



Colorado Poet Laureate

Guidelines



Purpose

To promote an appreciation of poetry in Colorado and to honor outstanding Colorado poets.

History

Colorado became one of the first states to have a Poet Laureate when Governor Oliver Shoup appointed Alice Polk Hill in 1919. Since then five other people have served: Nellie Burget Miller (1923-1952); Margaret Clyde Robertson (1952-1954); Milford E. Shields (1954); Thomas Hornsby Ferril (1979 – 1988); Mary Crow (1996-present).

Duties

The Colorado Poet Laureate will serve for a four-year term. Duties include:

- Serve as an advocate for poetry, literacy and literature.
- Give at least 8 public presentations per year including events at the State Capitol, schools, libraries and literary festivals. Colorado Humanities and the Colorado Council on the Arts will assist with scheduling such events.
- Provide the Governor with an annual narrative account of the success and impact of the position.

Honorarium

Colorado Humanities and Colorado Council on the Arts will provide \$2,000 each annually as an honorarium and to cover travel expenses related to public presentations.

Review criteria

The Poet Laureate will be selected based on artistic excellence, taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the people of this state. Selection criteria will also include a demonstrated history of community service in the advancement of poetry in Colorado and the ability to present poetry effectively as demonstrated by audio/visual support materials.

Eligibility

The Colorado Poet Laureate must be a legal, full-time Colorado resident for at least three years prior to the application deadline, must maintain Colorado residency during their term of office, and must pass a standard background check.

Nomination process

Nominations may be made by any organization or individual in the state of Colorado. Self-nominations are allowed. Nominations must include:

- Completed Nomination Form
- A one-page maximum response to these two questions: "What is your vision of the role of a Poet Laureate?" and "Why would you like to be selected as the Colorado Poet Laureate?"
- A resume

- List of publications or readings
- Up to ten pages of sample work
- Recording of past reading(s) not to exceed five minutes, submitted on CD or DVD only.
- A self-addressed, stamped mailer if you wish nomination materials to be returned.

Selection Process

A review panel will be convened to review nominations and make recommendations to the Governor. Panel members will include representatives from Colorado Humanities, Colorado Council on the Arts, the Governor's office and others as determined appropriate. The Governor will make the final selection.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be postmarked by U.S. Postal Service or other mail carrier or hand delivered no later than October 1, 2008 to: Colorado Humanities, Attn: Poet Laureate, 1490 Lafayette St., Suite 101, Denver, CO 80218.