
City of Vancouver Poet Laureate

Call for Expressions of Interest

The City of Vancouver invites members of the literary community to submit nominations and expressions of interest for the position of Poet Laureate, the third in the City's history. The Poet Laureate position was established by City Council in December 2006 to honour and celebrate the contribution of literature and poetry to life in Vancouver. Also in 2006, Dr. Yosef Wosk provided funding for a generous endowment to support the Poet Laureate position.

The Poet Laureate, 'the people's poet,' is an honorary three-year position. During that term, the Laureate will act as a champion for poetry, language and the arts and create a unique artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions. The Poet Laureate is also expected to attend a variety of civic functions, participate in public poetry events in Vancouver and complete one or more special civic projects. The general mandate is to raise the status of poetry in the everyday consciousness of Vancouverites and each Poet Laureate will be free to pursue an individual agenda in addition to their civic duties.

Nominations/applications are invited for/from published poets who currently reside in the City of Vancouver and who have either an established body of work or have been recognized for notable contributions early in their career.

Submissions will be evaluated by a peer Committee comprised of representatives of the literary/poetry community who will be nominated by the Vancouver International Writers Festival. Submissions must include examples of artistic work as well as specific proposals on how the poet will create, present or perform works of poetry relevant to civic events and the lives of Vancouver citizens.

Terms of Reference

1. Eligibility Criteria

- published poets who currently reside in the City of Vancouver;
- who have either an established body of work or have been recognized for notable contributions early in their career;
- have produced a minimum of two published works (not self-published) as well as other publications that display literary excellence; and
- some of their work should be relevant to Vancouver and/or subjects that reflect the life of the city.

2. Selection Criteria

- excellence of the poet's work;
- publication of at least two volumes of work;
- has made a significant contribution to poetry and the literary life of Vancouver;
- reputation as a poet of stature;
- has influenced other local writers and poets;
- viability of the proposed poetry/civic events; and
- potential impact on the community of the proposed poetry/civic events.

3. Selection Process

Eligible poets are invited to submit proposals that include the following materials:

- curriculum vitae;
- examples of published work;
- proposal detailing how the poet would represent the City of Vancouver and interact in civic life;
- proposal detailing the poet's potential special civic project(s); and
- confirmation of place of residence.

Nominations will also be accepted where the nominee has agreed in writing and provided the materials outlined above.

4. Duties

The Poet Laureate will be expected to:

- participate in the literary life of the City;
- produce new original works during their term that reflect or represent ideas and issues of importance to the people of Vancouver;
- present, in person, works of significance at civic events, City Council meetings, or official functions;
- read from their work at the annual Mayor's Arts Awards and other civic cultural events;
- provide content for the Poet Laureate website, vancouververse.ca; and
- such other duties as are proposed in their submission and are deemed viable by the Assessment Committee.

5. Term and Remuneration

The Poet Laureate will be selected for a period of three years commencing in October 2011. The stipend is \$15,000 at a rate of \$5,000 per year. Additional funds may be available to support Laureate activities dependant upon financial resources.

6. Intellectual Property

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the tenure of the Poet Laureate will remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

Deadline for expressions of interest - August 26, 2011

Hard copy expressions of interest should be sent to:

City of Vancouver Poet Laureate Selection Committee
Library Administration
7th Floor
Vancouver Public Library
350 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6B 6B1

For more information please contact:

Jean Kavanagh
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Vancouver Public Library
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