



## KERN COUNTY POET LAUREATE

### Call for Nominations for Kern County Poet Laureate

**The Arts Council of Kern is seeking submissions for its first Poet Laureate to represent, promote, and educate Kern County and the state in the art of poetry. This is a unique opportunity to showcase an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the literary arts through poetry.**

**Definition:** The person honored with the title of Poet Laureate has achieved preeminence in the field of poetry through his or her public performances and through published works of poetry.

**Mission:** The mission of the Poet Laureate of Kern County is to promote an appreciation of poetry as a literary art for listeners, readers, and writers of poetry.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- \*Raises awareness of poetry as a literary art in Kern County.
- \*Promotes community awareness of the literary arts and encourages community members to develop their own creative interests.
- \*Accepts, with the Arts Council of Kern, a proclamation award for April as National Poetry Month from the Kern County Board of Supervisors.
- \*Provides readings of original poetry throughout Kern County at community functions such as the Kern County Board of Supervisors, Bakersfield City Council, the Arts Council of Kern, or other public events, for a minimum of four times throughout the term of service.
- \*Participates actively in ceremonial, educational and cultural activities in the community at various times throughout the term of service.
- \*Provides at least two workshops on poetry, one at an academic setting and another for the general public, during term of service.



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\*Increases visibility of poetry as an integral part of the artistic community locally, regionally and statewide.

**Term of Service:** The Poet Laureate for Kern County is an honorary position. The individual selected will serve a two-year term, commencing in April of 2016. Kern Poetry, ([kernpoetry.com](http://kernpoetry.com)), through The Arts Council of Kern will award the Poet Laureate an honorarium of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year. The \$2,000 honorarium shall encompass civic or official work performed or produced in the roles and responsibilities of this position.

**Term Expectations:**

As a condition of the appointment, the Poet Laureate will participate in a minimum of four public functions when called upon throughout the term of service. Additionally, the Poet Laureate shall aim to be actively involved with local schools and endeavor to create or facilitate workshops and readings that will bring the Poet Laureate into contact with students and the public.

To the extent possible, the Poet Laureate also will establish programs to coincide with the term of service to promote community awareness of the literary arts and to encourage community members to develop their own creative interests.

**Nominees for Kern County Poet Laureate must meet the following criteria:**

Must be a current resident of, or work in the County of Kern and its environs for at least five years.

Must be available to travel throughout the Kern County community.

Must be a recognized poet/spoken word artist who meets the criteria listed below.

Should have a proven history of substantial publication of individual poems and/or books.

Should share a connection to Kern County by his or her influence on other writers in the community.

Should be able to demonstrate an appreciation for Kern County in regards to its socially and culturally diverse community.



1330 Truxtun Ave., Suite B  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Office: 661.324.9000  
Fax: 661.324.1136  
[www.kernarts.org](http://www.kernarts.org)

Should have an established history of oral presentations in the Kern County literary community, i.e. readings, publications, public presentations, and /or teaching.

**Nominations due by January 31, 2016**

To The Arts Council of Kern Office via email [david.gordon@kernarts.org](mailto:david.gordon@kernarts.org)

or regular mail: 1330 Truxtun Ave Suite B, Bakersfield, CA 93301

**KERN COUNTY POET LAUREATE NOMINATION FORM:**

**Self-nominations will not be accepted**

NOMINEE (Poet) \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee Contact Information**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_







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**Candidates will be notified by email and/or regular mail no later than March 19,  
2016**

Please contact David Gordon with any questions at

[david.gordon@kernarts.org](mailto:david.gordon@kernarts.org) or 661.324.9000