



## Poet Laureate Guideline and Timeline

The Board of Library Trustees of the Watsonville Public Library approved the establishment of the position of the Watsonville Poet Laureate, commencing in January 2022, to elevate the art of poetry in the City of Watsonville and to help celebrate the literary arts.

**Oversight:** The Watsonville Public Library will establish a Watsonville Poet Laureate Committee that includes: a representative from the Library Board, a Library Staff member and three members-at-large from the community who are interested in supporting the role of the Poet Laureate in Watsonville. The Watsonville Poet Laureate Committee will review and vet the applications/nominations and recommend nominees to the Library Director.

**Appointment:** The Mayor will appoint the Watsonville Poet Laureate via a proclamation at a city council meeting.

**Nominations:** Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by other city residents through an online application made available by the public library. The application form will include contact information for the poet (mailing address, phone number and email address).

### Eligibility Criteria/Qualifications:

- The Watsonville Poet Laureate will be available to serve a two-year term.
- The individual will be a current Watsonville/Freedom resident who has lived in the city for no less than one year and continue to live in the city throughout the appointment.
- The individual must have achieved a level of recognition through one of the following:
  - a) published book(s) (excluding self-published and vanity presses),
  - b) a variety of journals and media,
  - c) events/community involvement,
  - d) have received recognition in the field, and/or
  - e) demonstrate literary excellence.
- The poet must have demonstrated a commitment to and a passion for promoting awareness of poetry and whose work (literary or otherwise) demonstrates a commitment to social justice, equity, and diversity.
- The individual must be 18 years of age and older.

Duties:

- Represent the City of Watsonville and the art of poetry through outreach.
- Act as a resource for poetry and literary activities of the Watsonville Public Library.
- Read poems at ceremonial events (examples could include at the unveiling of a new building or bridge that will benefit the community), at City Council or other public meetings.
- Champion the art of poetry and the spoken word in the city in person and on social media.
- Encourage appreciation of the art form and creative expression by a wide range of city residents, including youth.
- Celebrate the city's cultural heritage.
- Attend literary and other cultural events in the city as appropriate.
- Able to give 5-10 public readings and workshops that are free and open to the public, including visits to schools and/or events for all ages.

Length of term: Two years, renewable for another two years.

Honorarium: \$2,000 for two years

Timeline:

June — Call for nominations

July — Call for committee members

August 30 — Deadline for nominations to be received

November— City Poet Laureate Committee meets to select finalists and recommendation submitted to the Library Director

December — City Poet Laureate Committee selects City Poet Laureate and City Poet Laureate notified

January — City Poet Laureate proclamation prepared and announced at City Council meeting

*Approved by Library Board: May 20, 2021*