



2021 Poet Laureate of Tompkins County Program Guidelines

Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2020

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About the Community Arts Partnership

The Community Arts Partnership (CAP) strengthens the arts in Tompkins County by providing services and resources for artists and arts groups, and leads collaboration among the arts, government, education, business, and the community at large. Visit ArtsPartner.org for more information.

Program Overview

A poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring organization. The tradition is believed to have started in what is now Italy in the 14th century. Today, more than a dozen countries around the world continue the tradition. The United States created the position of national poet laureate in 1937, and today many U.S. states and communities name their own poets laureate.

The position of Tompkins County Poet Laureate was established by the Tompkins County Legislature in 2001 to honor local outstanding poets, integrate poetry into the community, enrich the education of our young people, and enhance the county's position as a cultural center.

Since its establishment, the selection and announcement of the Tompkins County Poet Laureate has been a process administered by the Community Arts Partnership (CAP). CAP solicits nominations and organizes the selection panel for appointment to the post.

Appointments have been for two-year terms. This is an honorary position without salary.

Duties

The Poet Laureate's named duties over the period of her/his/their appointment include:

1. Presenting her/his/their poetry at one or more Tompkins County Legislature meetings.
2. Organizing presentations at other appropriate public events, at least once each quarter for her/his/their term.

3. Advocating for poetry in the community, including, but not limited to, bringing poetry to school children, projects or programs that promote the appreciation of poetry, or poetry workshops with under-resourced populations in the community.

Review Criteria

Nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate must:

1. Be a resident of Tompkins County for at least two years.
2. Be a poet who has been published in print or in online journals or whose work has been shared through spoken word events; and whose work helps people make collective meaning, poses new ways of being, and touches both the “heart space” and the “head space.”
3. Be comfortable in the performance of poetry in public.
4. Be willing to advocate for and educate people about poetry throughout the county.

Nominations

Nominations may come from individuals or organizations within or outside Tompkins County. Tompkins County poets may self-nominate. Each nomination must contain the following items submitted electronically as a PDF or Word document (may include links to video recordings of spoken word works) to director@artspartner.org:

1. Cover letter from the nominator identifying the nominator and/or the nominating organization with the recommendation of the nominee.
2. Name and resume of the poet nominated with contact information and a statement of interest by the poet (if not self-nominating).
3. Three to six poems by the poet.

Review Process

All nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of a past poet laureate, a Tompkins County legislator, community members, and CAP staff.

Using the criteria listed above, the panel will make a recommendation for official approval by the Tompkins County Legislature.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be submitted electronically to director@artspartner.org by 5:00 PM Friday, December 11th. Announcement of the selection will be made in December. The selected poet typically reads at a January meeting of the Tompkins County Legislature, when their title is officially declared.

CAP welcomes all questions regarding this program and application. For more information on this program, please call Executive Director, Megan Barber at 273-2072 x 19 or email director@artspartner.org