

# SULLIVAN COUNTY POET LAUREATE

A Project of the Sullivan Public Library Alliance (SUPLA)



*A **poet laureate** (plural: **poets laureates**) is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution, typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions. –Wikipedia*

*The Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress—commonly referred to as the United States Poet Laureate—serves as the nation's official poet. During his or her term, the Poet Laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. – Library of Congress*

## **PURPOSE**

The Sullivan County Poet Laureate is an ambassador and leading voice for encouraging the appreciation of reading and writing poetry in the County. The poet laureate engages a variety of constituencies, including both children and adults, enriching the lives of residents by sharing and promoting poetry through conversations, readings, public appearances and digital/social media.

## **THEME**

The Spirit of Sullivan County

## **TERM OF SERVICE**

The Poet Laureate's term of service is one year – from 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022. An incumbent may reapply, but must wait at least one year from his or her own service.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicant must be
  - o A resident of Sullivan County and available for year-round engagements
  - o Have a body of literary work
  - o Available for at least a one year appointment.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Assume role of literary ambassador for Sullivan County
- Serve as Poet Laureate for one year (may be appointed for additional terms)
- Produce at least (9) original works during term of service as Poet Laureate
- Appear and present works of significance to the citizens of Sullivan County
  - o Minimum of (9) appearances over 12-month term
    - At least (1) at each public library
    - At least (1) at each partner organization
  - o Participate in PR activities (ie, media interviews)
  - o Poet Laureate is encouraged to present/perform works of other poets
  - o Prepare & provide written reports of activities at end of term to Poet Laureate Steering Committee
  - o Participate in selecting succeeding Poet Laureate and guide transition into that role

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- o Curate a list of poems to engage students throughout the school year

## **BENEFITS/REMUNERATION**

- Public exposure of original works presented in person and in the media
- Stipend TBA, to cover expenses and honorarium
- Name plaque, mounted in place to be determined

## **COPYRIGHTS**

- Poet Laureate retains copyright to original materials produced in his/her official capacity
- Poet Laureate retains the right to sell and otherwise use poetry created; however, SUPLA retains exclusive rights to at least one of the Poet Laureate's poems each year, until the Poet's term expires. SUPLA agrees to use said poem(s) exclusively as a tool to promote awareness and literacy, not for financial gain

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A judging panel will review all submitted materials to arrive at three (3) finalists. Judging will be conducted blindly, i.e. names will be removed from all applicants' materials. Finalists will be interviewed by the Steering Committee, the members of which will

select one winner. The winner will be announced on May 1, 2021 in a public induction ceremony, the location of which is to be announced.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Henry Barish, Livingston Manor Free Library
- Matt Carpenter, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance
- Elizabeth Ennis, Catskill Art Society
- Peggy Johansen, Mamakating Library
- Mary Paige Lang-Clouse, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library
- Christine Seward, Mamakating Town Council
- Lynn Skolnick, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library

### **JUDGING PANEL** (Diverse group of 6 evaluators)

### **TO APPLY**

- Application must include
  - o Statement of interest
  - o Biography (maximum 1 page)
  - o Three sample poems, one of them specific to “The Spirit of Sullivan County”
- Send application materials to [SCPoetLaureateProject@gmail.com](mailto:SCPoetLaureateProject@gmail.com) by midnight on Wednesday, March 31.