

Town of Old Saybrook, CT Poet Laureate Program

The mission of Old Saybrook's Poet Laureate Program is to celebrate the value of poetry and use poetry as a means to inspire, inform, and entertain the community at large. The Poet Laureate of the Town of Old Saybrook serves as the ambassador of the community's vibrant literary life, promoting its literary community and celebrating the written word.

Objectives of the Poet Laureate Programs

- Promote reading, understanding, and writing of poetry
- Promote poetry as a form of communication having value—informing, teaching, inspiring and entertaining—in the everyday life of town residents
- Inspire an emerging generation of critical thinkers and writers
- Encourage the reading and writing of literature and poetry
- Promote poetry as a form of literature that has deep roots among people of all ages and cultures
- Read published or commissioned poems at public events (e.g., swearing-in ceremonies, holiday celebrations, convocations, graduations) and community-based group events
- Represent Old Saybrook in the CT Coalition of Poets Laureate

Terms of Service

- The term of the Old Saybrook Poet Laureate is two years. The Poet Laureate may apply for a second term but shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy between terms, an interim Poet Laureate may be appointed by the Search and Review Committee to serve until the following April.
- The poet laureate of Old Saybrook is an honorary position and carries no stipend

Eligibility

- To be considered, a nominee must be a poet and resident of Old Saybrook, over 21, and available and willing to collaborate with other town poets to develop and present poetry-related activities that address the objectives of the laureate program
- Interested poets can self-nominate or be nominated by others

Criteria

- Breadth of experiences in poetry including writing, publishing, teaching, critiquing, leading groups, planning and presenting activities, attending poetry courses, reading poems in public
- Comfort level with public speaking
- Ability and willingness to advance poetry in the public domain, and to participate in various public gatherings and educational sessions throughout his or her term
- Distinguished achievements

Application Review and Selection Process

A Search & Review Committee, the members of which are appointed by the Acton Public Library, will be comprised of the following representatives:

- A member of the library board.
- The Library Director
- A member(s) of the local education community.
- A representative of the Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center.
- The present or a former poet laureate from Old Saybrook, if available

Application Process

All nominees must submit two copies of the following information:

- A completed application form, available for download from the Acton Public Library’s website
- A brief author’s statement or personal philosophy that describes how the nominee intends to approach the scope of the work and the objectives of this program
- A sample of up to five poems by the nominated poet, citing sources if the work has been published
- A resume or CV
- Two letters of recommendation

Application Deadline: October 7, 2022

All materials must be addressed to the Acton Public Library Poet Laureate Search & Review Committee. Hand deliveries must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the deadline date. Applications must be submitted in person or by mail. Mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Submissions will not be returned.

Mailing & Hand Delivery Address:

Acton Public Library
60 Old Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Search Committee review of all nominations will be completed on or before October 28th, 2022
Announcement of Poet Laureate by Acton Public Library Board on November 8, 2022
Installation at Acton Public Library during the 29th Annual Poetry Night celebration on May 21st, 2023

For more information

Contact:

Amanda Brouwer, Library Director
Acton Public Library
60 Old Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-395-3184

abrouwer@actonlibrary.org (write “Poet Laureate” in the subject line).

Old Saybrook Poet Laureate Application Form and Materials

Submit application, along with two copies of the following documents: brief artist's statement or personal philosophy that describes how the nominee intends to approach the scope of the work and the objectives of this program; a sample of up to five poems (published or unpublished); two letters of recommendation to: Acton Public Library 60 Old Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, Attn: Poet Laureate Committee. Applications will be accepted through **October 7th, 2022** Mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please include the following, if applicable (attach separate page if necessary):

Memberships in literary organizations:

Publications where your work has appeared:

List literary awards and dates awarded:

List of poetry-related experience including writing, publishing, teaching, critiquing, leading groups, planning and presenting activities, attending poetry courses, reading poems in public.

Please be sure the applicant's name appears on every page submitted. Handwritten materials are not acceptable. Materials will not be returned to the applicant.

I, _____, authorize my name to stand for nomination for the position of Poet Laureate of Old Saybrook, CT and affirm that I am 21 years of age or older and that I currently reside in Old Saybrook. I also verify that the representations made in this application are true and complete and that the work samples submitted with my application are my own work.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 pm on October 7th, 2022. Mail deliveries must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.