



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 7, 2015

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Arts And Community Promotions

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation Declaring April As National Poetry Month And Appointment of Poet Laureate Sojourner Kincaid Rolle

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve the City Arts Advisory Committee's recommendation for the City Poet Laureate from April 1, 2015, to April 1, 2017.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On November 2, 2004, City Council approved the process for and established a City Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara is an honorary position for which the City awards an honorarium of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per year, which encompasses all civic or official work performed or produced in this position.

An Ad Hoc Poet Laureate nomination committee was established at the City Arts Advisory Committee meeting in November 2014. The Ad Hoc committee met January 22, 2015, to review guidelines and establish deadlines. Press releases, publicity and information on the search for Poet Laureate were released in early January 2015 and nomination guidelines and deadline information were made available on the Arts Commission's website [www.sbartscommission.org](http://www.sbartscommission.org).

Eight nominations were received by the February 20, 2015, deadline. The review committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> to review the nominations and develop a recommendation, which will be approved by the City Arts Advisory Committee at its March 19, 2015, meeting.

The City Poet Laureate will be installed in April to coincide with National Poetry Month.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There is no budget implication associated with this Council item. The \$1,000 stipend is included in the Arts Advisory Committee Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

**ATTACHMENT:** Poet Laureate Guidelines

**PREPARED BY:** Ginny Brush, Executive Director of the County Arts Commission

**SUBMITTED BY:** Paul Casey, City Administrator

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office



## **ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Arts Commission Post Office Box 2369 Santa Barbara, CA 93120**

# **SANTA BARBARA POET LAUREATE**

## **Guidelines for Nominations**

### Statement of Purpose:

The City of Santa Barbara is seeking nominations for the position of Santa Barbara Poet Laureate. The person selected shall seek to advance awareness of and appreciation for literary arts and humanities within the greater Santa Barbara community. As both a local resident and a distinguished poet, the Poet Laureate shall represent and celebrate the diversity and history of Santa Barbara. As a spokesperson for the City's literary community, the Poet Laureate shall endeavor to promote the artistic achievements of the City of Santa Barbara and shall actively participate in ceremonial, educational and cultural activities in the community at various times throughout his or her term of service.

### Term of Service:

The Poet Laureate for the City of Santa Barbara is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve a two-year term, commencing in April. Nearing the end of the Poet Laureate's term and prior to initiating the nomination process, the Poet Laureate Review Committee may extend an invitation to the sitting Poet Laureate to serve a second (consecutive) term, based on his or her performance. A Poet Laureate may not serve more than one term, unless invited by the committee to serve an additional consecutive term. The Poet Laureate will have thirty days to respond. If he or she elects not to accept the committee's invitation, the Poet Laureate must wait an intervening term prior to being re-nominated.

The City will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year, which shall encompass all civic or official work performed or produced in this position.

### Term Expectations

As a condition of appointment, the Poet Laureate will participate in a minimum of four annual public functions throughout the term of service. These would include, for example, the inaugural meeting each year of the Santa Barbara City Council, Summer Solstice, Old Spanish Days, and other significant festival or community events. Additionally, the Poet Laureate shall aim to be actively involved with local schools, and shall endeavor to create or facilitate workshops and readings that will bring the Poet Laureate into contact with students. To the extent possible, the Poet Laureate also will establish programs to coincide with his or her term of service to promote community awareness of the literary arts and to encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

Who May be Nominated:

Eligible nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Be a current resident of or work in the City of Santa Barbara and its environs, (defined as being within the First, Second or Third Supervisorial District), with at least five concurrent years of residency or employment.
- Be available to travel throughout the greater Santa Barbara community
- Be a recognized poet who meets the review criteria listed below

Review Criteria:

- A proven history of substantial publication of individual poems and/or books, including at least one work that is not self-published or by a vanity press
- An established history of activity in the Santa Barbara literary community, i.e., readings, publications, public presentations, and/or teaching
- Critical acclaim as demonstrated by special honors, awards, or other recognition

Who May Nominate:

Santa Barbara Poet Laureate nominations may come from any organization or individual. **Self-nominations will not be accepted.**

The Poet Laureate Review Committee:

**The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Santa Barbara based upon the recommendation of the Review Committee.** This Review Committee shall consist of members of the City of Santa Barbara's Arts Advisory Committee assisted by members of the Visual Arts in Public Places Committee. They will make the selection based upon the criteria as set forth above. Additionally, there shall be advisory members of the Review Committee, who shall include the City Council member serving as liaison to the Arts Advisory Committee as well as one representative chosen from the Santa Barbara literary community.

**Nomination Deadline: February 20, 2015:**

Nominations must be sent to the **Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Review Committee** at one of the following addresses. Hand deliveries must be received no later than 5PM on the deadline date; mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Material submitted will not be returned.

All material must be clearly addressed to the **Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Review Committee.**

**Mailing Address:**

City of Santa Barbara Arts Advisory Committee  
Santa Barbara County Arts Commission  
P.O. Box 2369  
Santa Barbara, California 93120

**Hand Delivery:**

Attn: City Arts Advisory Committee  
Arts Commission  
Santa Barbara County Courthouse  
3rd Floor, Rotunda Tower  
1100 Anacapa St.

For further information on the Santa Barbara Poet Laureate position, please contact:

Santa Barbara County Arts Commission

**805.568.3990    [online@www.sbartscommission.org](mailto:online@www.sbartscommission.org)**

**SANTA BARBARA 2011 POET LAUREATE  
Nomination Materials/Required Attachments**

**All nominators must submit seven (7) copies of the following information:**

**1. A brief letter that provides:**

- a. A summary of why the nominator considers the nominated poet's work to be of the highest quality and most representative of the Santa Barbara community
- b. The background or qualifications of the nominator or the nominating organization
- c. Contact information for the nominator and the nominated poet, including mailing address, phone numbers and e-mail address
- d. A statement verifying that the nominator has contacted the nominated poet and that the poet has reviewed the expectations of the position and agrees to the nomination.

**2. The name and a short biography of the poet nominated**

- a. A summary of the poet's significant awards and published works should be included
- b. The poet's resume (two-page maximum) may be attached

**3. A sample of up to five (5) poems by the nominated poet, citing the source for each (including the title of the work from which it was taken, the publisher and the publication date).**

*Failure to provide all required materials results in automatic ineligibility.*

Information on the Santa Barbara Poet Laureate Guidelines and 2015 Nomination Process can be obtained from the City of Santa Barbara website at [www.santabarbaraca.gov](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov) or [www.sbartscommission.org](http://www.sbartscommission.org)

**Deadline for Nominations:**

**Committee Recommendation to City Arts Advisory:**

**Announcement of Poet Laureate at City Council:**

**Installation at City Council:**

**[Kicks off National Poetry Month]**

**Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2015 by 5pm**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2015**

**Questions:**

Contact the Arts Commission at 805.568.3990 [www.sbartscommission.org](http://www.sbartscommission.org) for further information.

Rev. 12.19.14

