



## **2024-2025 CITY OF BIRMINGHAM POET LAUREATE**

***THIS INITIATIVE IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM AND IS FUNDED BY THE ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE. THE INITIATIVE IS ADMINISTERED BY CREATE BIRMINGHAM.***

### **OVERVIEW**

Create Birmingham, in partnership with the City of Birmingham and funded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Committee of the Birmingham City Council, invites Birmingham-based poets to apply to become Birmingham's inaugural 2024-2025 Poet Laureate.

The City of Birmingham Poet Laureate will serve as an ambassador for poetry in Birmingham. This is an honorary position and roles and responsibilities include making local appearances, facilitating public and educational programs, and building advocacy and community through poetry. The poet laureate will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 over the course of their term. Additional funds will be available for materials and other approved costs associated with community engagement programs that the poet laureate facilitates.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible, applicants must be:

- Age 18 years old or older at the time of application.
- Reside in the City of Birmingham at the time of their application and for the duration of their appointment.
- Demonstrate a track record of public presentation of original poetry, including in-person and/or online events and via websites and/or social media.
- Have the capacity and availability to attend periodic public events over the course of the two-year term.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Poets will be selected for consideration by a distinguished community review panel that will make recommendations to the Mayor of the City of Birmingham who will officially appoint the City of Birmingham Poet Laureate.

## SCOPE OF WORK

The City of Birmingham Poet Laureate will agree to the following scope of work, repeatable for each year of their term:

- Host three workshops for Birmingham City Schools.
- Participate in five City of Birmingham events (dates/events to be shared no later than February of each term year).
- Write two original poems for the City of Birmingham.

## KEY DATES

- August 1, 2023: Application portal opens.
- September 29, 2023: Final day to submit application questions by 5 pm.
- October 2, 2023: Submissions due by 11:59 p.m.
- November 2023: Finalist interviews take place.
- December 2023: Poet Laureate is selected and announced.
- January 2024: Poet Laureate officiation and start of two-year term.

*The Poet Laureate's term will run from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.*

## APPLICATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Along with a brief form providing contact information, applicants are asked to submit the following:

- A resume, not to exceed two pages, listing published works and related experience.
- A statement describing your ties to the City of Birmingham and why you would like to serve as the City's Poet Laureate (1500 characters or less).
- A description of relevant community engagement and/or public speaking events you have participated in. Please include the year(s) of each event and the organization(s) you partnered with (1500 characters or less).
- Two professional references, including affiliation, phone number, and email address.
- Five work samples, including the title and date completed for each, not to exceed one work per page and five pages total.
- Optional: Link to audio or video recording(s), of no more than five minutes total, reading work aloud, in either a public setting or recorded for the purpose of this application.

## **BIRMINGHAM POET LAUREATE APPLICATIONS OPEN AUGUST 1 AND CLOSE OCTOBER 2.**

***The guidelines and submission form can be found on Create Birmingham's [website](#). After reviewing the materials, please email [viola@createbirmingham.org](mailto:viola@createbirmingham.org) with any questions well in advance so that we may assist you.***