



City, Culture Works partner to create poet laureate program

Release date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024

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With the passage of a resolution at its June 5 meeting, the Dayton City Commission established the honorary position of City of Dayton Poet Laureate.

Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr., will appoint the City of Dayton Poet Laureate after applications are reviewed by a special committee. Culture Works, the Dayton region's arts agency and united arts fund, will manage the application process.

Candidates should have a significant publication history, including works published by reputable publishers, and contributions to journals and media. There should also be a track record of recognition, demonstration of literary excellence, and a strong commitment to promoting awareness of poetry. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

Details of the application and nomination process will be announced in August. The City of Dayton Poet Laureate selection and appointment will be announced on May 1, 2025.

"As a former art teacher, I am excited to kick off the creation of Dayton's poet laureate program," said Mayor Mims. "Our city has such a rich history of arts and culture that continues to thrive. The addition of a poet laureate will promote literacy and commemorate our cultural heritage."

"Dayton, a city of arts and letters and the birthplace of celebrated poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, is taking a significant step in honoring his legacy and promoting poetry as an art form with the creation of the poet laureate position," said Lisa Hanson, president and CEO of Culture Works, the region's united arts fund and local arts agency. "Culture Works is delighted to partner with the City of Dayton and is honored to be entrusted with the selection process."

About Poets Laureate

According to the Academy of American Poets, "...many cities, large and small, now honor a poet in their community with the title of Poet Laureate...these poets are important champions of the art form in their community and work to inspire the next generation of poets and their readers. Poets Laureate are often called upon to read


poems at ceremonial events and public meetings, and champion the art of poetry and the spoken word of their city, in person, and on social media. Additionally, the position encourages the appreciation of the art form and creative expression to city residents of all ages, celebrates the city's cultural heritage, gives free public readings and workshops, and participates in visits to schools and events for young people.

About Culture Works

Culture Works is the funding, advocacy, and service organization that passionately inspires, supports, and sustains arts and culture in the Dayton Region. As the united arts fund and arts service agency for the region, Culture Works believes that creating and maintaining a vibrant and attractive community filled with quality arts brings measurable and immeasurable value to our citizens. Culture Works' programs and initiatives are made possible through significant support from the Campaign for the Arts Workplace Giving Campaign, Ohio Arts Council, Montgomery County, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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