

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Heights Arts Seeks Applications for 11th Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate

Cleveland Heights, OH: Heights Arts, a multidisciplinary arts organization in Cleveland Heights Ohio, will be selecting the city's 11th poet laureate for a two-year term beginning April of 2023 through March of 2025 – Heights Arts' 25th anniversary. The Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate will receive a yearly stipend, and will participate in civic and community events, and manage Heights Arts' popular *Ekphrastacy – Artists Talk and Poets Respond* series during their term.

The Cleveland Heights Poet Laureateship is the first and longest-running laureateship in the state of Ohio. With the endorsement of the City of Cleveland Heights, Heights Arts established the post in 2000 to celebrate and elevate poetry as an art form for the benefit of the community's residents. Every two years the organization's Heights Writes Community Team solicits applications to select a poet from the Cleveland area to serve in this post. The Team is comprised of volunteers with expertise in the literary arts, supported by Heights Arts staff.

Current Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate Ray McNiece is one of 22 poets laureate in the country who was recently awarded a fellowship through the Academy of American Poets through his laureateship at Heights Arts. He says of his experience as the 10th Poet Laureate, *"Serving as The Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate has provided me with the opportunity not only to refocus on my poetry, but more so on my role as a community poet. Writing is often a solitary art, but the laureateship by its very nature engages my art, particularly through the Ekphrastacy series, which provides me and other poets in the community with an opportunity to work with a wider audience."*

Poets interested in applying for the laureateship must commit to serve the full 24-month term of service if selected, and either be residents of Cleveland Heights or have a significant relationship to the Cleveland Heights community. Applications may be submitted between November 1 and December 31, 2022. Detailed information along with the application can be found at <https://www.heightsarts.org/poet-laureate/>

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HEIGHTSARTS

Founded in 2000, Heights Arts (www.heightsarts.org) is a nonprofit, multi-disciplinary arts organization whose mission is to cultivate a strong, diverse, and collaborative arts community by inspiring people of all ages to engage in the arts; supporting the arts through education;

providing exhibition and performance opportunities; and fostering public appreciation for the arts.

Heights Arts is generously supported by funding from individuals, businesses, and organizations, including: The AHS Foundation, The Ashley Whitmer Correa Foundation, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Thomas Hoyt and Katherine Brooks Jones Family Foundation, The Jean, Harry, and Brenda Fuchs Family Foundation, The Mandel Foundation, The Ohio Arts Council, The David and Inez Myers Foundation

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