



FAQ for Poet Laureate Application Info Session

1. What is the purpose of the Poet Laureateship?

The Heights Poet Laureateship, established by Heights Arts with the endorsement of the City of Cleveland Heights, aims to celebrate and elevate poetry within the community. In 2023, this role expanded to include University Heights. Key objectives include enhancing the literary arts presence, fostering cultural expression, raising awareness of poetry's impact, and creating a model program for other cities.

2. What makes a strong literary application?

A strong application includes a compelling artistic statement, high-quality poetry works, and clear evidence of community engagement. It should reflect your unique voice and vision as a poet while demonstrating your understanding of the responsibilities that accompany the role.

3. Who is eligible to apply for the Poet Laureateship?

Candidates must be residents of Cleveland or University Heights, or have significant ties to these communities. They should be comfortable with public speaking and community engagement and must commit to the full term of service.

4. What honorarium does the Poet Laureate receive?

The Poet Laureate receives a \$3,000 honorarium per year, totaling \$6,000 over the term. Payments are made in four installments over the term.

5. What are the general expectations for the Poet Laureate?

The Poet Laureate is expected to champion the literary arts, demonstrate reliability, write occasional poems for community events, and engage with the Heights Writes Community Team (HWCT) to provide feedback and insights.

6. What specific responsibilities does the Poet Laureate have?

Responsibilities include curating and producing four Ekphrastic events annually, writing and reading ekphrastic poems, engaging in community events, proposing a community-based poetry project, and being recognized at local council meetings.

7. What should I include in my application?

Applicants should provide:

- **Artistic Statement:** In 1,000 words or fewer, offer insight into your poetry practice, including meanings, intentions, and processes. This statement should enrich a reader's understanding of your work.
- **Statement of Intent:** In 500 words or less, explain why you want to serve in this role and how you envision honoring the culture of Cleveland Heights and/or University Heights. If you are not a resident, describe your connections to the area and any relevant experience in organizing poetry or community programs.
- **Quality of Work:** Submit a sample of ten pages of recent poems that showcase your best writing, with a diversity of work.
- **Curriculum Vitae:** Upload a document detailing your background and experience in the literary arts.
- **Publication Documentation:** Provide information about where your work has been published.

8. Can you provide examples of a strong artist statement?

Certainly! A strong artist statement typically includes:

- Your artistic journey and influences.
- Themes or subjects you explore in your work.
- Your goals as a poet and plans for community engagement.

Examples:

- "My poetry explores the intersections of identity and place, deeply rooted in the stories of Cleveland Heights."
- "As a poet, I seek to illuminate the everyday experiences of my community, celebrating our shared narratives."

9. What are examples of a strong application?

Strong applications often feature:

- A thoughtful artist statement that connects personal experiences with broader themes.
- A diverse portfolio showcasing different styles and topics.
- Highlights community involvement alongside literary achievements.

10. What do members of HWCT look for in an applicant?

HWCT members seek:

- A passionate commitment to poetry and community service.
- Originality and a distinctive authentic voice.

- Evidence of prior engagement with local arts initiatives.
- A clear vision for how you would fulfill the administrative responsibilities of the laureateship.

11. What are examples of a successful community-based poetry project?

If selected for an interview, please consider how you will put your stamp on the community through a poetry project. Examples include:

- <https://poets.org/text/poetry-and-community-emma-trelles>
- <https://www.heightsarts.org/blog/join-our-upcoming-haiku-hikes-with-poet-laureate-ray-mcniece/>
- <https://jeremyjusek.com/west-side-poetry-workshop/>
- <https://www.joniemcintire.net/post/the-poet-is-in>
- <https://www.joniemcintire.net/post/celebrate-making-a-difference-in-your-community>