Call for Clark County Poet Laureate (2027–2029)
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Clark County Arts Commission Seeks Its Next Poet Laureate for 2027–2029
Published poets who live in Clark County, Washington, are invited to apply by Monday, November 23, 2026

VANCOUVER, Wash. — October 20, 2026 — The Clark County Arts Commission is now accepting applications for Clark County Poet Laureate, a two-year term running April 1, 2027, through March 31, 2029. Applications are due Monday, November 23, 2026.
Every two years, the Commission selects a practicing poet to engage the county in the literary arts. Since the position was established in 2013, the laureate has served as a cultural ambassador for poetry from Vancouver to Battle Ground, Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield, La Center, Woodland and Yacolt. Susan Dingle is the current Poet Laureate; previous laureates include Armin Tolentino, Gwendolyn Morgan and Christopher Luna.
The Poet Laureate promotes poetry as an art form and works to foster a deeper appreciation for reading and writing poetry across communities. During the term, the laureate will conduct public readings, host educational workshops, and launch a signature community project that encourages poetry as a regional voice contributing to a sense of place. The laureate may also be asked to write original work for civic occasions and represent the county at public events.
“Poetry belongs to everyone, and our Poet Laureate helps prove it in classrooms, libraries and gathering places across the county,” said Michele Hanlon, Education Commissioner for the Clark County Arts Commission. “We’re looking for a poet who listens as well as they write and who will bring a fresh vision to this role.”

Eligibility. Applicants must:
- Live in Clark County, Washington
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a practicing, published poet
- Show a commitment to community outreach, collaboration, and equity and inclusion through the arts
- Be available to serve the full two-year term

Compensation. The Poet Laureate is a volunteer position. The laureate may be eligible for a stipend to support approved projects, with details to be announced.

How to apply. Applicants submit a complete application package by email to ClarkCountyArtC@gmail.com. The package includes:

- A letter of interest
- A résumé or curriculum vitae
- A writing sample of no more than 10 pages
- A proposed project plan or scope of work for the term
- Three letters of recommendation

The application form is available as a PDF at clarkcountyartscommission.net/poet-laureate. A Word version of the application guidelines is available on request.

Selection. A panel appointed by the Commission will review applications, and finalists may be invited to interview. The Commission expects to announce its selection in early 2027. The new laureate will be welcomed at a public "passing of the pen" ceremony at Magenta Theater in Vancouver, WA on April 4, 2027.

About the Clark County Arts Commission

The Clark County Arts Commission promotes and supports the arts in Clark County, Washington, across the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and poetry and literature. The Commission established the Clark County Poet Laureate program in 2013. Learn more at clarkcountyartscommission.net/poet-laureate.

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