

# Call for Applications: Poet Laureate of Kansas

Kansas Humanities Council

22 January 2013

The Kansas Humanities Council is pleased to announce a Call for Applications for the 2013-2015 Poet Laureate of Kansas. The Poet Laureate serves as a leader in strengthening citizen engagement with the humanities through poetry.

The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term beginning in April 2013. Activities will include audience discussions, special engagements, and a statewide project of his or her design that advances the reach and impact of poetry in Kansas.

**Completed applications are due in the KHC office by 5:00 PM Friday, February 22, 2013.**

## Eligibility

*Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:*

- At least 18 years of age and a non-student
- A Kansas resident for the previous 3 years and remain a resident throughout the Poet Laureate term (through April 2015)
- Available to travel statewide to 20-25 events per year at Kansas nonprofit organizations such as libraries, art or community centers, and museums each year. Statewide reach is of utmost importance to the mission of KHC and the Poet Laureate program.
- Have at least one book of original poetry published by a commercial or small press (not vanity press or self-publication)
- Willing to meet with KHC donors and speak at KHC fundraising events

Current KHC board members or staff, past Poet Laureates, and undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking students are not eligible.

## Responsibilities of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

Duties of the Poet Laureate include (1) public speaking events throughout Kansas; and (2) development, implementation, and oversight of a special public poetry project.

- *Public Events.* The Poet Laureate will participate in 20-25 poetry events per year at the invitation of Kansas nonprofit organizations such as libraries, art and community centers, historical museums, and civic groups. Attending KHC donor and fundraising events will also be required.
- *Special Project.* In consultation with the staff of the Kansas Humanities Council the Poet Laureate will design and implement a project that encourages public participation in poetry and demonstrates statewide reach. Special interest will be given to projects that increase engagement with diverse audiences. The project cannot be an expansion of the poet's own work portfolio; rather, it must involve the public in creative and meaningful ways.

## Compensation

The Poet Laureate will receive \$10,000 per year for fulfilling the responsibilities outlined above.

## Criteria

*Poet Laureate applicants will be ranked according the following measures:*

- *Excellence* determined by poetry samples
- *Professionalism* determined by (1) publication of at least one book by a commercial or small press (not vanity presses or self-publication); and (2) involvement in the larger poetry community as evidenced by participation in editorial boards, organization of poetry reading series, and/or teaching poetry courses or workshops.
- *Commitment to the public advancement of poetry in Kansas* as evidenced by a history of activity through readings, presentations, blogs, poetry-centered social media, and/or teaching in a public space not normally considered a classroom. An ability to reach diverse Kansas audiences is strongly encouraged.

Genre and/or speculative poetry (poetry distinguished from other poetic genres by being categorized by its subject matter rather than the poetry's form, such as cowboy, science fiction, or fantastic poetry) will not be competitive.

### **Selection Committee**

The 2013 Poet Laureate Selection Committee is a 7-member panel comprised of literature scholars, working poets, and members of the KHC Board of Directors. Two finalists will be invited to speak with members of the selection committee and Friends of the Humanities. The announcement of the new Poet Laureate will follow, most likely in April, National Poetry Month.

### **Application Materials**

*Interested applicants must submit the following materials for consideration:*

- Application cover sheet (provided)
- One-page letter of interest that demonstrates the applicant's commitment to the humanities through poetry
- Résumé or curriculum vitae with recent publication history (3 pages maximum)
- Three sample poems
- Draft of Special Project proposal
- Up to three pages of supporting materials (DVD or YouTube link to a public reading, letters of reference, etc.)

### **Deadline: 5:00 PM Friday, February 22, 2013**

E-mail applications to Leslie Von Holten, KHC program officer, at [leslie@kansashumanities.org](mailto:leslie@kansashumanities.org) or mail to

Leslie Von Holten  
 Kansas Humanities Council  
 112 SW 6th Ave., Suite 210  
 Topeka, KS 66603

*Application packets must be received in the KHC offices by the deadline above. Receipt of all applications will be confirmed within three days. If you have not received a confirmation, please call the KHC office.*

Questions? Contact Leslie Von Holten, KHC program officer, at [leslie@kansashumanities.org](mailto:leslie@kansashumanities.org) or 785/357-0359.



# Poet Laureate of Kansas

## Kansas Humanities Council

### 2013-2015 Application Cover Sheet

**Deadline: 5:00 PM Friday, February 22, 2013**

**E-mail submission (preferred):** Send application materials in PDF form to [leslie@kansashumanities.org](mailto:leslie@kansashumanities.org)

**Mail submission:**

Leslie Von Holten, Kansas Humanities Council, 112 SW 6th Ave., Suite 210, Topeka, KS 66603  
(Application packets must be *received* in the KHC offices by the deadline above)

**Review the Call for Applications.** It is the applicant's responsibility to be familiar with this information before submitting.

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 18 years or older? Yes  No

Have you been a Kansas resident since Jan. 1, 2010 or earlier? Yes  No

Are you available to travel statewide? Yes  No

By checking this box, the Applicant certifies that representations made in this application are true and complete to the best of your knowledge, and that the work samples submitted accurately represents your original work.

**Descriptions of Poetry Samples submitted**

Provide title (or first line) and year poem was written

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Descriptions of Supporting Materials**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

<p><b>Application Checklist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Application Cover Sheet</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> One-page letter of interest</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Résumé or curriculum vitae</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Three sample poems</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Draft of Special Project proposal</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Supporting materials</li></ul>
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