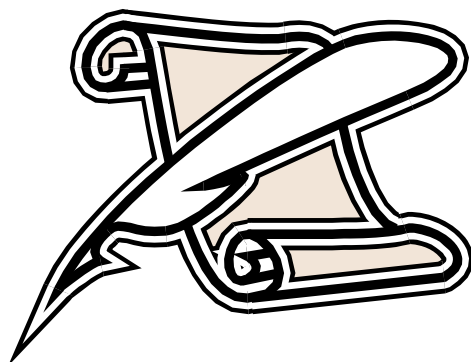


*City of Modesto*

2012 - 2014 Poet Laureate

Application and Nomination Form



Entries Due By  
Friday, March 9, 2012

*“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.”*

*—Rita Frances Dove*

*United States Poet Laureate (1993 – 1995)*



In 1993, the Culture Commission and Modesto City Council established a non-salaried honorary position known as the Poet Laureate of the City of Modesto for the purpose of presenting original poems at various official occasions.

**Qualifications and Guidelines**

Please see attached City Council Policy No. 6.020.

**This position is open only to residents  
of Stanislaus County.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Published Works (List by Title and Date) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Literary Organizations of which you are a member**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Awards and Recognition you have won**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Brief Biographical Sketch**\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please attach additional pages if needed.**

## **ENTRY FORMS**

**Please mail or deliver this form, along with three (3) original poems to:**

**City of Modesto  
Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department  
Culture Commission  
c/o 2012 Poet Laureate Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 642  
Modesto, CA 95353**

**Delivery Address: 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 4400**

**or**

**McHenry Museum  
Culture Commission  
c/o 2012 Poet Laureate Selection Committee  
1402 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354**

**If you have any questions, please call (209) 577-5235 or  
e-mail [elacoste@modestogov.com](mailto:elacoste@modestogov.com)**

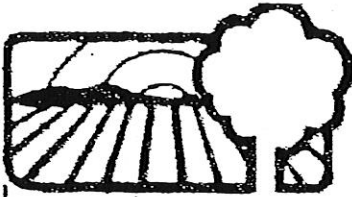
## **DEADLINE**

**Friday, March 9, 2012 at 4 p.m.**

**(Hand delivered or postmarked by March 9, 2012)**

## **WINNER**

**It is anticipated that the City Council will appoint the new Poet Laureate for the City of Modesto at a meeting in June 2012. The selected Poet Laureate's term (2012-2014) will commence on July 1, 2012.**



CITY of MODESTO

City Council  
Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE  
7/13/93

POLICY No.  
6.020

CITY DEPARTMENT  
Parks & Recreation

**Subject** POET LAUREATE OF THE CITY OF MODESTO

Purpose:

It is the desire of the Culture Commission and Modesto City Council to establish a non-salaried honorary position known as the Poet Laureate of the City of Modesto for the purpose of presenting original poems at various official occasions.

Policy

It is the desire of the Culture Commission and the Modesto City Council to establish a non-salaried position to be known as *The Poet Laureate of the City of Modesto*, and that this position, while largely honorary, would carry with it certain expectations and obligations.

I. Qualifications

- A. Those nominated for this position should have reputations within the community as creators and lovers of poetry.
- B. Those nominated for this position should have some public speaking ability.
- C. Those nominated for this position should be published authors.

II. Terms of Office

- A. The normal term of office shall be for two years, commencing on the first day of July.
- B. An individual may serve no more than four consecutive years.

III. Nomination/Selection Procedure

- A. At least three months prior to the ending of a term, the Culture Commission shall announce the vacancy, and declare itself open for nominations.
- B. Nominations may come from any citizen of the City of Modesto.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Res. 93-412, 7/13/93; amended by Res. 94-215, 4/26/94

- C. Nominations will be received by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
  - An application/Nomination Form is attached to this document for use by those wishing to apply or to nominate someone else for the position.
- D. The Poet Laureate Selection Committee (a sub-committee established by the Modesto Culture Commission) will review and screen the nominations, selecting two for further consideration by the Culture Commission.
- E. The Culture Commission will make the final recommendation to the Modesto City Council.
- F. The City Council will formally appoint an individual to the position.
- G. The Mayor will notify the selected poet by way of a letter of congratulations.

#### IV. Continuity

- A. The Poets Laureate Selection Committee will maintain a list of all eligible nominated poets, and review this entire list every two years (or more frequently, if necessary) before making subsequent selections.
- B. Persons who have published new works, received additional awards, or feel that in other ways their Applications should be updated are encouraged to do so at any time.
- C. Poems created by the Poet Laureate while acting in a formal capacity will be preserved in a book by the Poets' Corner Committee as part of their collection on the Poets' Bookshelf at the McHenry Museum.

#### V. Expectations

- A. The Poet Laureate will be expected to present a poem written especially for the event at a variety of Special Occasions involving the City of Modesto. These include, but not be limited to, such activities as:
  1. Installation of new City Council members, or new Mayor
  2. Sister City receptions
  3. Dedications of new city buildings
  4. Openings of various cultural events
  5. Civic and community functions directly involving city government, as invited
  6. Other events and occasions befitting the Poet Laureate's position

- B. The Poet Laureate will be expected to present an original poem which will be included in each *Anthology* of the Poets' Corner Contest, beginning in 1994.
- C. The Poet Laureate will be expected at all times to be an ambassador for the literary arts to the community.