

Call for Submissions - Youth Poet Laureate

The City of Mississauga will recognize its second Youth Poet Laureate in 2018. The role of the Youth Poet Laureate is to serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the City of Mississauga and to elevate the status of **poetry, literary arts and young writers within their communities. The honorary position recognizes a young poet who writes excellent poetry or spoken word and has written on themes that are relevant** to the citizens of Mississauga.

Objectives

The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a 2-year term beginning in April 2018 and ending in March 2020. The objectives of the position are to:

- serve as a literary ambassador for the City of Mississauga both to internal and external audiences;
- promote poetry and literary arts to young people;
- raise the profile of young writers in Mississauga; and
- create an artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions

Key Responsibilities:

- Create literary work that reflects the values of the City and its citizens.
- Produce at least one original work for a specific event or occasion identified by the City.
- Agree to perform poetry readings in person (at least once to City Council during National Poetry month, and at minimum, one additional official City of Mississauga function during the term).
- Attend a variety of events to promote and attract young people to the literary world
- With guidance from City staff and the Poet Laureate, complete an event or project to promote poetry and the literary arts to young people.
- Provide content for the Poet Laureate section of the City of Mississauga website.

Term and Remuneration:

The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a 24-month term beginning in April and will receive \$3,000.00 honorarium paid in 6 installments (3 per year) throughout the term. Additional project funding of \$1,000.00 is available to support the execution of a Youth Poet Laureate event or project.

Selection Criteria:

Candidates Must:

- Be 25 years of age or younger as of April 1, 2018.
- Be a current Mississauga resident.
- Have the ability to represent the values of the City in a professional manner.
- Have an established body of work or have been recognized for notable contributions to the literary arts.
- Present work that is relevant to Mississauga and/or subjects that reflect the life of the city.

Submissions:

The application period is open from February 1 – March 18, 2018.

Submission Deadline – March 18, 2018

Eligible poets or spoken word artists are invited to submit proposals that include::

1. Curriculum Vitae.
2. A minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 examples of work from within the last 5 years (one example should be a voice/video recording of one of their submissions).
3. Confirmation of place of residence and date of birth (acceptable proof of residence and date of birth includes a photo-copy of valid official government photo ID with current address and date of birth listed).
4. Contact information for three professional references who can verify the poet's abilities in: poetry or spoken word, event or project management, public speaking, and professionalism.
5. Letter of Intent (500 words maximum) detailing:
 - The proposal for an event or project to promote poetry and the literary arts to young people including a breakdown of how the \$1,000.00 project budget would be used.
 - How the poet would represent the City of Mississauga and interact in civic life at specific events or occasions.
 - How the poet would use digital engagement to promote the literary arts to young people during their term.

Submissions are accepted via email or paper copy.

Please send email submissions to:

culture.operations@mississauga.ca

Paper submissions will be accepted c/o:

City of Mississauga Poet Laureate Submissions
Supervisor, Literary, Digital & Visual Arts
Culture Division
201 City Centre Drive, Suite 202
Mississauga, ON L5B 2T4

Selection Process:

Appointment will be made by a selection committee comprised of arts professionals from the community. Submissions will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- the applicant's contributions to the community and to youth in Mississauga through poetry and the literary arts;
- artistic merit of the submission, including the relevancy to the City of Mississauga and its values; and
- the potential impact of the proposed event and/or poetry project as identified in the applicant's Letter of Intent.

Potential applicants may be requested to attend an in-person interview as part of the selection process. Public information about the applicant available online (social media presence, website, media releases etc.) may also be reviewed by committee members as part of the selection process. If selected, the candidate will be asked to provide a Criminal Records Search, Vulnerable Sector Screening, at their own expense that is acceptable to the City of Mississauga.

Reserved Rights of the City Of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga, at its sole discretion, reserves the following rights:

- to request clarification or additional information, as it deems necessary to evaluate submissions;
- to determine suitability of the submission and capability of the prospective poet;
- to select the poet that it deems most appropriate for the project;
- to make no selection or to cancel this process at any time; and
- to issue public announcements regarding the competition.

This document and any submissions in response to it by prospective poets do not create any binding obligations on the City, the prospective poet, or any other party.

Any questions about the Youth Poet Laureate Program should be directed to Kathryn Garland, Supervisor, Cultural Programs, Literary and Digital Arts kathryn.garland@mississauga.ca.

Personal information is collected under the authority of Section 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purpose of evaluating applicants. It will also be used to contact the individual chosen for the position. Questions about the collection of this personal information should be directed to the Supervisor, Culture Programs Literary Arts, 201 City Centre Drive, Suite 202, Mississauga and 905-615-3200 x4063.