



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 29, 2024
Contact: Clair Dunlap, Youth Services Librarian
360-417-8500 x7734 or CDunlap@NOLS.org
Re: Applications open for next Clallam County Poet Laureate
Attached: *JaidenDokken.jpg*

APPLICATIONS OPEN

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is accepting online applications at NOLS.org/NextPoet for the 2025-2027 Clallam County Poet Laureate position. Poets age 18 and over who reside in Clallam County and have a passion for bringing poetry to their community are invited to apply. Submissions close on Monday, December 9. The position is supported by NOLS and a stipend is funded by the North Olympic Library Foundation and Clallam County.

ABOUT THE POSITION

The Poet Laureate will be selected by a committee of community arts leaders, practitioners, and enthusiasts from across the county. Notification of the appointment will be made by March 2025, and the Laureate will serve a two-year term from April 2025 through March 2027. This position comes with an annual stipend of \$5,000 (\$10,000 in total), funded by the North Olympic Library Foundation and Clallam County, in recognition of the appointed poet's time and energy in participating in or hosting events as well as to support the poet's craft and practice.

The Poet Laureate will bring poetry to residents of the county by participating in events, leading workshops, and championing the community power of the written and spoken word. They will be expected to participate in or host approximately one event per month during their term at locations throughout Clallam County. A major goal of the Clallam County Poet Laureate program is to use poetry to bring a variety of voices and perspectives to culturally diverse audiences throughout the county, and to bring communities together through poetry.

HISTORY OF THE ROLE

The Clallam County Poet Laureate position was first offered in 2023. It is currently held by Jaiden Dokken, whose term ends in March 2025. As the first in this role, Jaiden explored unique ways to engage Clallam County with poetry. Hosting or participating in more than 40 events across the county and online thus far, Jaiden has also published local poetry in mini zines and developed poetry reading and writing challenges. To celebrate the end of their term, NOLS will host an exhibition of Jaiden's creative works at the Port Angeles Main Library, February 28 to May 31, 2025.

To collaborate with Jaiden on events like poetry readings, workshops and interactive experiences, email PoetLaureate@NOLS.org. Events with the Poet Laureate should be free and open to the public, with the exception of school or corrections facility visits.

For more information about this program, visit NOLS.org/NextPoet, email Discover@NOLS.org, or call 360-417-8500.



Clallam County's first Poet Laureate, Jaiden Dokken, concludes their term in March 2025. Applications are open for the next Poet Laureate.

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