manager, at LEAP.
- At the end of two years, the Poet Laureate will write a reflection paper on what the Laureate has accomplished.

### 3. What are the goals of the Poet Laureate Program?

- Promote poetry as an art form both in person and through the use of traditional methods and social media.
- Expand access to the literary arts.

- Connect the community to poetry.
  - Promote poetry as a literary voice that contributes to a sense of place.
  - Create projects that leave a tangible impression, i.e. a product, program, or placemaking initiative of the work accomplished.
4. Can you give me more information about the kind of project the sponsors are looking for?
- The sponsors' goal is to enhance the attractiveness of the Lansing Area as a dynamic and creative cultural center, strengthen public awareness of poetry as a resource and tool for creative expression, and widen the audience for poetry and other forms of literary art.
  - We are looking for projects that increase opportunities for poetry and leaves tangible impressions, i.e. a product, program, or placemaking initiative of the work accomplished.
5. What does *placemaking* mean?
- It is a process that “inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of the community.” (Project for Public Spaces)
  - It is community-driven, creative, and unique to each community.
  - It increases and deepens residents' awareness of and connection with their community.
  - It can refer to a visual/physical project or a program/product that enhances spaces such as streets, sidewalks, parks, buildings, etc. or the community as a whole.
  - You can read more about placemaking at the Project for Public Spaces at <https://www.pps.org/category/placemaking>.
6. What is the process of selection?
- By Monday, February 7th, 2022, 5 PM, applicants must submit their application via the application form linked [here](#).
  - A Selection Committee of 9 poets and community arts activists will review the applications and select the finalists. The finalists will be interviewed during the week of February 25th — March 4th. If the Committee is able to agree upon a selection, the recommendation will go to the sponsors on March 4th.
  - A new Lansing Poet Laureate will be announced the week April 4th, 2022. The term of the new laureate will also begin the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
7. Are there any workshops to ask questions or ask for assistance?
- Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM via Zoom (check [www.purelansing.com/poetlaureate](http://www.purelansing.com/poetlaureate) closer to the date for the link).
8. To access the guidelines and application form, go to [www.purelansing.com/poetlaureate](http://www.purelansing.com/poetlaureate).
9. How do I upload the documents to the online application form?

- Begin saving the appropriate documentation that will be needed to submit (i.e. resume, project proposal, work samples, etc.). It is recommended to refer to the “checklist” in the guidelines and application document located on the website.
- Save these documents separately on your device so that they are easy to locate.
- Open the application form located on the website and then click “upload” document(s) for each of the sections within the form.

10. If you have questions, please contact any of the following:

- a. Emma Bostwick, [emma@purelansing.com](mailto:emma@purelansing.com), or 517-388-1947
- b. Laurie Hollinger, [hollin53@msu.edu](mailto:hollin53@msu.edu) or 517-884-1932
- c. Ruelaine Stokes, [ruestokes@gmail.com](mailto:ruestokes@gmail.com) or 517-881-7562