



## **CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER POET LAUREATE 2021-2024 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

### **Deadline for submissions – Thursday, April 1, 2021**

The City of New Westminster is accepting submissions from local writers (poets, spoken word artists and storytellers) with diverse voices and perspectives in consideration for the City's Poet Laureate Program. BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of colour) and equity-seeking literary artists are strongly encouraged to apply for this opportunity. The term "equity seeking" refers to those in the community that face entrenched marginalization due to attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers including age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation or transgender status.

### **About**

The Poet Laureate, through public readings, presentations and engagement opportunities, strives to reflect the life and diversity of the City, share and promote the value of literary arts with all residents and to stimulate dialogue, learning and connection around issues and ideas that are important to the community.

Through the course of the term, the successful applicant will:

- Present imaginative and insightful work at select public events
- Engage with the community through initiatives that inspire participation in and appreciation of the literary arts
- Conceptualize, develop and implement a legacy project that builds upon their engagement initiatives

The Poet Laureate will work collaboratively with City staff to shape their engagement plan, which includes both participation in public events as well as other forms of community activation in a way that best aligns with their practice.

### **Term**

This is an honorary position with a three-year term beginning in 2021.

## **Recognition & Remuneration**

The Poet Laureate will be provided an honorarium of \$2500 per year. An annual budget of \$1,000 is also provided to support the Laureate's engagement initiatives. Additional project funds may be available to support the Legacy project dependent upon available financial resources. A section of the City's website will display the Poet Laureate's work and the City will promote engagement activities through the Cultural Services newsletter and other City social media channels.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants for the City of New Westminster Poet Laureate must fulfil the following requirements:

- Be an active published or performance-based writer (poet, spoken word artist or storyteller) with a history of activity in their discipline (readings, publications, public presentations and/or teaching)
- Demonstrate a body of work and/or alignment with the program goal of supporting diverse voices and perspectives
- Demonstrate a connection to the community. Preference will be given to New Westminster-based writers or those who demonstrate a strong affiliation with the New Westminster community (applications will be accepted from artists that reside outside New Westminster but within the Metro Vancouver area).

## **Submissions Format**

Submissions to be submitted in the form of a letter of intent (no more than 3 pages) that address how you meet the eligibility criteria. Required accompanying documents include a biography and 3-5 examples of past work that reflect your literary practice.

## **How to Submit**

Email submissions (letter of intent and supporting documents) in PDF format to [tayotte@newwestcity.ca](mailto:tayotte@newwestcity.ca) and include the subject line: City of New Westminster Poet Laureate Call.

Paper submissions will be accepted c/o:  
City of New Westminster Poet Laureate Call  
Attention: Todd Ayotte  
Anvil Centre

777 Columbia Street  
New Westminster, BC  
V3M 1B6

### **Submission Deadline - Thursday April 1, 2021**

Please note: City of New Westminster staff, members of the City of New Westminster Arts Commission and jury panel members are not eligible to apply.

### **Evaluation**

The following criteria will be used to evaluate submissions:

1. Community Connection
2. Range and quality of support materials
3. Alignment with program goal to support diverse voices and perspectives
4. Level of Engagement proposed in the application

### **Selection Process**

Eligible submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a Selection Committee comprised of:

- Arts Commission Representative(s)
- NW Public Library Representative
- Past Poet Laureate
- Professional writer/educator

Candidates may be invited to an informal discussion about their unique vision for the term as Poet Laureate.

### **Intellectual Property**

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the tenure of the Poet Laureate will remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

### **Questions**

Please direct questions to Todd Ayotte at [tayotte@newwestcity.ca](mailto:tayotte@newwestcity.ca)