



Bayfield Poet Laureate

"Poetry is elemental, necessary, & deeply human."

—Ada Limón, 24th Poet Laureate of the United States

Following the dedication of Bayfield's first Heritage Tree on August 28, 2016, local poet Howard Paap publicly read a poem he wrote in tribute to the big old red oak. Noting how the poem added to the event, Bayfield library board president Don Albrecht subsequently proposed that Bayfield consider having its own Poet Laureate. Since then Howard Paap, Lucy Tyrell, and Dee Sweet have served two-year terms as Bayfield's Poet Laureate, bringing poetry into the community in the form of personal or collaborative projects, in schools, local businesses and galleries, indoors and out, increasing the presence and awareness of this art form.

The Library encourages poets 18 and over, living within 10 miles of the City of Bayfield, to apply. Preference is given to year-round Bayfield area residents, including Red Cliff and the Towns of Russell and Bayfield. Summer residents are eligible.

We are looking for poets who have shown or demonstrated a passion for poetry, including but not limited to publication in a book, journal or anthology--on paper or online. Live events are included. We are looking for poets prepared to bring their poems and projects to life in our community. We hope to engage the community, students and local writers in our Poet Laureate's poems, events and projects

Criteria and Selection Process

1) Residency

Preference is given to year-round Bayfield area residents, including Red Cliff and the Towns of Russell and Bayfield. Summer residents and poets residing within 10 miles of the City of Bayfield are eligible to apply.

2) Publication

Publication in a book or collection of poetry is preferred, but not required. The format may be on paper or in online or audio form.

3) Poetry Samples

Supply no fewer than 6 and no more than 10 sample poems representative of your work. We prefer this selection to include recent poems, written or published in the last five years.

4) Resume or curriculum vitae

The resume should not exceed 2 pages.

5) Proposed activities

An explanation of what the applicant intends to accomplish as Poet Laureate, including ideas for special projects..

Examples of events:

- Poetry readings
- Writing workshops
- Projects with local artists
- Projects with other poets
- Presentations at our local schools
- Writing workshops at our local school

6) Optional supplementary materials

The application may include up to 4 additional pages of supplementary supporting materials such as excerpts from published book reviews, judges' comments, or other writings that help contextualize the poet's work.

Note: No letters of recommendation please.

Duties

The Bayfield Poet Laureate will write at least one poem per year, and present this in a public reading at the library. This poem or poems will be published on the library's and city's website, and presented in the minutes of a City Council meeting, optionally accompanied by a live reading at a relevant City Council meeting.

The Poet Laureate will develop and present a special project, such as an event, publication, or program, which highlights poetry in a public way.

Projects that reach out and involve the Bayfield community, the Red Cliff community, and our local schools are encouraged.

Term of Service

The terms of Service as Bayfield Poet Laureate runs for two calendar years, from January through December.

Application Process

A simple form, available at the Bayfield Carnegie Library and on its website, must accompany the materials listed above. The Library embraces the diversity of human experience and identity. All applications from eligible individuals are welcome. Applications are due December 15, 2023.

Selection is made by the Library Board. The successful candidate will be notified by January 1, 2024.

Honoraria

The Bayfield Carnegie Library has committed \$1000 for an honorarium, to be dispensed in \$500 increments at the end of each year.. The appointed Poet Laureate may use these funds at their discretion. These funds are subject to relevant tax law.

Project Funding

The Poet Laureate may request that the library fund all or part of well-planned projects, and the library board will review the requests. The poet is also encouraged to seek out funding from other sources.



2024-2025 Bayfield Poet Laureate APPLICATION FORM

DATE _____

NAME OF APPLICANT _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Your signature confirms to the Bayfield Carnegie Library and the City of Bayfield that the information included within this application is accurate and true.

Please submit this cover sheet with other required material and submit to:

**Bayfield Poet Laureate Program
Bayfield Carnegie Library
37 North Broad Street
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814**