



Oklahoma State Poet Laureate 2019-2020 Nomination Guidelines

On behalf of the Office of the Governor, the Oklahoma Arts Council manages nominations for the honorary position of Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. A tradition that originated hundreds of years ago, poets laureate have historically been conferred by governments to make public appearances at poetry readings, lectures, literary, and other events to promote a greater appreciation of poetry. In addition to the United States Poet Laureate, most U.S. states have established a poet laureate program.

Nominations for Oklahoma State Poet Laureate are accepted by the Oklahoma Arts Council during even-numbered years. Submissions are accepted from poetry societies, libraries, local arts and humanities councils, colleges and universities, and writers' groups. Organizations may submit only one nomination.

The Oklahoma Arts Council coordinates the work of the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate Nomination Review Committee, whose recommendation is submitted to the Governor for consideration. Selection of the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate rests solely with the Governor. The Oklahoma State Poet Laureate serves a two-year term.

Eligibility

The nominee must be a distinguished poet who is a resident of Oklahoma throughout his/her term and has a published body of work that includes at least one original book (not self-published). The nominee should be committed to outreach and the promotion of poetry statewide. The nominee must also indicate agreement to be nominated.

Compensation

Due to Oklahoma Arts Council budget cuts, there is no direct compensation in the form of honoraria for the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, however, the Oklahoma Arts Council promotes the opportunity for eligible organizations to apply to the Oklahoma Arts Council for grant funding for programs featuring the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. Programs must meet grant funding criteria.

Nomination Review Committee

The Nomination Review Committee consists of individuals with expertise in literary art forms, including poets, university professors, former state poets laureate, and others. The final determination and appointment is made by the Governor.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2018.

Past Poets Laureate

1923 Violet McDougal
1931 Paul Kroeger
1940 Jenny Harris Oliver
1941 Della I. Young
1942 Anne R. Semple
1945 Bess Truitt
1963 Delbert Davis
1966 Rudolph N. Hill

1970 Leslie A. McRill
1970 Rudolph N. Hill (Emeritus)
1977 Maggie Culver Fry
1995 Carol Hamilton
1996 Betty Shipley
1997 Joe Kreger
2001 Carl Sennhenn
2003 Francine Ringold

2007 N. Scott Momaday
2009 Jim Barnes
2011 Eddie Wilcoxen
2013 Nathan Brown
2015 Benjamin Myers
2017 Jeanetta Calhoun Mish



Oklahoma State Poet Laureate 2019-2020 Nomination Form

To nominate an individual for the honorary position of 2019-2020 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, please review the program guidelines, provide the following information, and return all required materials postmarked no later than June 30, 2018.

Nominee: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nomination submitted by: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please have the nominee sign below to indicate his/her agreement to be nominated:

Signature of Nominee: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

The Oklahoma State Poet Laureate program is facilitated by the Oklahoma Arts Council on behalf of the Office of the Governor. Although recommendations for Oklahoma State Poet Laureate are made to the Governor by members of the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate Nomination Review Committee, the selection authority rests solely with the Governor.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Oklahoma Arts Council budget cuts, we are no longer able to offer a stipend to the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. Eligible organizations and schools interested in presenting the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate to present readings and/or workshops are encouraged to apply for Oklahoma Arts Council grant funding.

Required Documents

- Completed nomination form
- One-page narrative that explains why the nominee should be selected as Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. Keep in mind the role of the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate is to engage the public.
- Resume that lists education, publications, awards, and recent activities such as poetry readings and workshops.
- Samples of nominee's work: 10 to 20 poems photocopied on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Include a copy of the title page of the publication in which they appeared.

Optional Attachments

- Copies of newspaper articles and/or published reviews of nominee's work (on 8 ½" x 11" paper)
- Letters of recommendation

Note: Because we must photocopy nomination packets for the Nomination Review Committee, please do not include copies of the nominee's books, and please do not staple nomination materials or enclose them in a notebook, folder, or sleeve.

Mail nomination form and materials to:

Oklahoma State Poet Laureate Nomination Review Committee
c/o Joel Gavin
Oklahoma Arts Council
PO Box 52001-2001
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2001

Nominations must be postmarked by June 30, 2018.

For more information on the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate program, visit arts.ok.gov or contact Joel Gavin at (405) 521-2037 or joel.gavin@arts.ok.gov.