

Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Application

Poet Laureate Mission and Role in the Community

The Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate is an honorary position. The Poet Laureate will elevate poetry in our community, educating the public about the value of creative expression, inspiring diverse voices to emerge, creating new points of connection among residents in our county, and increasing access to our cultural resources. The Poet Laureate will be selected through a community panel process and officially appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Poet Laureate represents the community and the County of Santa Cruz, and must conduct themselves accordingly.

Santa Cruz County has a tradition of poets laureate going back to 2010 when Gary Young became the first Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz County.

The position is sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz Department of Parks, Open Spaces, and Cultural Services, in collaboration with the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Arts Council Santa Cruz County, and Poetry Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Duties:

- Serve a two-year term
- Participate in County-wide events and readings, including at least three in Santa Cruz Public Libraries' locations spread across the County
- Create a project engaging communities in poetry

The Poet Laureate's duties are supported by a \$2000 grant funded by Arts Council Santa Cruz County.

Eligibility

- 18 years of age or older
- Current resident of Santa Cruz County
- Actively working in the field of poetry and published or recognized for your contributions. Recognition may include awards, positive literary reviews, fellowships, experience organizing poetry/literary events, and/or experience organizing or leading relevant workshops
- Able to fulfill the duties of the position

The Poet Laureate represents the County and interacts with youth, therefore the finalist will need to complete a background check before appointment. Results will be kept confidential. Information will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is a direct connection with an applicant's ability to fulfill the duties of Poet Laureate or that could impact safety. A past

criminal conviction will not automatically prohibit an individual from eligibility. Immigration status and driving offenses recorded by the DMV will not be checked.

Application

The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 11:59 pm.

Applications and supporting files should be submitted through this online form.

If you are unable to apply online, a PDF of the complete application is available for download or for pick up at Santa Cruz Public Libraries [branch locations](#).

All supporting files must be included for the application to be considered complete.

In reviewing applications, the selection panel will consider:

40 points - Artistic achievement in poetry

20 points - Community engagement experience and ability to communicate well across a diverse range of communities

20 points - Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion

20 points - Alignment of proposed project with Poet Laureate mission and role

Selection Panel

The selection panel is composed of seven members appointed in 2022, who will serve either a 4- or 6-year term

- Santa Cruz County Arts Commissioner (4 yr. term)
- Arts Council Santa Cruz County Board Member or staff
- Current/immediate past Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate (4 yr. term)
- Student member (a poet)
- A member of a group that serves writers of color
- A spoken-word poet
- At-large community member

Questions? Contact:

Phone tel:+18314277713

Email poetlaureate@santacruzpl.org

Application Form

Name

Mailing Address

Email

Phone

Confirm you are 18 years of age or older (checkbox)

Confirm you are a current resident of Santa Cruz County (checkbox)

Please submit:

- Resume including evidence of a significant body of original work. Work may be published or self-published or performed and may appear online or in print. Include relevant awards and training, performances, presentations and publications.
- Poetry samples - no more than 10 pages. Performance poets may also submit up to two links to recorded work samples in audio or video formats, no more than 5-minutes each, accompanied by a brief description
- Personal statement up to two pages including:
 - Your advocacy for the art of poetry
 - Your experience with community engagement and collaboration
- Description up to two pages of your proposed project
 - How do you hope to engage diverse communities in poetry?
 - What impact do you want your program to have?
 - How will your work serve communities throughout Santa Cruz County?
- Two letters of recommendation or literary reviews that reflect your contributions to the art of poetry and engagement in the Santa Cruz community