



PLYMOUTH POET LAUREATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The role of the Plymouth Poet Laureate is to elevate poetry in the consciousness of Plymouth residents and to promote the community's values, history, people, and cultural traditions through literary arts. The Plymouth Poet Laureate is an honorary two-year appointment. During that term, the Poet Laureate will advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts, as well as contribute to the community's literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. The Poet Laureate is encouraged to actively propose and lead community projects that strengthen the program's purpose. America's Hometown Laureates, Inc., (AHL) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is responsible for continuing the Plymouth Poet Laureate program and so much more. The AHL is comprised of a 6-member Board of Directors. More information is available at <https://www.Hometownlaureates.com>.

Eligibility

Applications must be complete to be considered by the AHL Board. Applications may be submitted by an interested individual or an applicant may be nominated. We are committed to welcoming a diverse group of candidates for this important representation of the Plymouth community. At the time of submission, applicants/nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Be available to serve a two-year term (2024-2026)
- Be 21 years or older
- Be a current Plymouth resident. Employees, business owners and former residents who sustain an active relationship with the community are eligible
- Have demonstrated a commitment to and passion for poetry and the spoken word
- Be comfortable with public speaking and recitations

Duties and Responsibilities

The selected applicant is encouraged to assert broad creative control and formulate public programming that advances the vision and goals of the Poet Laureate Program. The AHL Board consist of partner agencies that will assist the Poet Laureate in conceptualizing and executing programs.

The Poet Laureate is encouraged to participate at community-sponsored events, including Plymouth 4th of July Parade, Plymouth Waterfront Festival, and America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration. In addition to the honorarium, the Poet Laureate will be permitted to assess a fee not to exceed \$50.00. Contributions in excess of \$50.00 shall be a deemed a donation to the America's Hometown Laureates, Inc. and used to fund events and other public programming consistent with the Poet Laureate's vision and the Board of America's Hometown Laureates, Inc.

The Poet Laureate will contribute to creating a poetic identity for Plymouth, Massachusetts. This includes acting as a resource for the America's Hometown Laureates, Inc. poetry and literary activities, leading the community's efforts during National Poetry Month, and undertaking projects that will make poetry more available and accessible to residents and visitors. The Poet Laureate is encouraged to research and produce an original poem

During the inauguration of the Poet Laureate in April 2024, the successful nominee will be expected to deliver a public recitation of an original poem that educates an audience to some exemplary person or action or story from Plymouth's more than 400-year history.

The Poet Laureate will be charged with selecting one *Student Laureates* who will serve co-terminus with the Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate will organize and facilitate a process to identify one capable student from the Plymouth Public School System, Charter schools and alternative schools to serve in this distinct capacity. The purpose of the Student Laureate program is to assist the Poet Laureate with the duties and responsibilities of the position, provide a different perspective of the community through the eyes of young adults, as well as enhance the literary and speaking skills of the participating students. This program will be implemented at the Fall, 2024 school year.

Goals

The Poet Laureate may approach, implement, and complete the following goals in however manner they desire.

Collaboration. Foster strong working relationships and partnerships with area non-profits, businesses, schools, and other organizations that help advance the goals of the Plymouth Poet Laureate Program.

April Poetry Month. Provide and promote events and activities to celebrate American Library Association's National Poetry Month.

Events and Readings. Establish a series of regular public poetry events and readings throughout the year.

Participation. Bring poetry into the cultural life of Plymouth by participating in holiday celebrations and other civic events.

Promotion. Keep the public aware of poetry and poetry activities in Plymouth, by using social media and other channels. This includes contributing to Hometownlaureates FB Page, Instagram, X, formally known as Twitter, TikTok, YouTube, etc.

Application Process

1. *Nomination Form.* Complete and submit with signature and date.
2. *Resume or CV.* Submit a current resume or CV of professional activities and achievements (Max 4 pages). Submissions should be listed in chronological format, not narrative. Include significant awards, training, selected exhibitions, performances, presentations and/or publications.
3. *Work Samples.* Include up to 3 original poems that represent your best artistic work. Submit only one (1) poem per page. All pages must include the title of the poem, your name and page number(s) if necessary, and citation for publication. All submitted work must be typed; handwritten submissions will not be accepted.
4. *Vision.* In no more than two pages, describe what type of project(s) you would undertake to make poetry more available and accessible to Plymouth residents and visitors.

Completed submissions must be hand-delivered by Friday, December 15, 2023 or post-marked by Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Timeline

Target Dates	Task	Notes
Wednesday, Nov 8	Applications Available	Paper applications available for pick up - Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, 100 Armstrong Rd., Suite 204, Plymouth MA 02360 Online at Hometownlaureates.com
Friday, Dec 15	Applications Due	Paper submissions due to Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, 100 Armstrong Rd., Suite 204, Plymouth, MA 02360. Post marked by 12/17 Online (PDF) at Hometownlaureates@gmail.com by 12/15
Wednesday, Dec 20	AHL Board receives applications	AHL Board meets to discuss qualified submissions. Qualified submissions copied for panelists to review
Friday, Jan 5	AHL Board completes review	Panel identifies up to 5 semi-finalists to invite to public recitation, location TBA
Thursday, Feb 29* Date to be confirmed	Public Recitation	Community event will be arranged the last week of February, 2024. Each semi-finalist will be given a 10-minute time slot to read their work
Wednesday, Mar 13	Poet Laureate and Runner-Up chosen	Based on submissions and public performance, AHL Board will decide finalist and runner-up
Thursday, Apr 11* Date to be confirmed	Public Ceremony	Local business TBA will host event. Poet Laureate recites original work about Plymouth.

America's Hometown Laureates Board and Current Poet Laureate

Jennifer Harris, President, Retired – Plymouth Public Library Director
 Malissa Kenney, Vice President, Plymouth Bay Cultural District
 Stephen Cole, Clerk, Executive Director. The Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation
 Glenda Richards, Treasurer, Books and Sundry, Pop-Up
 Elizabeth Shanahan-Jewett, Director, Executive and Creative Director, The Local Seen and PACTV
 Amy Naples, Director, Executive Director. Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce
 Stephan Delbos, current Plymouth Poet Laureate

Questions may be addressed to Jennifer Harris at 508-789-8373 or jenharris62004@yahoo.com or Stephen Cole at 774-343-5024 or Stephen.Cole@plymouth-ma.biz



PLYMOUTH POET LAUREATE NOMINATION APPLICATION

Deliver completed application to: Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce c/o Amy Naples, 100
Armstrong Road, Suite 204 Plymouth, MA 02360, **OR** Online (PDF) at Hometownlaureates@gmail.com

Nominee Information

Check here if self-nominated

Name (Print) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Certification

I hereby grant permission for my name to be submitted in consideration for the Plymouth Poet Laureate. I certify the information contained herein is true and accurate and the work sample submitted is an accurate representation of my work.

Signature _____ Date _____

Nominator Information

Name (Print) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined information contained in this nomination and accompanying documents and, to the best of my knowledge, they are true and correct.

Signature _____ Date _____