

# Nevada Poet Laureate Guidelines

Promoting the art of poetry, literacy, and learning throughout Nevada



## NEVADA POET LAUREATE OVERVIEW

The Nevada State Poet Laureate is a Governor appointed position. The Nevada Arts Council oversees the Poet Laureate selection process and submits qualified individuals to the Governor for final review and appointment. The role of the Poet Laureate is to propagate the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning throughout the state.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a current full-time Nevada resident and have been in residence for at least one year prior to the date of the application
- Must be a U.S. citizen or have legal resident status
- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must not be enrolled as a degree-seeking student
- Be able and willing to work statewide, including virtually or in-person (adhering to State of Nevada COVID-19 Guidelines)
- Have a strong body of work including published works and/or a history of presenting their work in public such as readings or spoken word performances
- Have interest/experience in promoting equity and inclusion through the arts and humanities
- Have strong program management and project planning/implementation skills
- Commitment to undertake a public outreach project, the details of which will be mutually agreed upon with Nevada Arts Council after the gubernatorial appointment is made
- Current NAC staff members, board members, and immediate family members or individuals sharing the household of current NAC staff or board members are not eligible for NAC grants.

## APPLICATION

1. A legible photo of your valid Nevada Driver's License or ID (for proof of NV residency only)  
*If you do not have a Driver's License/ID or if your NV Driver's License was renewed in the past 12 months, contact NAC staff to discuss other residency verification material*
2. Brief Biography AND Artist Resume that shows a history of publications, public presentations, and performances (click [HERE](#) for details and samples of Artist Résumés and Biographies)
3. **Three (3) Letters of Recommendation** - Letters should answer the following questions and be limited to one page in length:
  - a. What sets this candidate apart as a poet?
  - b. How has this poet exhibited leadership in poetry, the arts, and creativity (i.e., programs, projects, outreach, and advocacy)?
  - c. Has this poet demonstrated a commitment to engaging diverse voices and perspectives in their outreach work?

### APPLICATIONS OPEN:

March 25, 2021 at 9:00 AM

### APPLICATIONS CLOSE:

April 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM

### ELIGIBILITY SNAPSHOT

Individual Poet, NV Resident,  
21 years or older, non-student

### LENGTH OF TERM

Two Years (May 2021 -May  
2023)

### STAFF CONTACT

**Stephen Reid**

Artist Services Specialist

[sreid@nevadaculture.org](mailto:sreid@nevadaculture.org)

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4. **Narrative Questions** - Describe your work as a poet and your interest in the role of Nevada State Poet Laureate. Please be sure to include responses to the following questions:
  - a. What experience (work, projects, events) have you had promoting poetry to the general public?
  - b. How does your work advance or promote Nevada?
  - c. Discuss your commitment to, and history of, working collaboratively to expand audiences for poetry, develop new writers, and promote the work of poets from diverse backgrounds.
5. **Supporting Documentation** - Up to three (3) work samples: such as published or unpublished poems, written or performed (up to four pages each), , an excerpt of a longer poem can also be used. You may submit links or upload samples of your work directly (acceptable file types are PDF, MP4, MOV, and WMV). Do not submit links to sites that require downloading (e.g., Dropbox). Video samples may not exceed 10 minutes total. Each distinct item of material/work should be a separate file/link.

## REVIEW CRITERIA

- Artistic excellence in literary arts with an emphasis on poetry, including substantial writing record and/or spoken word experience (5 pts)
- Established history of leadership, collaboration, and community involvement in the literary arts (5 pts)
- Ability to engage the public through events and activities that promote awareness of poetry (5 pts)
- Demonstrated engagement with diverse communities (5 pts)

## SELECTION PROCESS

The Nevada Arts Council will assemble a selection committee representing an impartial and diverse group of qualified poets, educators, and arts and humanities specialists from across the state. Upon completion of the adjudication process, the committee shall present their recommendation of the ranked finalists to the Governor for final review and appointment.

Panelists on the selection committee are required to disclose all known conflicts of interest with any grant applicant and abstain from the discussion and scoring of the specified applicant(s). A conflict of interest shall be deemed to exist if a panelist or any member of a panelist's immediate family:

1. Has direct involvement in the operation, management, or serves on a board of directors or trustees of an applicant
2. Has a direct ownership interest or investment interest in an applicant
3. Is employed by or volunteers for an applicant
4. Receives or has the right to receive, directly or indirectly, remuneration pursuant to any arrangement for compensation with an applicant

Applicants must refrain from contacting panel members before or during the panel meeting process. Applicants are not required to attend panels, nor will absence from these meetings prejudice application review.

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## **IN-PERSON APPEARANCES/TRAVEL EXPECTED**

A minimum of two in-person or online readings targeting a variety of cultural communities and geographic areas of the state per quarter, including Governor’s inauguration, Nevada Arts Council Conference, Governor’s Global Tourism Summit, Nevada State Poetry Out Loud Finals, and other events to be determined. Laureates are encouraged to gather requests for participation in events and consider them in cooperation with Nevada Arts Council on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis when setting their schedule.

## **PROJECT**

The Nevada Poet Laureate will be expected to undertake a significant cultural project during his or her term, such as bringing poetry to people or to a region of the state that might otherwise be underserved in this regard. The Poet Laureate will engage a variety of constituencies, enriching the lives of residents by sharing and promoting poetry through public appearances, readings, workshops, and digital and social media. The scope and budget of the project will be determined in collaboration with the Nevada Arts Council staff after appointment.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

The Nevada Arts Council will commit to:

- Assistance with outreach and communications
- Promote and support virtual/in-person readings through the Nevada Arts Council’s marketing resources.
- Access to and assistance with the agency’s online conferencing and meeting platforms.
- A platform for program evaluation and data collection on event attendance, audience demographics, and feedback

Laureates will be asked to:

- Manage their booking calendars
- Manage webinar, online conferencing logistics on a day-to-day basis
- Assist with program data collection related to event attendance, audience demographics and feedback
- Promote their involvement within their networks, exposing new audiences to Nevada Arts Council programs

## **RECOGNITION**

The Nevada Poet Laureate will be awarded a \$5,000 Artist Project Grant each year to offset the cost of travel to public engagements and to fund the two-year project requirement. This grant also serves to acknowledge and recognize the Nevada Poet Laureate’s time and talents. *Compensation from the Nevada Arts Council may be considered taxable income.*

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete application questions and submit all required support material online at:

<https://nevadaartscouncil.submittable.com/submit>