



CALL FOR POETS

The City of Richmond is now accepting applications for the City's Poet Laureate program. The program began in April 2012. Dwayne Parish was our first Poet Laureate. Since then we have had two 3-poet teams of Poets Laureate: Donte Clark, Brenda Quintanilla, and Lincoln Bergman in 2015-17; and Ciera-Jevae Gordon, Rob Lipton, and Daniel Ari in 2018-19.

The purpose of the Poet Laureate program is to provide a focus for the appreciation and dissemination of poetry in Richmond, promote the knowledge of poetry among our youth, and act as a spokesperson for the growing number of poets and writers in Richmond. We recognize poetry as an important part of our culture and history, and believe that it enhances our ability in vocabulary, critical analytical skills, and reading comprehension.

Poet applicants shall submit the following by September 30, 2019:

- 1) Evidence of a body of work, whether published, self-published or unpublished
- 2) Evidence of a history of advocacy for poetry
- 3) Selections from their works, not to exceed ten pages
- 4) Two personal or professional references
- 5) Proof of current residency in Richmond
- 6) A statement of availability for the two-year term

DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS: The Richmond Poet Laureate shall be appointed for a term of two years, beginning November 1, 2019 and ending two years later on November 30, 2021.

An annual \$1,000 stipend is offered for the position. The Richmond Poet Laureate will be required to participate in various events and activities, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Visit schools and attend city, library and school functions as needed;
- 2) Write a poem about Richmond that will be placed in a notebook to be available at the library;
- 3) Write a summation of his/her impressions and experiences as Poet Laureate six months prior to the end of the two-year term, with the purpose of providing information that will help to improve, adjust or adapt the parameters of the post and/or the application process;
- 4) Give a reading at a special event at the beginning of the two-year term;
- 5) If deemed appropriate by the committee, and if funding is available, the Poet Laureate may be asked to edit a chapbook consisting of his/her work or of the collected work of Richmond poets;
- 6) Write a poem for, and/or participate in, National Poetry Month (April);
- 7) Serve as a judge for the annual *Richmond Writes!* student poetry writing contest;
- 8) Write a poem for, and/or participate in, National Arts and Humanities Month (October).

If the Poet Laureate is not able to complete a full term, the Poet Laureate Committee shall accept applications for a replacement, and their replacement will complete the remaining portion of the two-year term. If approved by the Poet Laureate Committee, the successor may serve another term.

Selection Criteria:

- Written copies of poems by the applicant and/or poetry publications
- Public speaking ability
- Writing skills

The Poet Laureate sub-committee is appointed by the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission and the Public Art Advisory Committee, and will preside over the appointment process. The sub-committee is responsible for selecting the poet for the 2014-15 term. Finalists will read their poetry before the panel, and will be interviewed by them.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Applications should be sent either by email or regular mail to the following:

Michele_seville@ci.richmond.ca.us or Michele Seville, Arts & Culture Manager, 440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

RICHMOND POET LAUREATE APPLICATION FORM:

Poet:

Name:

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you a current resident of the City of Richmond? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you work in Richmond? _____ Yes _____ No

References (2):

Name:

Address:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name:

Address:

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My poetry has been published: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, my poetry was published in: _____ on __/__/__

My poetry was self-published: _____ Yes _____ No

Have you advocated for poetry in any ways other than writing it and presenting public readings? Explain:

I affirm that I, to the best of my knowledge, will be available for the two-year term of Poet Laureate from November 1, 2019 through November 30, 2021.

Signature: _____