

MOSCOW ARTS COMMISSION



Arts & Culture Education

3rd Thursday of the Month

February 18, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Arts & Culture Education

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Commission Members

Robert Caisley
Lauren McCleary (chair)
Sandra Stoops

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Staff

Megan Cherry
Arts Program Manager
Britnee Christen
Administrative Specialist

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Arts & Culture Education Ongoing Projects:

Moscow Poet Laureate
Entertainment in the Park
Arts Education Support
MACtivities

- MACtivities Toolbox
 - Toolbox #2 Distribution Plan for Final Boxes
 - 10 toolboxes remain
 - Toolbox #3 Update

- Moscow Poet Laureate RFQ
 - Selection Panel Membership
 - Selection Timeline

- MPL April 2021 Poetry Relay

- Programming Representation (Discussion)

- Upcoming Meetings and Events
 - ACE Regular Meeting: 5 p.m. March 18, 2021



Moscow Poet Laureate 2021 – 2024

Request for Qualifications

The City of Moscow and the Moscow Arts Commission seek a published poet to serve a 3-year term as a Moscow Poet Laureate (MPL). This position expands literacy and community awareness, honor the many writers in our community, and builds upon the correlation between civic life and creativity of local artists. This call for poetry artists is open to published poets 18 years of age or older who live in Moscow, Idaho and have a record of community involvement and/or teaching. The annual honorarium for the Moscow Poet Laureate is \$1000.

Program Description

The Moscow Poet Laureate Program increases awareness of the role that poetry and literature play in the community and creates a record of Moscow's distinctive character. Not only does the program support the work of excellent poets in the city, but it also invests the public spaces of the city with the beauty of language. Along with offering readings and workshops, the Poet Laureate writes poems for the City that are reflective of local landscapes, social situations, or important events.

The Moscow Poet Laureate program began in 2015, inspired by the vision of the Moscow Arts Commission and University of Idaho English Professor Alexandra Teague. Since that time, two poets have offered their literary expertise to this City of Moscow program; Tiffany Midge served from 2015-2018, followed by Susan Hodgin's 2018-2021 term.

A selection panel comprised of Moscow Arts Commission members, City of Moscow staff, writers, and community members will review each applicant's materials.

During his/her term, the poet laureate will be commissioned to:

- Write at least two (2) poems per year that speak in some sense to the distinctive experience of Moscow, Idaho. These works will be published in local publications and/or presented at public occasions.
- Give a minimum of two (2) local readings per year:
 - 1 at the annual April Poetry Relay, which connects and promotes members of the literary community during National Poetry Month

- 1 at another Arts Department function such as the Mayor's Arts Awards, Entertainment in the Park, Artwalk, or public art dedication (to be determined by Moscow Poet Laureate and Arts Program Manager with advice from MAC)
- Work to raise the visibility of poetry and other literary arts within the community through outreach, education, and other programs. Included offerings must include at least one (1) public poetry workshop per year which may be targeted to a particular age of students or adults within the community.

Submission Requirements:

- Letter of interest (limited to one page) that includes an explanation of connections to Moscow, Idaho, and specific ideas for outreach activities/programs that could be implemented in the community.
- Sample of 5 to 10 poems (with publication credits listed, if applicable).
- A resume that includes a complete list of publications and qualifications.
- A video (or a web link to a video) depicting the applicant reading a sample of their work.

Selection Process:

Selection Panel Members (sample from Vinyl Wrap RFP)

Voting members:

2 – Moscow Arts Commission Members

1 – Local Business Representative

1 – Technical Consultant

1 – City Staff Member

Non-voting members:

Arts Program Manager (Selection Panel facilitator)

City staff members acting in a technical advisory capacity

Timeline:

to be confirmed following ACE and MAC discussion

Considerations:

- Susan Hodgins' term ends on June 25, 2021. The poet is paid at the beginning of each year of their term (early July). Staff and admin have discussed shifting the MPL service period to begin in October, which would align with the City's fiscal year. Is anything lost in terms of programming potential if we make this shift in 2021? In essence, we wouldn't have a Poet Laureate from the end of Susan's term in late June to the beginning of the next MPL's term in October.
- There has been confusion as to who should communicate with and assign tasks to the Poet Laureate. Also, excessive assignments have overburdened the MPL's time and subverted their potential to alert the MAC and Arts staff to opportunities within the literary community. Should this be addressed in the text of the RFQ, in the contract, or both? Are there other ideas for supporting this part of the MPL's experience?

- Junior Poet Laureate?

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