

COMMUNITY **ARTS** PARTNERSHIP

2025-2026 Poet Laureate of Tompkins County Program Guidelines

Nomination deadline: Sunday, November 24, 2024

Poet application deadline: Sunday, December 15, 2024

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About the Community Arts Partnership

The Community Arts Partnership (CAP) strengthens the arts in Tompkins County by providing services and resources for artists and arts groups, and leads collaboration among the arts, government, education, business, and the community at large. Our programs include the Greater Ithaca Art Trail, Spring Writes Literary Festival, Ithaca Artist Market, the CAP ArtSpace, and grants programs for artists and arts groups.

Visit [ArtsPartner.org](https://www.artspartner.org) for more information.

Program Overview

A poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring organization. Countries, states, cities, and communities around the world honor poets with the title of Poet Laureate. These positions are an important way to honor a poet and recognize the place that poetry has in a community's cultural tradition and civic life. These poets are important champions of the art form in their community and work to inspire the next generation of poets and their readers.

The position of Tompkins County Poet Laureate was established by the Tompkins County Legislature in 2001 to honor local outstanding poets, integrate poetry into the community, enrich the education of our young people, and enhance the county's position as a cultural center.

Since its establishment, the selection and announcement of the Tompkins County Poet Laureate has been a process administered by the Community Arts Partnership (CAP). CAP solicits nominations and organizes the selection panel for appointment to the post.

Appointments have been for two-year terms. This is an honorary position with an annual stipend of \$1,500.

Duties

We see the Tompkins County Poet Laureate as a visible community resource. The Poet Laureate will work with the Community Arts Partnership to develop a plan of engagement once appointed. The Poet Laureate's named duties over the period of their appointment include:

1. Presenting their poetry at one or more Tompkins County Legislature meetings.
2. Organizing presentations at other appropriate public events, at least once each quarter for their term.
3. Advocating for poetry in the community, including, but not limited to, bringing poetry to school children, projects or programs that promote the appreciation of poetry, or poetry workshops with under-resourced populations in the community.

Review Criteria

Nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate must:

1. Be a resident of Tompkins County for at least two years and plan to live in the County during the duration of their appointment.
2. Be a poet whose work has been shared through spoken word events, or who has been published in print or in online journals; and whose work helps people make collective meaning; poses new ways of being; and touches both the "heart space" and the "head space."
3. Be comfortable in the performance of poetry in public.
4. Be willing and able to champion the art of poetry and the spoken word.
5. Be willing and able to connect with and support our communities through poetry and to engage in a community-oriented poetry project.

Nominations

Individuals or organizations within or outside Tompkins County may nominate a poet. To nominate a poet, please use this [nomination form](#). Nominated poets who meet the residency requirements will be invited to submit an application. Nominations are due by **11:59 PM, Sunday, November 24, 2024**.

Poets who would like to self-nominate, may use the application form.

Applications

Nominated poets and poets wishing to nominate themselves should complete this [application form](#). Please give time to review the application and gather the required materials. Applications are due by **11:59 PM, Sunday, December 15, 2024**.

Review Process

All nominees for the Tompkins County Poet Laureate will be reviewed by a community-based selection panel.

Using the criteria listed above, the panel will make a recommendation for official approval by the Tompkins County Legislature.

Questions?

CAP welcomes all questions regarding this program and application. For more information on this program, please call Executive Director, Megan Barber at 273-2072 or email director@artspartner.org.