



San Antonio 2018-2020 Poet Laureate Nomination Guidelines

The City of San Antonio is seeking nominations for the position of San Antonio Poet Laureate for the 2018-2020 term. The Poet Laureate is an honorary position whose role is to promote the literary arts and literacy within the community and create a greater appreciation of the poetic arts through the reading and writing of poetry.

The individual selected will serve a two-year term and will receive an honorarium of \$3,500 per year. The Poet Laureate is expected to generate public interest in the literary arts and pursue the preservation of the art of poetry. The selected individual will participate and make appearances at one (1) public event annually, such as a poetry reading and/or theatrical performance, etc.; and recommend one initiative.

Background

The concept of a Poet Laureate originated in England in the 1600s. The title, Poet Laureate, dates back to the ancient Greeks and refers to the tradition of placing a laurel wreath or crown as recognition for significant achievements in literature or the arts.

The United States Poet Laureate was established in 1937. Many U.S. cities such as San Francisco, Denver and Santa Fe currently have a Poet Laureate program. Each municipality establishes guidelines and criteria for the selection of its Poet Laureate and their duties. Texas has appointed a Poet Laureate since 1932 and in 2012 San Antonio was the first major Texas city to recognize and appoint a Poet Laureate.

Duties

The San Antonio Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term. Duties will include:

- Participate in a minimum of one (1) City sponsored and/or selected public event for each year of service.
- Assist in celebrating and inspiring the reading and writing of poetry in our community.
- Work with the City's Department of Arts & Culture to develop and implement a single signature initiative during their two year term. The Department will provide funds to support such implementation.

The duties will be completed at no additional honorarium. The City is unable to provide support to the Poet Laureate for travel expenses, including hotel accommodations, transportation cost, or per diems for appearances outside of San Antonio. This includes appearances at non-city related conferences, educational institution readings, etc.

Eligibility

Nominees must meet all of the following requirements:

- Have a compelling portfolio of published work (none that are self-published or by a vanity press)

- Have an established history of activity in the San Antonio literary community, i.e., readings, publications, public presentations and/or teaching.
- Be a current resident of San Antonio
- Have lived in San Antonio for at least three (3) years
- Pass a standard background check

How To Nominate

Nominations can be submitted beginning **November 29, 2017** and ending **January 12, 2018** at **4:00 p.m.** Central Time.

Self nominations will not be accepted. Nominations will be accepted by email, in person, or postmarked by the deadline.

Submissions delivered in person must be date-stamped at the Department of Arts & Culture front desk.

Email: francis.garner@sanantonio.gov

Mailing Address: PO Box 839966, San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Physical Address: 115 Plaza de Armas, Suite 102, San Antonio, TX 78205

Nomination must contain the following:

- Completed nomination form
- Biographical information for Poet Laureate nominee (limit to 1 page)
- Nominee's community involvement, engagement with the public, and/or social action (limit to 2 pages)
- Resume or curriculum vitae for Poet Laureate nominee (limit to 2 pages)
- Bibliography of published works (limit to 3 pages)
- Samples of original poetry. Spoken word manuscripts may be submitted. (Limit samples to five (5) pages, no more than one poem per page)
- Awards and/or recognitions (limit to 1 page)
- Response to the following questions: Why do you believe this poet merits the title of San Antonio Poet Laureate and believe they are able to represent the City of San Antonio? (**limit to 1 page**)

Nominations submitted for 2016-2018 Poet Laureate Jenny Browne, 2014-2016 Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero, and 2012-2014 Inaugural Poet Laureate Carmen Tafolla may be found at getcreativesanantonio.com.

Review Process

All nominations will be reviewed by the Department of Arts & Culture to ensure the nomination is complete. Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Eligible candidates will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of four (4) nationally accomplished poets from throughout the United States. The committee, to be overseen by a local honorary chair, will rank the candidates based on the nomination packet submitted and recommend the Poet Laureate. The San Antonio Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem will formally appoint the Poet Laureate on April 3, 2018.