



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 18, 2026
Contact: Clair Dunlap, Librarian
360-417-8500 x7734 or CDunlap@NOLS.org
Re: Applications open Oct. 14 for next Clallam County Poet Laureate
Attached: *NellieBridge-PoetryReading.jpg*

Applications Open Oct. 14

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will accept applications from Oct. 14 to Dec. 9 online at NOLS.org/NextPoet for the **2027-29 Clallam County Poet Laureate** position. Poets age 18 and older who live in Clallam County and have a passion for bringing poetry to their community are invited to apply. Poets can find a list of questions on the webpage to help them prepare their application in advance. The position is supported by NOLS, and a stipend is funded by the North Olympic Library Foundation.

About the Position

The Poet Laureate will be selected by a committee of community arts leaders, practitioners and enthusiasts from across Clallam County. Notification of the appointment will be made by March 2027, and the Laureate will serve a two-year term from April 2027 through March 2029. This term comes with an annual stipend of \$5,000 (\$10,000 in total), funded by the North Olympic Library Foundation 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 program began in 2023 through a partnership with NOLS and Clallam County. [Jaiden Dokken](#) first held the role from 2023 to 2025, followed by [Nellie Bridge](#), who is serving in the 2025–27 term. They have facilitated a combined total of more than 100 workshops and readings. The next event series is a [Poetry Appreciation Class](#) facilitated by Bridge at the Sequim Library, Sept. 21, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19. Her debut collection “Holes in the Ship of Theseus” was awarded the Best of the Bottom Drawer Global Writing Prize by Black Spring Press and will be published by Simon and Schuster in February 2027.

To collaborate with Bridge 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, visit NOLS.org/NextPoet, email Discover@NOLS.org, or call 360-417-8500.



Clallam County Poet Laureate Nellie Bridge concludes her term in March 2027.

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