Missouri Poet Laureate Guidelines

Submit nominations online here: https://form.jotform.com/moarts/2021mopoetlaureate

Overview
The Missouri Poet Laureate program began in 2008 to foster the art of poetry, encourage literacy and learning, and promote the reading and writing of poetry across the state. The Missouri Poet Laureate will enrich the lives of residents by sharing and promoting poetry through public appearances, readings, workshops, and digital and social media.

The Missouri Poet Laureate will be expected to create a new work about the state of Missouri during their term. Upon invitation, the Missouri Poet Laureate will provide public readings/events in urban and rural settings across the state that educate students; community members; and business, state, and civic leaders about the value and importance of poetry and creative expression.

Past Missouri Poets Laureate
Walter Bargen was appointed by Governor Matt Blunt.
February 13, 2008 to January 2010

David Clewell was appointed by Governor Jay Nixon.
March 4, 2010 to January 2012

William Trowbridge was appointed by Governor Jay Nixon.
April 12, 2012 to June 29, 2016

Aliki Barnstone was appointed by Governor Jay Nixon.
June 30, 2016 to September 18, 2019

Karen Craigo was appointed by Governor Mike Parson.
September 19, 2019

Nomination Deadline
March 22, 2021 (11:59 p.m.)

Term of Service
The Missouri Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term through June 30, 2023.

Who May Apply
The Missouri Arts Council encourages eligible candidates to self-nominate and for other members of the public to nominate eligible candidates. The Missouri Arts Council complies with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations concerning civil and human rights. Missouri Arts Council programs, grants, and employment practices are free of discrimination based on race, gender, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, military status, or age.
Nomination Guidelines
All Missouri Poet Laureate nominees must fulfill these requirements:

- be at least 25 years of age on July 1, 2021
- have been a Missouri resident prior to the nomination deadline
- remain a Missouri resident throughout the two-year term
- be able and available to reach statewide audiences through travel or other means
- provide evidence of achievement in the art of poetry, including publicly accessible work (books, literary magazines, and/or digital media)
- have received recognition or awards for contributions to poetry
- demonstrate ability to promote awareness or enjoyment of poetry
- agree to the conditions and terms of appointment

Nomination Requirements
The following five items are required as part of each nomination, submitted online at: https://form.jotform.com/moarts/2021mopoetlaureate

- A completed nomination form
- A résumé or curriculum vitae, not to exceed four (4) pages
- Work samples, formatted to fit 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Each work sample should indicate where the poem has been published or performed and if it has received any awards for merit. The total number of pages of the work samples combined with the résumé or curriculum vitae are not to exceed 14 pages.
- A narrative describing what the nominee would accomplish during the two years as Missouri Poet Laureate, not to exceed two (2) pages.
- Supplementary materials, including excerpts from published book reviews, judges' comments, not to exceed two (2) pages. Note: Letters of Recommendation will not be considered.

Selection Process
1. The Missouri Poet Laureate Committee will be composed of people throughout Missouri, with the experience to review a poet laureate. The committee will review submitted nominations and select finalists.

2. The Missouri Poet Laureate Selection Committee will make recommendations to the Governor of Missouri.

3. The Governor will select the Missouri Poet Laureate.

4. The Missouri Poet Laureate will be notified when the Governor’s decision has been made.

Recognition
- The Governor, or their designee, along with the Missouri Arts Council, will announce the Missouri Poet Laureate.
- The Missouri Arts Council will support the Missouri Poet Laureate related to events, activities, and performances during their term. The Poet Laureate will work with Missouri Arts Council staff on scheduling, invoicing, and other details required to complete their term.
The Missouri Arts Council will award the Missouri Poet Laureate an honorarium of $2,500 each year to acknowledge and recognize their time and talent. An additional stipend of $2500 each year will be awarded to defray the cost of eligible travel expenses to public engagements in which they are involved, and other expectations of the position.

The Missouri Poet Laureate is expected to perform these functions:

- contribute to the awareness of poetry throughout the state
- provide public readings/events per year in a variety of public locations throughout Missouri.
- participate in statewide literary events and educational programs
- promote poetry and the Missouri Poet Laureate position
- provide a written report of activities to the Missouri Arts Council
- participate in the Missouri Arts Council's statewide events upon request, such as Poetry Out Loud, etc.
- create a new work about the state of Missouri during the two-year term

**How to Submit a Nomination**

All nominations, including self-nominations, should be submitted via the online application form by 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 2021. [https://form.jotform.com/moarts/2021mopoetlaureate](https://form.jotform.com/moarts/2021mopoetlaureate)

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February 2021</th>
<th>Call for Nominations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations accepted</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Deadline for nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Missouri Poet Laureate Committee recommends finalists to the Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Governor selects Missouri Poet Laureate</td>
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<td>Missouri Poet Laureate notified and public announcement planned</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 2023</td>
<td>Missouri Poet Laureate term ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2021</td>
<td>Missouri Poet Laureate is announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Begin next search</td>
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The Missouri Poet Laureate program is coordinated by the Missouri Arts Council on behalf of the Office of the Governor. Although recommendations are made for the Missouri Poet Laureate by the Missouri Poet Laureate Selection Committee, the selection authority rests solely with the Governor.

Revised February 22, 2021