



KERN COUNTY POET LAUREATE

Call for Nominations for Kern County Poet Laureate

The Arts Council of Kern is seeking submissions for its first Poet Laureate to represent, promote, and educate Kern County and the State about the art of poetry. This is a unique opportunity to showcase an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the literary arts through poetry.

Definition: The person honored with the title of Poet Laureate has achieved preeminence in the field of poetry through his or her public performances and through published works of poetry.

Mission: The mission of the Poet Laureate of Kern County is to promote an appreciation of poetry as a literary art for listeners, readers, and writers of poetry.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- *Raises awareness of poetry as a literary art in Kern County.
- *Promotes community awareness of the literary arts and encourages community members to develop their own creative interests
- * Accepts, with the Arts Council of Kern, a proclamation for April as National Poetry Month from The Kern County Board of Supervisors.
- *Provides readings of original poetry about Kern County at community functions such as at the Kern County Board of Supervisors, Bakersfield City, the Arts Council of Kern, or other public events, for a minimum of four times throughout the term of service.
- *Participates actively in ceremonial, educational and cultural activities in the community at various times throughout his or her term of service.
- *Provides at least two workshops on poetry, one at an academic setting and another for the general public, during term of service.
- *Increases visibility of poetry as an integral part of the artistic community locally, regionally and statewide.



Term of Service: The Poet Laureate for Kern County is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve a two-year term, commencing in April 2019. **The Arts Council of Kern will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per year.** The \$2,000 honorarium shall encompass civic or official work performed or produced in the roles and responsibilities of this position.

Term Expectations:

As a condition of the appointment, the Poet Laureate will participate in a minimum of four public functions when called upon throughout the term of service. Additionally, the Poet Laureate shall aim to be actively involved with local schools and endeavor to create or facilitate workshops and readings that will bring the Poet Laureate into contact with students and the public.

To the extent possible, the Poet Laureate also will establish programs to coincide with his or her term of service to promote community awareness of the literary arts and to encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

Who May be Nominated:

Must be a current resident of, or work in the County of Kern and its environs for at least five years.

Must be available to travel throughout the Kern County community.

Must be a recognized poet/spoken word artist who meets the criteria listed below.

Nominees for Kern County Poet Laureate must meet the following criteria:

Should have a proven history of substantial publication of individual poems and/or books.

Should share a connection to Kern County by his or her influence on other writers in the community.

Should be able to demonstrate their appreciation for Kern County concerning its culturally diverse community.

Should have an established history of activity in the Kern County literary community, i.e. readings, publications, public presentations, and /or teaching.



1330 Truxtun Ave., Suite B
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Office: 661.324.9000
Fax: 661.324.1136
www.kernarts.org

Nominations due by January 31, 2019

To the Arts Council of Kern Office via email david.gordon@kernarts.org

Mailed: 1330 Truxtun Ave Suite B, Bakersfield, CA 93301

KERN COUNTY POET LAUREATE NOMINATION FORM:

Self nominations are not permitted

Nominee _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home _____ Cell# _____

Email _____

The selection committee is a qualified cross section of Kern County poets, with academia, Writers of Kern, and Arts Council of Kern board members.





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NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY: _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Candidates will be notified by mail no later than March 19, 2019.

Please contact David Gordon with any questions at

david.gordon@kernarts.org or 661.324.9000