



# CALL FOR ARTISTS SANTA BARBARA POET LAUREATE

## Application Guidelines

### Statement of Purpose:

The City of Santa Barbara is seeking applications for the position of Santa Barbara Poet Laureate for the 2023-2025 term. The selected poet shall seek to advance awareness of, access to, and appreciation for poetry, spoken word, self-expression and the literary arts within the greater Santa Barbara community.

As both a local resident and a civically engaged poet, the Poet Laureate shall uplift the artistic achievements of the City and local communities through active participation in ceremonial, educational, and/or cultural activities. To the extent possible, the Poet Laureate also will promote community awareness of the literary arts and encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

Poets with diverse backgrounds, especially those from historically marginalized communities, are encouraged to participate.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023.

### About the Position:

The Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara is an honorary position. The Laureate serves for a two-year term, commencing in April.

The City will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of \$2,000, to encompass all civic and official work performed or produced in the position. The Laureate may also be offered the opportunity to receive an additional stipend for serving as a 'Poetry Out Loud' Mentor.

The Santa Barbara Public Library serves as the official office of the Poet Laureate and a major partner in the stewardship of the program.

### Service Expectations:

As a condition of appointment, the Poet Laureate will participate in at least four civic functions each year as determined by the City in conjunction with the Office of Arts & Culture and Santa Barbara Public Library. These would include, for example, the inaugural meeting each year of the Santa Barbara City Council and other significant events or festivals.

Additionally, the Poet Laureate shall aim to create, curate or facilitate events, workshops and/or readings that make poetry more available and accessible to local residents.

The Laureate will be installed at a meeting of the Santa Barbara City Council in conjunction with the Mayor's Proclamation of April as Poetry Month. Past Laureates will attend to represent the program's legacy and pass the honor. The new Laureate will be invited to read an inaugural poem.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applications may be submitted by any individual in the Greater Santa Barbara community. Bilingual candidates are encouraged.

Candidates must:

- Be over 18 years of age
- Currently live or work in Santa Barbara, CA and its environs, with at least five concurrent years of residency in the vicinity
- Be willing and available to travel throughout the greater Santa Barbara community
- Be a community-engaged artist who meets the review criteria listed below
- Provide a letter of nomination or a letter of community support

Review Criteria:

- Demonstrated publication of poems, songs and/or books, via print or online platforms, including social media. Spoken word poets and songwriters are also eligible. Applicants must provide corresponding documentation of work, including video and audio links
- An established history of activity and engagement in the Santa Barbara community, i.e., readings, public presentations, performances, publications, mentorship and/or teaching, including support of other artists and the poetry community
- Recognition as demonstrated by special honors, awards, testimonials or community leadership roles

Required Submission Materials:

- A brief statement of interest in the position
- Up to five original poems or songs, citing the title, publisher or online platform, and publication date
- At least one Letter of Nomination or Letter of Community Support
- Highlights of the poet's community engagement
- Resume or curriculum vitae (two-page maximum)
- Any relevant social media handles and/or website
- Candidate contact information, including address, phone number, and e-mail

***Failure to provide all required materials results in automatic ineligibility.***

Selection Process:

The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara based upon the recommendation of the review panel. The panel will consist of members of the City Arts Advisory Committee, the City Council member serving as liaison to the Arts Advisory Committee, a representative from the Santa Barbara Public Library, as well as one representative from the Santa Barbara literary community. The panel will select three top candidates based upon the criteria as set forth above to interview before determining a final recommendation.

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 24, 2023**

Applications may be submitted by email to [contact@sbac.ca.gov](mailto:contact@sbac.ca.gov) or mailed to the address below. Material submitted will not be returned. **Electronic applications are strongly encouraged.**

Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture  
C/O Poet Laureate Review Committee  
P.O. Box 2369  
Santa Barbara, California 93120

*For further information regarding the Santa Barbara Poet Laureate position, please contact the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture at (805) 568-3992 or email: [contact@sbac.ca.gov](mailto:contact@sbac.ca.gov).*