

COMMUNITY **ARTS** PARTNERSHIP

2019 Poet Laureate of Tompkins County Program Guidelines

Deadline: Friday, November 9th

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About “CAP”

The Community Arts Partnership strengthens the arts in Tompkins County by providing services and resources for artists and arts groups, and leads collaboration among the arts, government, education, business, and the community at large. Visit ArtsPartner.org for more information.

Program Overview

The title of Poet Laureate is a time-honored tradition. In 1668, England officially established the post as a royal office. In the 19th century some local Poet Laureates were recognized in their communities. In 1937 the US created the position of national poet laureate.

The position of Tompkins County Poet Laureate was established by the Tompkins County Legislature in 2001 to honor local outstanding poets, integrate poetry into the community, enrich the education of our young people, and enhance the County’s position as a cultural center.

Since its establishment, the selection and announcement of the Tompkins County Poet Laureate has been a process administered by the Community Arts Partnership (CAP). CAP solicits nominations and organizes the selection panel for appointment to the post.

Appointments have been for two-year terms. This is an honorary position without salary.

Duties

The Poet Laureate’s named duties over the period of his/her appointment include:

1. Presentations of his/her poetry at a Tompkins County Legislature meeting.
2. Organize presentations at other appropriate public events, at least once each quarter for his/her term.

3. Advocacy of poetry in the community, including, but not limited to, bringing poetry to school children, projects or programs that promote the appreciation of poetry, or poetry workshops with underserved populations in the community.

Review Criteria

Nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate must:

1. Be a resident of Tompkins County for at least two years.
2. Be a published author with a body of high quality work.
3. Be comfortable in the performance of poetry in public.
4. Be willing to advocate and educate people about poetry throughout the county.

Nominations

Nominations may come from individuals or organizations within or outside Tompkins County. Tompkins County Poets may self-nominate. Each nomination must contain the following items submitted electronically as a PDF or Word document to director@artspartner.org:

1. Cover letter from the nominator identifying the nominator and/or the nominating organization with the recommendation of the nominee.
2. Name and resume of the poet nominated with contact information and a statement of interest by the poet (if not self-nominating).
3. Three to six poems by the poet.

Review Process

All nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of a past poet laureate, community members, and CAP staff.

Using the criteria listed above, the panel will make a recommendation for official approval by the Tompkins County Legislature.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be submitted electronically to director@artspartner.org by 5:00 PM Friday, November 9th. Announcement of the selection will be made in December. The selected poet typically reads at a January meeting of the Tompkins County Legislature, when his/her title is officially declared.

CAP welcomes all questions regarding this program and application. For more information on this program, please call Executive Director, John Spence at 273-2072 x 19 or email director@artspartner.org.