



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 14, 2022
Contact: Clair Dunlap, Youth Services Librarian
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Re: Applications for first Clallam County Poet Laureate open October 17

Clallam County and the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) are excited to announce an opportunity to become the first Clallam County Poet Laureate. Poets age 18 and over who reside in Clallam County and have a passion for bringing poetry to their community are invited to apply for the inaugural position. Submissions open Monday, October 17, at nols.org/poet and close on Friday, December 2. 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.

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. Poetry helps us to see, understand and think about our community and our world through a different lens and challenges us to reconsider the common ties that bind us together.

“Thanks to the partnership with Clallam County, the Library is excited to launch this program, and foster well-being and connectedness when people may be feeling particularly divided or isolated,” said Librarian Clair Dunlap, lead coordinator for the program.

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 2023, and the Laureate will serve a two-year term from April 2023 through March 2025. This position comes with an annual stipend of \$5,000 (\$10,000 in total), funded by 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 be expected to participate in or host approximately two events per month during their term at locations throughout Clallam County.

Poets are invited to join an in-person information session at the Port Angeles Main Library on Saturday, October 22 at 2pm or meet virtually to learn more about the program at a Zoom information session on Tuesday, October 25 at 12pm.

For more information about this program, visit nols.org/poet, email PoetLaureate@nols.org, or call 360.417.8500.

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