



## Could You Be Victoria's Next Poet Laureate or Youth Poet Laureate?

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library is seeking nominations for the positions of Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate. Candidates can be nominated by someone else or be self-nominated.

Victoria's Poet Laureate, known as the "people's poet," is an honorary position that was established by City Council in December 2006 to honour, celebrate and reflect the life of the city through literature and poetry. Victoria's Poet Laureate serves as a champion for poetry, language and the arts, and creates a unique artistic legacy through a variety of public poetry events and civic functions.

Created in 2013 by the Victoria Youth Council, the Youth Poet Laureate position provides the community access to strong youth voices. The Youth Poet Laureate will be tasked with reaching out to youth and encouraging peer-to-peer education and inspiration through new works, and by developing a community youth poetry event.

Candidates for the Poet Laureate position must be poets who currently reside in the Capital Region, including the Gulf Islands, who have an established body of work (written or spoken word), and have been recognized for notable contributions in their career.

Candidates for the Youth Poet Laureate position must be 14 to 24 years of age and reside in the Capital Region, including the Gulf Islands. Candidates must demonstrate an ability to engage the community, have clear and innovative ideas for the vision of their role as Youth Poet Laureate, and be able to present and perform their written or spoken work to the public with ease and skill.

Poet Laureate submissions will be administered by the Greater Victoria Public Library, whereas Youth Poet Laureate submissions will be administered by the City of Victoria. Applications will be evaluated by two peer committees comprised of representatives of the literary and poetry community. Finalists will be invited for an interview with their respective selection panel in late November.

The Poet Laureate is an honorary four-year term position from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2022. The position will receive an honorarium of \$4,500 per year as well as \$1,000 for poetry month events.

The Youth Poet Laureate is an honorary one-year term position from January 1 to December 31, 2019. The position will receive a \$1,750 honorarium and \$1,000 of project funding, in addition to a year-long mentorship with the Poet Laureate. Both the Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate positions are funded by the City of Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library.

Victoria's previous Poet Laureates Carla Funk, Linda Rogers and Janet Marie Rogers, and current Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer, have each brought their unique voices to the creative expression of Victoria's identity during their terms.

The City's Youth Poet Laureates have included Aysia Law, Morgan Purvis, Zoé Duhaime, Ann-Bernice Thomas, Maita Cienska, and current Youth Poet Laureate Agartu Ali. Each has broken new ground and set the stage for up-and-coming young, written and spoken word poets.

Currently, there are seven Poet Laureate positions in British Columbia and 32 across Canada. The City of Victoria was the first municipality in Canada to have a Youth Poet Laureate and is a leader in the arts and youth literary scene.

The deadline for nominations is **4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2018.**

For more information, visit: [www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

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