

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2014-081

Recognizing the City of Columbia Poet Laureate

WHEREAS, poetry tells the history of human feeling and can sustain the emotional memory of a community; and,

WHEREAS, poetry allows us to perceive our experience with greater richness and complexity; and,

WHEREAS, poetry can carry us to the frontiers of linguistic imagination so that we can articulate our vision of the future; and,

WHEREAS, knowledge of poetic traditions allows us to know more about our own culture and can serve as a passport to the cultures of others; and,

WHEREAS, One Columbia for Arts and History has developed policies and procedures for the selection of the holder of the honorary position; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 21st day of October, 2014, that One Columbia for Arts and History is hereby authorized to coordinate the selection of a Poet Laureate for the City of Columbia and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the honorary position of Poet Laureate is hereby acknowledged by the City of Columbia, is voluntary in nature and such honorary position shall not be considered as being an employee, nor an elected official of the City of Columbia, South Carolina and as such cannot legally bind or obligate the City in transactions with others; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a representative from the Mayor's Office and the Arts and Historic Preservation Subcommittee will serve as the municipal representatives on the Poet Laureate selection committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that future Columbia Poet Laureates shall be proclaimed by the Mayor and City Council.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin



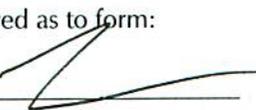
Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

Introduced: 10/21/2014

Final Reading: 10/21/2014

ATTEST:



City Clerk

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED

City of Columbia Poet Laureate

PURPOSE: To appoint a City of Columbia Poet Laureate who will encourage appreciation and create opportunities for dissemination of poetry in Columbia, promote the appreciation and knowledge of poetry among our youth, and act as a spokesperson for the growing number of poets and writers in Columbia.

POET LAUREATE COMMITTEE: One Columbia for Arts and History will appoint a poet laureate committee consisting of the following representatives: a representative from the Mayor's Office, a representative of City Council's Arts and Historic Preservation Subcommittee, a representative of the Richland Library, a representative from academia, and other members with strong ties to the literary community of Columbia. Appointments shall be made on an as-needed basis. The committee shall elect a chair and a vice-chair. The committee shall be responsible for selecting a poet laureate for a four-year term.

SELECTION CRITERIA: The Committee shall establish specific criteria for the appointment of the Poet Laureate based on his/her publications, public speaking ability, and writing skills. Finalists shall read before the panel and shall be interviewed by the full committee or representatives thereof.

All applicants shall submit a complete résumé including the following:

- 1) Evidence of a large body of work, whether published, self-published or unpublished;
- 2) Evidence of a history of advocacy for poetry;
- 3) Selections from their works, not to exceed ten pages;
- 4) Two personal or professional references;
- 5) Proof of current residency in Columbia;
- 6) A statement of availability for the four-year term.

DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS: The Columbia Poet Laureate shall be appointed for a term of four years. The Poet Laureate Committee shall invite applications for the position of Poet Laureate on or about September of the year of the retirement of the previous Poet Laureate.

The Columbia Poet Laureate will be provided a reasonable budget for activities by One Columbia for Arts and History, as approved by the Board of Directors of One Columbia for Arts and History.

The Columbia Poet Laureate will be required to:

- 1) Visit schools and attend city, library and school functions as needed;
- 2) Be available for service over the full four-year term;
- 3) Carry activities that engage the public in poetry or literary arts;
- 4) Give a reading at a special City event at the beginning of the four-year term; and
- 5) Write a summation of his/her impressions and experiences as Poet Laureate six months prior to the end of the four-year term, with the purpose of providing information that will help to improve, adjust or adapt the parameters of the post and/or the application process.

If the Poet Laureate is not able to complete a full term, the Poet Laureate Committee shall accept applications for a replacement. The replacement Poet Laureate will complete the remaining portion of the four-year term, and, if approved by the Poet Laureate Committee, may serve another term.

An appointed poet laureate who does not fulfill the terms of his or her appointment may be removed by a majority vote of the Poet Laureate Committee.

A Poet Laureate may serve two consecutive terms if approved by the Committee. After a hiatus of at least two terms, a past Poet Laureate may be reappointed by the Committee.

INAUGURAL TERM: For the inaugural appointment, January 2015 to December 2018.