

Kansas Arts Commission Poet Laureate of Kansas 2027-2030

Application Deadline: Friday, October 9, 2026

The Kansas Arts Commission (KAC) is pleased to announce a Call for Applications for the 2027-2030 Poet Laureate of Kansas. The Poet Laureate of Kansas is an honorary position designed to promote the reading and writing of poetry throughout the state. The Poet Laureate will represent KAC to promote the arts, and specifically poetry, as a public resource for all Kansans. The new Poet Laureate of Kansas will conduct public readings, workshops, lectures, and/or presentations across Kansas. Presentations can explore the laureate's own work and the poetry of others.

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- At least 21 years of age and a non-student
- A Kansas resident for the previous 3 years and remain a resident throughout the Poet Laureate term
- Available to travel statewide to meet and present to audiences
- Applicant must be distinguished in the field of poetry demonstrated through a significant body of publicly accessible work (books, journals, literary magazines etc); published a minimum of 3 publications in the past 5 years.

Current KAC Commission members or staff, past Poet Laureates, and undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking students are not eligible.

Position Responsibilities & Expectations

The term of service of the Poet Laureate will be 4 years, beginning January 1, 2027. The Poet Laureate is expected to:

- Serve as the state's primary cultural ambassador for the literary arts.
- Contribute to the growth and awareness of poetry throughout the state.
- Attend, participate, read, and/or present at a minimum of 8 public events per year in Kansas that are free and open to the public.
- Offer at least one (1) signature community program—such as an interactive workshop, lecture-performance, or civic presentation—designed to deliver structured enrichment experiences *in, through, and about* the literary arts. This initiative must be fully scalable and readily available for execution at free, public-facing events across the state
- Participate as a leader in the annual [Poetry Out Loud](#) program
- Collaborate with Commerce staff on developing program support and outreach materials for print and social media.
- report on her/his work as Poet Laureate to the Kansas Arts Commission
- attend meetings and conferences as appropriate
- Maintain an active, ongoing writing and publishing practice

Selection Process

In order to be considered, applicants must complete an application form which includes:

- Artists Statement
- Narrative describing how would you cultivate public awareness of poetry and champion the literary arts across Kansas communities.
- Resume or CV (3 pages maximum)
- 10 original poems (no more than 20 pages), of which a maximum of 5 may be unpublished (recommend submitting pdf formatted as work would be published)
- Up to 3 supplemental materials including: letters of support, program description outline or overview, etc. (max. one page each)

Finalist Process:

Finalists shall present a representative excerpt of their proposed signature programming (e.g., a community workshop, educational presentation, or public reading) to the selection committee. This presentation must actively demonstrate the candidate's core programmatic vision as Poet Laureate. The demonstration will be followed by a formal question-and-answer session with the review panel. Specific scheduling, technical requirements, and logistical details will be communicated to finalists individually.

Applicants designated as finalists are expected to be available in person in Topeka for presentations in early December (Date TBD). Finalists will be notified by Friday, November 20th.

2026 Application Timeline:

- Open Applications: Tuesday, Sept. 8th
- Applications close: Friday, October 9th
- Finalists Notified by Friday, November 20th
- Finalist in-person reviews: Early December
- December 2026: Poet Laureate of Kansas announced

Criteria

The Selection Committee will select a candidate who:

- Demonstrates excellence in written communication skills
- Has a history of activity of publicly accessible work (books, journals, literary magazines etc); published a minimum of 3 publications in the past 5 years.
- A demonstrated commitment to reaching a diverse Kansas audiences
- Exhibits excellence determined by poetry samples
- Demonstrates a commitment to the public advancement of poetry in Kansas as evidenced by a history of activity through readings, presentations, blogs, poetry-centered media, and/or teaching in a public space not normally considered a classroom.
- Articulates a focused vision for how they would be an ambassador for poetry in Kansas with a committed to reaching a broad statewide audience

Compensation

The Poet Laureate will receive a yearly stipend of \$12,000 and travel support to present programming to non-profit and community organizations (as schedules permit) statewide.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the application, contact KAC at arts@ks.gov.