

SAN MATEO COUNTY POET LAUREATE



The Power of Poetry and Spoken Word

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application Period Opens: September 26 2022

Application Deadline: October 30, 2022, 11:59 PM

On April 23, 2013, The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved the establishment of the post of San Mateo County Poet Laureate to elevate poetry into the consciousness of San Mateo County residents and to help celebrate the literary arts.

The Poet Laureate will be a two-year position which includes a \$5000 yearly stipend. During that term, the Poet Laureate will act as ambassador and advocate for poetry, literature and the arts. It is expected that the Poet Laureate will contribute to San Mateo County's poetry and literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. The Poet Laureate will also propose and lead a community project.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SAN MATEO COUNTY POET LAUREATE

- The Poet Laureate must be 18 years or older.
- The Poet Laureate will be available to serve a two-year term, commencing January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.
- The Poet Laureate will be a San Mateo County resident of at least three years
- The Poet Laureate has published one or more collections of poetry (excluding books that are self-published and/or published with a subsidy press that requires payment by the author), or substantial history of public spoken word performances.
- The Poet Laureate will have demonstrated a commitment to and passion for poetry and embrace the opportunity to engage in community service to make poetry more accessible and available.
- The Poet Laureate will articulate a willingness to serve as an ambassador for San Mateo County and to engage residents in poetry at public events through public readings, workshops, visiting schools and other means.
- The Poet Laureate will be available to travel throughout San Mateo County.

DUTIES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY POET LAUREATE

- The Poet Laureate will represent San Mateo County and the art of poetry through outreach activities related to poetry.
- The Poet Laureate will present appropriate works at a minimum of four selected County-sponsored events during each year, including events involving schools and youth.
- The Poet Laureate will open the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meetings with a poem every quarter.
- The Poet Laureate will propose and lead a community project throughout their term.

Applications will be considered for the post of San Mateo County Poet Laureate. Application is available on CommonGrantApplication.com. Applicants will need to register with CommonGrantApplication.com to submit an application. The deadline for receipt of the application packet and supporting documents is by 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2022

San Mateo County is committed to creating a diverse environment and are proud to present this equal opportunity call for County Poet Laureate. All qualified applications will receive consideration for the post without regard to race, color, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, pregnancy, age, or veteran status.

TO APPLY, go to CommonGrantApplication.com and submit the following:

1. COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT PAGE

Complete and submit the application's *Contract Information and Eligibility* page, demonstrating fulfillment of eligibility requirements.

2. UPLOAD RESUME WITH LIST OF PUBLICATION CREDITS

Current resume with a list of publication credits: include professional activities and achievements, including significant awards and training, selected exhibitions, performances, presentations and publications.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

One of the key duties (noted on the previous page) of the San Mateo County Poet Laureate is to undertake a project throughout San Mateo County that will make poetry more available and accessible to people in their everyday lives.

In no more than two pages or 500 words describe what type of project(s) you would like to complete as Poet Laureate. How would the nature and significance of your approach to poetry impact or involve the community? What would be your timeline and what sorts of resources or collaborations would you be seeking?

Examples of Projects by Past County Poets Laureate

Caroline Goodwin, Poet Laureate 2014—2016: "*Poetry Is*"

Through Ms. Goodwin's community project, "*Poetry Is*," Ms. Goodwin promoted and judged county-wide poetry campaigns and contests, all organized around themes of heritage, autumn, nature, family and love, which culminated in events at different venues.

Lisa Rosenberg, Poet Laureate 2017—2018: "*Spoken Art*"

Ms. Rosenberg's project was a county-wide ekphrastic challenge that showcased local artwork in several media which received hundreds of original poems from writers of all ages.

Aileen Cassinetto, Poet Laureate 2019—2022: "*Speak Poetry in San Mateo County*"

Ms. Cassinetto's project was a series of readings, workshops, short films, anthologies, and a web archive in partnership with local organizations and The Academy of American Poets to amplify the role of poetry in the context of larger intersectional movements.

4. WORK SAMPLES

Include up to 10 pages of poetry that represent your best artistic achievements, and include on each page, the title of the poem and your name.

5. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: Describe how you use poetry to enhance and serve your community.

One page, maximum, describing your work to promote and use poetry to build community in San Mateo County.

6. OPTIONAL – Letters of recommendation are accepted and may be uploaded.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Application form with contact information and eligibility verification
- ☐ Current Resume, including list of publication credits
- ☐ Project Description
- ☐ Work samples: submission of up to 10 pages of original poetry
- ☐ Describe how you use poetry to serve your community (1 page maximum)
- ☐ OPTIONAL: Letter(s) of Recommendation

Applications due October 30, 11:59 PM with *no exceptions*. Applications are submitted via CommonGrantApplication.com.

For questions, please email Robin Rodricks at c_rrodricks@smcgov.org