



AURORA POET LAUREATE APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY

ABOUT THE POSITION

The Aurora Poet Laureate will celebrate the heritage, uniqueness, diversity and achievements of the City of Aurora through the art and appreciation of poetry. The Aurora Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term with the inaugural laureate serving until the end of the first term of Mayor Richard C. Irvin in 2021.

The work of the Aurora Poet Laureate will:

- Enhance the experience of local events with poetry.
- Celebrate Aurora's past, present, and future by adding to a lasting legacy of written poems.
- Bring people together through a shared experience of poetry.
- Instill an appreciation of poetry as an art form and as a means of self-expression.

The Aurora Poet Laureate will make appearances at no less than twelve (12) city and community events per calendar year and present original work created specifically for the event. These events include but are not limited to:

- City-sponsored parades and mass public gatherings
- Ribbon-Cutting, Grand Openings and Dedication Ceremonies
- Major anniversaries of local institutions.
- Public cultural events hosted by a City board or commission

QUALIFICATIONS

The Aurora Poet Laureate must be:

- a self-identified poet
- a full-time resident of Aurora for the duration of the position
- available to participate in public events for the duration of the position

SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

An ad hoc committee selected by the mayor will select the Aurora Poet Laureate based on the strength of qualifications demonstrated by the following:

- Responses to this written application.
- Prepared writing samples.
- Personal interview and oral presentation (for finalists).

The deadline for submitting this completed application is October 15, 2019.

Candidates who meet the basic qualifications will be considered first on the basis of their written application. Finalists will be invited for a personal interview and poetry reading between October 22 and October 29, 2019.

A final selection will be announced on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Interested residents may submit an application in one of three ways:

1. ONLINE at www.aurora-il.org/AuroraPoetLaureate
2. EMAIL completed application in electronic form by preparing a Portable Document Format (PDF) document containing your responses, numbered to match each question application. Send the electronic application via email to mayorsoffice@aurora-il.org.
3. DELIVERED by mail or in person to: Mayor Richard C. Irvin's Office | Aurora City Hall | 44 E. Downer Place | Aurora, IL 60507

Application packets will not be returned. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

PART I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

First and Last Name _____

Residence Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Period(s) of Residency in Aurora _____

What, if any, schedule limitations would affect your ability, on certain days or times, to participate in public events, presentations or programs?

PART II. PREPARATION

How long have you been writing poetry? _____

Has your work ever been published? If so, please describe.

Do you have any teaching, editing, mentoring or public reading experience? If so, please describe.

How has your life experience prepared you to be effective as the Aurora Poet Laureate?

What motivated you to apply for this position?

PART III. VISION AND EXECUTION

How do you envision fulfilling the duties of the Aurora Poet Laureate as described?

How would you seek to engage people of different ages, cultures and language communities through the art of poetry?

What value does poetry add to the public observance of special occasions, recognition of persons past or present, or dedication of public places?

How might you expand upon this position?

PART IV. WRITING SAMPLES (a total of 5 must be submitted)

- Writings by the Aurora Poet Laureate are intended to engage the public at large and therefore should be clear in meaning and import, and lend themselves to being read aloud. **Please submit three (3) original poems from your collection totaling no more than 200 lines each.**

- **Please select two (2) of the following prompts** which represent the subject matter typically addressed by a Poet Laureate, and write a new poem for each.
 - An event that is part of Aurora’s history.
 - A celebration of Aurora’s diversity.
 - A tribute to an individual from Aurora’s past or present.
 - A specific building, place or site in Aurora.
 - Any other aspect of Aurora that intrigues or inspires you.

PART VI. CERTIFICATION

With my signature, I certify that my application for the position of Aurora Poet Laureate is voluntary, the writing samples I have submitted are my own work, and that all responses are expressed truthfully and accurately to the best of my ability.

Signature _____ Date _____