



## Oklahoma State Poet Laureate 2017-18 Nomination Guidelines

On behalf of the Office of the Governor, the Oklahoma Arts Council manages nominations for the honorary position of Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. A tradition that originated hundreds of years ago, poets laureate have historically been conferred by governments to make public appearances at poetry readings, lectures, literary and other events to promote a greater appreciation of poetry. In addition to the United States Poet Laureate, most U.S. states have established a poet laureate program.

Nominations for Oklahoma State Poet Laureate are accepted by the Oklahoma Arts Council during odd-numbered years. Submissions are accepted from poetry societies, libraries, local arts and humanities councils, colleges and universities, and writers' groups. Organizations may submit only one nomination.

The Oklahoma Arts Council coordinates the work of the Poet Laureate Nomination Review Committee, which makes recommendations to the Governor. Selection of the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate rests solely with the Governor. The Oklahoma State Poet Laureate serves a two-year term.

### Eligibility

The nominee must be a distinguished poet who is a resident of Oklahoma throughout his/her term and has a published body of work that includes at least one original book (not self-published). The nominee should be committed to outreach and the promotion of poetry statewide. The successful candidate will agree to make five public appearances each year. The Poet Laureate may choose his/her own platform and audience for these events. The nominee must also indicate agreement to be nominated.

### Compensation

The Oklahoma Arts Council provides a stipend of \$5,000 per year to the State Poet Laureate for scheduling and appearing in five presentations that are provided at no cost to the public. Presentation venues should be located in geographically underserved locations and/or serve a diverse audience.

### Nomination Review Committee

The Nomination Review Committee consists of individuals with expertise in literary art forms, including poets, university professors, former state Poets Laureate, and others. The final determination and appointment of the State Poet Laureate is made by the Governor.

### Deadline for Nominations

Nominations must be postmarked no later than Thursday, June 30, 2016.

### Past Poets Laureate

1923 Violet McDougal  
1931 Paul Kroeger  
1940 Jenny Harris Oliver  
1941 Della I. Young  
1942 Anne R. Semple  
1945 Bess Truitt  
1963 Delbert Davis

1966 Rudolph N. Hill  
1970 Leslie A. McRill  
1970 Rudolph N. Hill (Emeritus)  
1977 Maggie Culver Fry  
1995 Carol Hamilton  
1996 Betty Shipley  
1997 Joe Kreger

2001 Carl Sennhenn  
2003 Francine Ringold  
2007 N. Scott Momaday  
2009 Jim Barnes  
2011 Eddie Wilcoxen  
2013 Nathan Brown  
2015 Benjamin Myers



## Oklahoma State Poet Laureate 2017-18 Nomination Form

To submit a nomination for the 2017-18 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate program, please review the program guidelines, provide the following information, and return all required materials as instructed, postmarked by June 30, 2016.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please have your nominee sign below to indicate his/her agreement to be nominated:

Signature of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The State Poet Laureate program is facilitated by the Oklahoma Arts Council on behalf of the Office of the Governor. Although recommendations will be made to the Governor regarding the nominees, the decision to appoint the State Poet Laureate rests solely with the Governor.

### **Required Documents**

- Completed nomination form
- One-page narrative that explains why the nominee should be the State Poet Laureate. Keep in mind the role of the State Poet Laureate is to interact with the public to promote poetry.
- Resume that includes education, publications, awards, and recent activities such as poetry readings and workshops.
- Samples of nominee's work: 10 to 20 poems photocopied on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Include a copy of the title page of the publication in which they appeared.

### **Optional Attachments**

- Copies of newspaper articles and/or reviews on 8 ½" x 11" paper
- Letters of recommendation

*Note: Because we must photocopy nomination packets for the Nomination Review Committee, please do not include copies of the nominee's books, and please do not staple nomination materials or enclose them in a notebook, folder, or sleeve.*

Mail nomination form and materials to:

Joel Gavin

Oklahoma Arts Council

PO Box 52001-2001

Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2001

**Nominations must be postmarked by Thursday, June 30, 2016.**

For more information on the Oklahoma State Poet Laureate program, visit [arts.ok.gov](http://arts.ok.gov) or contact Joel Gavin at (405) 521-2037 or [joel.gavin@arts.ok.gov](mailto:joel.gavin@arts.ok.gov).