Expression of Interest: Edmonton Poet Laureate

The City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Library and the Edmonton Arts Council are seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Edmonton's ninth Poet Laureate. Edmonton's Poet Laureate reflects the life of the City through readings of poetry and serves as an ambassador for the literary arts by incorporating poetry into a range of official and informal city activities. The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to writers and poets who:

- Currently reside within the City of Edmonton
- Have produced work that:
    - demonstrates poetic flexibility (more than one style)
    - reflects the life of the City
    - is significant to the citizens of Edmonton

Duties and Responsibilities

The selected poet will:

- Commit to the full two-year term.
- Assume the role of literary ambassador for the City of Edmonton to audiences both within and outside the City.
- Advocate strongly for the literary arts.
- Produce, on request of the City, at least three original works for specific events or occasions identified by the City in each year of the two-year term.
- Agree to present works of significance to the citizens of Edmonton:
    - at least once a year to City Council
    - at least once a year at a City-sponsored fundraising or charity events, and
    - at a minimum of two official City of Edmonton functions each year (i.e. the City of Edmonton anniversary of incorporation, the City's official summer exhibition or the Mayor's state of the City address)
- The Poet Laureate will initiate events and/or programming related to poetry and collaborate with event organizers and partners as-needed.

This part-time role is flexible. No office hours are required; however, the Poet Laureate is expected to set their hours as dictated by city events, invitations, and/or programming they develop.

Remuneration

The Edmonton Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of $10,000 for each year of the two-year term, paid bi-annually. Any travel expenses associated with the role of Poet Laureate will be

reimbursed in addition to the annual honorarium. The Poet Laureate is allowed to accept remuneration for work completed outside of the requirements of this role.

Expression of Interest
All submissions must include the following:

- An Expression of Interest that outlines why the applicant should be Edmonton's Poet Laureate, with emphasis on:
    - the applicant's contributions to Edmonton's poetry, literary, or arts community
    - the significance of the applicant's work to the citizens of Edmonton
    - The applicant's vision for the Poet Laureate role

- One Letter of Reference from a member of the poetry, literary, or other relevant artistic communities that speaks to the applicant's poetic abilities, as well as their influence on their literary peers, Edmonton's literary scene, and/or other artists.

- The applicant's current curriculum vitae (CV) highlighting relevant experience.

- Three examples of the applicant's work – it would be helpful if the examples demonstrated poetic flexibility and significance to the City of Edmonton. Examples may be written or recorded – if recorded, please provide a link to audio or video files.

- Proof of the applicant's residency in the City of Edmonton.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a reading and be interviewed by a selection committee in late May or early June 2021.

Review and Selection
The selection of the next Poet Laureate will be based on finding an individual with a history of artistic excellence, and the ability to undertake the responsibilities of the position.

Selection will be made by a committee, made up of representatives appointed by the Edmonton Arts Council, the Edmonton Public Library, and the City of Edmonton. That committee will include external representatives with the knowledge and ability to evaluate poetry.

Deadline
Submissions must be received no later than 12:00 pm MST on May 3, 2021.

Submit your Expression of Interest online via email to poetlaureate@edmontonarts.ca.