

SULLIVAN COUNTY POET LAUREATE

A Project of Sullivan Public Library Alliance, Inc. (SUPLA)



*A **poet laureate** (plural: **poets laureate**) 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 youth and adults, enriching the lives of residents and visitors by sharing and promoting poetry through readings, workshops, and other poetry-related projects at public events and online via social media.

THEME

The Spirit of Sullivan County

TERM OF SERVICE

The Poet Laureate's term of service is one year, from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023. A former Sullivan County Poet Laureate may reapply, but must wait at least one year from his or her initial term.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be
 - o A resident of Sullivan County and available for year-round engagements
 - o Have a body of literary work

- Available for at least a one year appointment.
- At least 18 years of age

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assume role of poetry 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
 - Minimum of (9) appearances over 12-month term
 - At least (1) at each public library, as can be arranged
 - At least (1) at each partner organization, as can be arranged
- Participate in PR activities (e.g., media interviews)
- Present/perform works of other poets
- Prepare & provide written reports of activities to Poet Laureate Steering Committee, as requested
- Participate in selecting succeeding Poet Laureate and guide transition into that role

RECOMMENDATION

- 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 fees

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 April 30, 2022 in a public induction ceremony, the location of which is to be announced.

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Stephanie Byrne, Monticello High School
- Matt Carpenter, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance
- Elizabeth Ennis, Catskill Art Society
- Peggy Johansen, Mamakating Library
- Mary Paige Lang-Clouse, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library
- Lynn Skolnick, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library

JUDGING PANEL (Diverse group of 5 evaluators)

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
Catskill Art Society
Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

BUSINESS SPONSOR

Mountain Bear Crafts

NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with federal civil rights laws, neither the Sullivan Public Library Alliance, Inc., nor the Poet Laureate Project Steering Committee will discriminate against any applicant to the program based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program or political beliefs.

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”

- Please send application materials in .pdf format with identifying information omitted from all but the biography. Biography must include name, mailing address, phone and email address.
- Send application materials to SCPoetLaureateProject@gmail.com by midnight on Thursday, March 31.