

City of Orlando - 2021 Poet Laureate Program Guidelines

OVERALL MESSAGE

Orlando is an international city, which offers its residents, businesses and visitors a variety of arts and cultural offerings. Mayor Buddy Dyer and the Orlando City Council acknowledge the cultural, economic and quality of life value of the arts in Orlando through the city's strong support of visual, performance and literary arts. Orlando is a young, vibrant city with many important stories to tell. Orlando's Poet Laureate will be the city's official storyteller.

In September 2017, Mayor Dyer appointed Orlando's first Poet Laureate. The purpose of the Orlando Poet Laureate position is to promote poetry and an appreciation of poetry among the general public and to inspire an emerging generation of literary artists and readers of literature. The Orlando Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for the City of Orlando and the greater Central Florida community, fostering public appreciation of and participation in poetry and literary arts. The Poet Laureate will reflect the diverse and inclusive spirit of the community by promoting literary education in our schools and communities, and by sharing poetry with the people of Orlando. Each Poet Laureate will bring his/her unique and different emphasis to the position.

The process of selecting Orlando's second Poet Laureate will be conducted in partnership with [United Arts of Central Florida](#). Both organizations are committed to helping the City foster a robust literary community in Orlando and Central Florida.

PROJECT DETAILS

Program Timeline

- Late April - Mayor Dyer announces the search for the second City Poet Laureate and introduces the city's Poet Laureate Search Committee members representing: University of Central Florida, Valencia College, Rollins College, Orange County Library System, Burrow Press and accomplished local poets, with United Arts interim CEO serving as an Ex-Officio member. Selection process is managed by the city's Office of Community Affairs and United Arts of Central Florida, with the Mayor choosing Orlando's second Poet Laureate from three finalists selected by the panel.
- April 26-June 18 Orlando's Poet Laureate applications accepted
- June 18 (5pm) Deadline for applications
- July Poet Laureate Search Committee convenes
- August Mayor interviews finalists
- October Mayor announces Orlando's Poet Laureate – National Arts and Humanities Month.
- October Mayor introduces and appoints Poet Laureate at City Council meeting.
- Oct. 2021-Oct. 2024 3-year term of Poet Laureate, who serves at the pleasure of the Mayor, and requires annual renewals.

Eligibility

The nominee must:

- Be a resident of or work in Central Florida (Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Brevard, Volusia, or Lake County) for at least one year prior to application and must reside in Central Florida for at least ten months of each year.
- Have ties to the City of Orlando and a strong interest in serving the city.
- Show evidence of achievement in the art of poetry, including substantial publications (books, literary magazines, and/or digital media).
- Have received significant literary recognition or awards.
- Demonstrate excellence in promoting awareness or enjoyment of poetry.

- Understand and embrace Orlando’s diverse cultures and history.
- Have documented experience in public speaking, teaching and/or public performance.
- Be at least 21 years of age and not currently enrolled in a full-time academic program.
- Be able and willing to conduct the public engagement duties of the Poet Laureate
- Demonstrate prior experience working with youth and youth programs.
- Be willing to sign a Letter of Agreement with the City specifying terms.

Past Poets Laureate are not eligible for additional years after the end of their terms of service.

Selection Process

Mayor Buddy Dyer has appointed the Poet Laureate Search Committee, a group of diverse poets, scholars, arts leaders and literary experts, to assist in the selection process. The Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs in partnership with United Arts of Central Florida will convene and facilitate the selection process. This committee includes representatives from University of Central Florida, Valencia College, Rollins College, Orange County Library System, Burrow Press and accomplished local poets, with United Arts CEO serving as an Ex-Officio member.

The search committee will review all eligible applications, which will be scored on a 30-point scale, with up to 20 points for artistic merit of the work samples, and up to 10 points for experience and background. The names of three finalists with committee rankings will be forwarded to Mayor Dyer for final selection. Finalists will be interviewed (in person or via Skype) in late September 2021. The Poet Laureate will be announced in October 2021, during National Arts and Humanities Month.

Functions/Duties

- The Poet Laureate shall present original works of poetry at up to four of the Mayor’s and/or City’s annual events per year, as requested by the City of Orlando.
- The Poet Laureate will engage with local students and youth in various City Commissioner’s district and will be featured in United Arts’ directory of available education programs on www.UAArtsEd.com.
- The City of Orlando will work with the Poet Laureate to facilitate press coverage related to key activities.
- The Poet Laureate will be featured in an issue of United Arts’ bimonthly publication, *Orlando Arts Magazine*.
- The Poet Laureate will be involved in the city’s poetry contest “Words & Wonders”.
- The Poet Laureate would advance the cities focus on diversity, equity and inclusion as a priority of the city of Orlando.

Terms & Compensation

- The Poet Laureate serves at the pleasure of the Mayor, is appointed for a term of one year, with annual renewals by the Mayor for a total of up to three years based on the City of Orlando’s evaluation.
- The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$3,000 per year for up to a three-year term, plus reimbursement for approved (related) expenses.
- The annual stipend honors the poet’s achievements and helps to defray expenses not reimbursed by individual organizations where the Poet Laureate is a guest. The Poet Laureate is permitted to accept honoraria or remuneration from host organizations during the term of service, with the City’s prior approval.
- The Poet Laureate reserves the rights to any compensation from his/her poetry during his/her term. However, the City of Orlando may publish and/or distribute such poetry without charge to the city, except covering costs.
- The Poet Laureate will sign a Letter of Agreement with the City specifying terms.