



Hillsborough North Carolina Poet Laureate Program

PROGRAM BACKGROUND:

The Honorable Jenn Weaver, Mayor of Hillsborough, NC, is pleased to announce the continuation of the Hillsborough, NC Poet Laureate Program, which is managed by the Hillsborough Arts Council. The Poet Laureate Program has been a respected part of our community since 2010. The program celebrates Hillsborough literary culture and diversity through the work of an established published poet who will represent Hillsborough by creating excitement about poetry through outreach, programs, teaching, and written work.

The Hillsborough, NC Poet Laureate Program aims to extend and build on its rich literary heritage by recognizing and supporting citizen poets of exceptional talent and accomplishment. The Poet Laureate will serve a term of two years. During this time, the Poet Laureate serves as a public voice of Hillsborough NC, creating city-specific works and participating in literary outreach and educational programs. The Poet Laureate is encouraged to nurture appreciation of poetry and literature by conducting public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations in neighborhoods, schools, colleges, universities, and other public settings in geographically diverse areas with representation of Hillsborough, NC.

The Hillsborough, NC Poet Laureate is selected through an open-call process. Nominations and direct proposals are welcome to connect the Arts Council with master poets who wish to be considered for the honor. Nominations will be researched and proposals reviewed by an expert panel, so that one candidate can be appointed by the Mayor and the Arts Council.

PURPOSE:

To appoint the Town of Hillsborough, NC with a Poet Laureate who will encourage the appreciation of poetry and create opportunities for dissemination of poetry in Hillsborough, promote the appreciation and knowledge of poetry among our youth, and act as a spokesperson for the growing number of poets and writers in Hillsborough, NC.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF POET LAUREATE:

Have a passion for poetry, strong ties to the town of Hillsborough, NC and a strong interest in serving the city. Finalists shall read before the panel and shall be interviewed by the committee. Applicants must have resided in Hillsborough for at least one (1) year. Residency is based on the applicant's physical residence [home], not on a P.O. Box, studio/workspace or other property owned by the applicant. Proof of residency is required. Applicants at least 21 years of age and older. Poet must have published at least one book, have a substantial publication history in a variety of journals and media, received recognition in the field (including awards, fellowships, and prizes), and/or demonstrate literary excellence.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

The Poet Laureate is encouraged to nurture appreciation of poetry and literature by conducting public readings, workshops, lectures and presentations in neighborhoods, schools, colleges, universities and other public settings in geographically diverse areas of the city. The Poet Laureate shall be expected to:

- Have the ability to fulfill her/his term in residence within Hillsborough, NC
- Attend/Participate/Read/Perform at annual events (possible such events may include Christmas events, Festivals, and meetings of City Council, etc.);
- Participate in no fewer than two "poetry advocacy" events per year, during which the Poet Laureate shares the art and love of poetry with a non-traditional and/or underserved audience. Examples of poetry advocacy events could include, but are not limited to, a reading at a veterans organization; a workshop at a domestic violence shelter; a group exercise and performance at a correctional institution. Work already planned or scheduled by the poet can be considered.

- Undertake one community outreach project to make poetry available and accessible to people in their everyday lives;

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process is managed by the Hillsborough Arts Council. All proposals will be reviewed by an application review committee, composed of a team of persons with combined knowledge about: poetry, prose, creative writing, public programs, and the Town of Hillsborough, NC.

Stage 1 – Request for Qualifications

To nominate a poet the following required to submit:

- Two work samples, consisting of PDF copies of published poems and/or weblinks to videos of poetry readings or performances.
- Poet being nominated information
 - Name
 - Phone Number
 - Email address

All Stage 1 submissions will be reviewed and scored on the following two criteria:

- Ability for the panel to assess the candidates prior experiences on her/his website or other works
- The quality of poetry samples in relation to the talent-pool and multicultural literary talent of Hillsborough, NC.

Stage 2 – Request for Proposals

The Review Committee will select the top 5 - 10 candidates from Stage 1, who will be asked to submit:

- A brief biography (7 to 10 sentences);
- A full resume
- A proposal narrative (of no more than two pages) which must describe how the applicant intends to approach the scope of work and goals of this program; and,
- Up to four additional recent work samples, consisting of PDF copies of published poems and/or weblinks to videos of poetry readings or performances.

Stage 3 - Interview and Perform at Last Friday

Two to Three finalists will be interviewed by the the committee members associated with the Hillsborough Arts Council.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All application materials for Stage 1 must be submitted electronically via email to The Hillsborough Arts Council. Incomplete and late submissions will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.

TYPICAL HONORARIUM : \$3000 (\$1500/year)

CONTACT

Questions about the application process should be addressed to The Hillsborough Arts Council at laureate@hillsboroughartscouncil.org for more information call (919) 643-2500.