

CHAPEL HILL POET LAUREATE

Program Guidelines



Overview

The mission of the Chapel Hill Poet Laureate is to inspire creativity and celebrate community through poetry, public programs, and shared poetry experiences.

The Poet Laureate carries out this mission by being an ambassador for poetry, by fostering connections to the poetry community, and by enhancing the social and civic life of the Chapel Hill community at large.

Term: Two-year appointment, beginning in January of odd-numbered years (e.g. Jan 2023 – Dec 2024)

Compensation: \$3,000 total, paid in two annual distributions

Managing Department: Community Arts & Culture

Responsibilities

The Poet Laureate will work with Town staff and stakeholders to jointly design a timeline of deliverables during his/her tenure. Deliverables may include but are not limited to:

- Commissions for poems on special community occasions.
- Performances at key community moments like festivals, events, and council meetings.
- Experiences for poetry to be shared in the community.
- Workshops or training opportunities.
- Regularly schedule meetings.

Community Arts & Culture will solicit, receive, and manage requests for the Poet Laureate's time on behalf of the Town of Chapel Hill.

The Town may provide the office holder additional opportunities for contracted work outside of their official duties as Poet Laureate.

Selection Process

Community Arts & Culture will issue an open call for Poet Laureate in August of even-numbered years. Selection will be made through a juried review process.

Applicants will share general information, a poetry resume, a portfolio, and respond to interest questions:

- In less than 200 words, explain why you want to be Chapel Hill's next Poet Laureate.
- What are your ideas for carrying out the Poet Laureate duties?

The selection committee will consist of the past Chapel Hill Poet Laureate, a Community Arts & Culture staff member, a Chapel Hill Public Library staff member, an Arts Commission member, a Council member, and may include others.