



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

City of Victoria Poet Laureate

The City of Victoria is partnering with the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) to seek nominations for the position of Victoria's Poet Laureate. 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.

Through the nomination process, an established poet is selected to assume the role of literary ambassador and champion for the arts in the City of Victoria. The inaugural poet laureate Carla Funk, second poet laureate Linda Rogers, third poet laureate Janet Marie Rogers and the current poet laureate Yvonne Blomer have each brought their unique voice to the creative expression of Victoria's identity.

During his/her term, the Poet Laureate acts as a champion for poetry, language and the arts, and creates a unique artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions. Victoria's Poet Laureate reflects the life of the city through a variety of civic functions, participates in public poetry events, and develops one or more special projects.

Nominations are invited for poets who currently reside in the Capital Region, who have an established body of work (written or spoken word), and have been recognized for notable contributions in their career.

Submissions will be evaluated by a peer committee comprised of representatives of the literary and poetry community. The selection process is coordinated by the Greater Victoria Public Library.

Currently, there are seven Poet Laureate positions in British Columbia and 32 across Canada.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees for the City of Victoria Poet Laureate position must fulfill the following requirements:

- Reside in the Capital Region
- Be a print poet or spoken word poet who is active in his or her field
- Have an established body of work that demonstrates poetic richness and flexibility (i.e. be more than one style)
- Have made contributions to the literary community and be recognized as a professional in the field by his or her peers
- Print poets must provide a minimum of two published works that display literary excellence. These publications can be either hard copy (properly bound, high quality graphic design, etc.) or digital (properly formatted, edited, professional layout, etc.). They may be self-published but must adhere to professional standards of quality.
- Spoken word poets must have clearly demonstrated excellence in poetry and the literary arts through competitions, awards and public events

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful nominee will:

- Participate in the literary life of the City of Victoria
- Assume the role of literary and cultural ambassador for the City of Victoria
- Produce at least three new original works each year of the four-year term that reflect or represent ideas and issues of importance to the people of Victoria
- Present, in person, at significant City events, read bi-monthly at City Council meetings and other official functions upon request
- Read from their work at the annual Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala
- Propose one project or activity per year that engages the community in poetry during Poetry Month in April
- Provide year-long mentorship to the Youth Poet Laureate
- Schedule 4-6 poetry events/programs in collaboration with the Greater Victoria Public Library. One event to be held in Poetry Month (April).

Term and Remuneration

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

While GVPL does not provide funding for additional events during the Poet Laureate or Youth Poet Laureate's tenures, GVPL may provide space, registration and promotion for additional programs or events.

Selection Criteria

The poet will be evaluated on the following:

- Excellence of the poet's work (quality and artistic merit of work)
- Publication of at least two volumes (digital or print) which may include self-published work for print poets
- History of poetry performance through competitions and public events for spoken word poets
- Significance of contribution to poetry and the literary life of Greater Victoria
- Reputation as a poet of stature within his or her peer community
- Influence on other poets and writers
- Viability of his/her proposed projects or activities

Nominations

Candidates for Poet Laureate can be self-nominated or nominated by someone else. Nominees cannot be a City of Victoria employee or an elected official of the City of Victoria.

All submissions must include the following:

- Letter from the nominator outlining the reasons for the nomination
- Letter from the nominee agreeing to be nominated (not required if self-nominated)
- Poet's curriculum vitae
- Examples of published work. Spoken word submissions must provide audio and video documentation as well as transcripts of the original poems.
- Proposal detailing how the poet would represent the City of Victoria and interact in civic life, and potential civic projects or activities
- Confirmation of place of residence within the Capital Region

Nominees agree to participate in a review process that may include a reading and interview in front of the Selection Committee.

Intellectual Property

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the Poet Laureate's tenure will remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

Deadline

- [Online submissions](#) to GVPL must be received no later than **4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2018**.
- **Printed works** forming part of the submission must be received in person (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) or by mail, postmarked no later than **4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2018** to:

City of Victoria Poet Laureate Selection Committee
Greater Victoria Public Library
Circulation Desk
735 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3H2

For More Information

poet@gvpl.ca

www.gvpl.ca/howdoi/poet-laureate/

culture@victoria.ca

www.victoria.ca/poetlaureate