

SUBMISSION FORM

1. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:** Friday, September 28, 2018, 5pm

2. Submission packets should be sent, or hand-delivered to:

Stephanie Johnson
City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation
Poet Laureate
222 Columbia St NW
Olympia, WA 98501

Digital packets may be downloaded to the City FTP site:
<http://olymplawa.gov/ftp> Do not embed documents in a
Power Point, PDF, iPhoto or any other library files.
"Recipient" is sjohnson@ci.olympla.wa.us

3. Poets agree that the City of Olympia may photograph them during their Poet Laureate workshops and projects.
4. Poets agree to sign a contract with the City regarding their scope of work. Poets also agree to responsibly handle administrative duties in association with the program.
5. For questions or further information contact: **Stephanie Johnson, Arts Program Manager,**
sjohnso1@ci.olympla.wa.us - 360.709.2678

To be considered, applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and submit a packet including all materials listed below. Incomplete applications and extra material will not be considered.

Name: Theresa P. Yost

Address: [REDACTED] Olympia, WA [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-Mail: [REDACTED]

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: Friday, September 28, 2018, 5pm SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- This Submission Form
- Resume: Please include reference to involvement in Olympia's creative community.
No more than 2 pages.
- Program Proposal: Please describe how you would engage with the public as the City of Olympia's Poet Laureate if selected.
- What would be the focus of your term as Poet Laureate?
 - Who would be your primary audience?
 - What would be your community engagement strategy?
 - Describe 2 instructional workshops that would support the focus or theme of your appointment.
- Please frame your response within 1,000 words.*
- * The additional 6 hours of contact time described in the scope of work will be determined after appointment.*
- Proof of Residency: A copy of your WA State ID, Driver's license, or current utility bill in your name with a current address.
- Written Work Samples: Submit five (5) written poems of your own composition that represent the quality of your work. Please include your name at the top of each page.
Written work samples will not be returned, please keep your originals.

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- Recorded Poetry Work Sample(s):** Submit an online sample which shows you reading or performing ONE of your submitted work samples.
Please submit the exact URL of the web platform (Facebook, Youtube, Vimeo) hosting your video; if a webpage contains several pieces, please indicate which piece(s) you want to be viewed/heard. The panel will review a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 3 minutes.

- Work Sample Description Sheet:**
- Applicant's name
 - Titles of pieces included in the Written and Recorded work samples
 - Description/synopsis of the included work samples (optional)
- One page or less.

- References:** Please list 2 professional references.
Please include name, organization, title, primary telephone, email and brief description of how you know this person.

- Assurances:**
- All statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge.
 - I am eligible to apply for the Olympia Poet Laureate appointment based on the eligibility criteria outlined on page 2.

Signature

Date


9-28-2018

Thresea Yost

Poet Laureate



11 Alta Street SW Olympia, WA



thresea.yost@gmail.com



360.338.0275

September 27, 2018

Work Experience

Civil Service Retiree

- Held multiple positions with the State of Washington of the course of 20 years in progressively more advanced administrative positions. Retired in 2010.

Volunteer Experience

Poetry workshop in Tumwater schools

- Read poetry to elementary school students and orchestrated investigative workshops.

Volunteer with Olympia Senior Center

- Assists with yearly fashion show for charity Meals on Wheels and supported entertainment events for Olympia senior citizens.

Member Friends of the Olympia Farmers Market Board

- Sits on board that provides support to the Olympia Farmers Market and its venders. Orchestrates the Bite of the Market. Issues and provides scholarships for local students.

Art Experience

Poetry readings at Traditions

- Once a month participates in live poetry readings hosted by Olympia Poetry Network.

Yearly contributor to Postcard auction at SPSCC Milners Gallery

- Creates original artwork for postcard themed auction. Proceeds go to support the Milner Gallery.

Work with local artist to provide a platform for showing their talents

Participant in Arts Walk

- Recently accepted into the Olympia Poetry Anthology and invited to do live reading during Arts Walk.

Threseas Yost

Poet Laureate

101 Alta Street SW Olympia, WA



threseayost@gmail.com



3603381272

September 27, 2018

Program Proposal

I would like my term as poet laureate to be focused on creating an accessible poetry environment for the Olympia community. Many people, both young and mature, have come to believe that poetry is only for academics or other poets. Poetry often feels like an art form out of reach for individuals. I want to use my time as poet laureate to reframe poetry as something fun, that can be created individually as well as in a group. Furthermore, while colloquially complex poetry is beautiful, I want to demonstrate how simplicity in poetry can be beautiful too. There is a style of poetry for everyone and anyone can participate.

While my overall goal is to spur interest in poetry from the general public, my primary audience would be sub-groups of the community that are often afraid of engaging with poetry such as grade school children and the elderly community. As many see poetry as an academic pursuit, it is usually college age individuals that frequent the poetry scene. I want to encourage people on either side of that demographic to be part of the poetry community.

Capitalizing on my goal of accessibility, I believe, as poet laureate, it is important to be seen, to be present, and to be available. I hope to do this in a couple of ways, starting with a poet laureate Facebook page, ensuring that the community has access to a communication platform. I propose establishing a Poetry Troop from a cross section of community volunteers engaging in, board approved pop-up type performances throughout the city. I would also like to create a community engagement project at Arts Walk where we will pass out fortune cookies with haikus in them instead of fortunes. This would be an entertaining and tasty way to interact with the public during one of our biggest art events of the year.

Several more ideas I have for engaging the community involve the aforementioned goals and demographics. As one of my poet laureate workshops, I would like to partner with a local program, such as STEP, bringing youth and older community members together to create poetry to be published in Arts Digest or on local social media. Additionally, as another workshop, I would like to take poetry into the local grade schools, preferably into 5th grade classrooms. When I did volunteer workshops in the Tumwater school district I was amazed at how receptive the students were to the idea that a poem could tell the story of a dead man being burned and coming back to life or the story of Longfellow's Hesperus' harrowing battle on the sea. These poems brought amazement to both young girls and boys creating a truly accessible environment. I would like to recreate this project in larger scope for the Olympia community. In order to engage the wider public as a whole I would like to construct a poem for the city by creating the first two lines then passing it to the Mayor and each City Council member thereafter who would add two lines. The completed poem would be displayed in the lobby of City Hall as an art piece representing how poetry can be created as a community in addition to individually. I would also like to do a poetry word search series in Arts Digest for the community to participate in. This series could take place over the course of several months to encourage community engagement.

As poet laureate I would love to use some of these ideas to make poetry accessible to the wider public again, in a fun and entertaining way, outside of the academic realm that many are currently familiar.

1. What I Meant

I cannot put aside my pen
Passion having seized my soul
Bids me look not towards the clock
This time there is no control

Emotions I've not met till now
Refuse to give way
Promising tired eyes and limbs
Rest another day

Exhaustion seeks to settle in depth
Exhilaration denies the plea
Equally giving truth and breath
To rage and sympathy

I do not know what lay ahead
Nor recall what has passed
Thoughts fly like sparrows through my mind as
Gracefully thoughts mass

When fingers finally come to rest

My heart is sure to relent

Hours spent on verse and quest

Were hours dearly spent

2. Wandering and Wondering

It could have been the call of the majestic evergreen

That set my feet in motion

Bid me cross the plains and time

To kneel before the ocean

To lay my burden down

To wash away my sin

It could have been the call of the majestic evergreen

Then again...

The roar of that majesty

The smell of something new

It could have been the evergreen

Or sky's so gaily blue

That eagle soaring from somewhere

A fantasy on high

Shrouded by pearly white clouds

They mystify the eye

Rivers raging politely

Knowing nature's intent

Over pebbles around sandy mounds

Of moments richly spent

4

As one with those evergreens

I grasp reality

This place was meant to sweeten life

Welcome the harmony

Though it could have been the call of the majestic evergreen

3. Whispers of Atonement

If it was green you'd never know
So heavy and heavily laden
Steady as the winds that blow
Or the virtue of a maiden

If it were born of recent days
There would be cause to wonder
At scars too old and oddly placed
And ashes blown asunder

If it were new or newly found
The bloom still on the rose
Silence would not be drowned
Nor thoughts left to suppose

As old as the Earth herself
A renegade of youth
How then we change yet stay one's self
A testament of truth

4. Looking Up (Recorded Sample)

I see ladies dancing, fish entwining, skirting across the sky

I see birds halting, staring back, at the notice of a golden eye

I see men proclaiming, preachers propagating, sometimes to a deaf ear

Cause women bend over, toss up their skirts, while the fellows toss up a good cheer

I see babies bawling, puppies sprawling, waiting for a taste

Mothers providing, sliding, gliding, hurrying back to place

I see

Serenity

as a tangible living thing

A mound of joy

A pound of peace

In the clouds, those magical things!

5. Where beauty thrives

I wasn't here then

When

In the shadow of humble mountains

Pristine rivers ran their race

Over smooth jet black boulders

A fiercely steady pace

I was not blessed to see

Majestic evergreens

Kissing clouds unapologetically

My feet did not walk

On forest carpet soft as owl feathers

Drifting from the sky

A gift to any that might stroll by

I was not here when

Then

I was

Standing with heart in hand

Being part of the land

Value in all I see

Value not seen in me

It's lonely

It hurts

And though I have no reason

To believe a change of season

Young fresh and new

Brings a bountiful harvest through

Looking back to the start

To all that feeds the heart

I pray the powers that be

Will find the same in me

'Cause

I too belong

Where beauty thrives

Work Sample Description Sheet

Name: Thresea Yost (Tee)

Contents

1. What I Meant
2. Wandering and Wondering
3. Whispers of Atonement
4. Looking Up (Recorded Sample)
5. Where Beauty Thrives

References

Name: Thresea Yost

1. Theresa Ziniewicz

Manager the Estate Store and Bud Bay Bargains / Senior Services Olympia Washington

Email: [REDACTED]

Theresa directs the yearly fashion show for Senior Services. I volunteer to work and walk for the very successful event.

2. Jennifer Kassel Local Entrepreneur

Owner/ Vendor @ Olympia Farmers Market

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I know and work with Jennifer through serving on the board of the Olympia Farmers Market and for many years prior. We plan and I look forward to working together much more in the future.