



# **Austin Poet Laureate**

## **Austin Public Library In-Resident Poet Position**

### **Position Background**

Austin Public Library (APL) will launch the Austin Poet Laureate program in October 2024 and name the first Austin Poet Laureate in April 2025. The appointed Austin Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term, 2025 – 2027.

The inaugural Austin Poet Laureate will be an official ambassador of the City's literary arts, connecting our community through the art of poetry.

### **Program Goals**

The goal of the Poet Laureate program is to:

- Promote poetry, literacy, and the literary arts in the Austin community;
- Build awareness and appreciation of poetry and make it accessible to the wider community;
- Celebrate poetry and the power of the written and spoken word while honoring the cultural diversity of our community;
- Advance poetry as a means of understanding and communicating Austin history and culture;
- Establish an ambassador to advance APL's mission, vision, strategic goals and core values to discover, learn, and create through poetry;
- Enable the Poet Laureate to serve as a mentor to poets in the community; and
- Create a vibrant platform for local poets to engage diverse voices and inspire literacy engagement through creative expression.

### **Review Process**

- A newly appointed Poet Laureate committee with combined knowledge of creative writing, public programs, and the City of Austin will select the Poet Laureate through an open-call process after reviewing all applications.
- A public call for applications will be launched on October 1, 2024. Applications will be received through November 30, 2024.
- The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term, beginning in April of 2025.

- APL staff will be coordinating the selection process.

### **Timeline**

Guidelines/applications available	October 1, 2024
Application deadline	November 30, 2024
Committee reviews submissions	December 2024– January 2025
Notification to all finalists	February 2025
Interviews	February 2025
Committee recommends new Poet Laureate; prepare for ceremony	March 2025
Poet Laureate investiture ceremony	April 2025
Year 1	April 2025-2026
Year 2	April 2026-2027

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Be at least 21 years old;
- Have lived or worked in the City of Austin for three years and continue to live or work in the city throughout the appointment. Valid addresses are based on the applicant's physical residence or employment place, not on a POBox or other property owned by the applicant. Proof of address is required;
- Have at least 10 published works (print, online, poetry journals, magazines, websites, or video) and/or 10 public performances or a combination of the two;
- Have a strong interest in serving the city, conducting community outreach, and promoting poetry;
- Have public speaking or performance experience;
- Be available to work at least 10 hours per week, including 5 hours per month at the Central Library; and
- Be able to travel within library locations in the City of Austin.

### **Application Requirements**

The applicant must:

- Provide a brief biography (100-word limit);
- Submit a resume or curriculum vitae (maximum of three pages) highlighting their publication and award history, experience in public speaking, teaching, and/or public performances, and community service or volunteer work;

- Submit a statement (300-word limit) explaining why they should be selected to be the Austin Poet Laureate;
- Provide a statement (500-word limit) outlining their ideas to enhance the literary arts within the community, specifically aiming to involve and represent diverse communities across the city; and
- Include a writing sample consisting of 1 –3 poems (maximum of 10 pages) of selected poems or a spoken word video; applicants submitting written poems should also submit a video of the applicant reciting one poem.

### **Responsibilities**

The Poet Laureate shall fulfill the following duties:

- Lead 10 unique public readings and/or workshops per year, 5 in collaboration with Austin literary organizations and 5 at ACC and AISD schools with preference given to Title I schools;
- Develop and execute a signature project or initiative in collaboration with the APL during the term;
- Be available for board and commission meetings and public appearances with City of Austin departments/offices;
- Collaborate with APL to develop one significant event at the Austin Central Library each year of the fellowship;
- Work at least 10 hours per week, including at least 5 hours per month at the Central Library;
- Maintain the highest standards of character and professional integrity; and
- Work collaboratively and respectfully, with Austin’s writing community and broader populace, including women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

### **Salary**

The Poet Laureate will receive an annual salary of \$25,000 and will be allocated a \$10,000 annual budget for program expenses.