

KENOSHA/RACINE

**POETS  
LAUREATE**

## **2023-2024 POET LAUREATE APPLICATION INFORMATION**

### **ABOUT THE POETS LAUREATE PROGRAM**

The Kenosha/Racine Poets Laureate Program was established in 2011 to celebrate the power and beauty of language by recognizing poets who make meaningful impact on our diverse communities through their poetry, community involvement, and ability to embolden others to take up the pen and to speak their souls. This program is coordinated by a volunteer board of directors, which appoints poets, based on competitive applications received and an interview process, to serve two-year terms as Poet Laureate of Kenosha and Poet Laureate of Racine, Wisconsin.

### **TERM OF SERVICE**

The Poet Laureate serves for two years.

This term begins on January 1, 2023 and ends on December 31, 2024.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

*1. Develop and carry out a creative project or other community project.*

For example, this project may be intended to nurture creative expression among the community's residents with the potential benefit of helping them to build self-esteem, improve social skills, increase literacy, process emotions and feelings, discover a new hobby or life path, tell their personal stories, collaborate with others, promote an awareness of and appreciation of poetry, and achieve a deeper level of understanding about themselves and those around them.

The Poets Laureate Program Board of Directors welcomes other suggestions from the Poet Laureate on the content of their project.

*2. Engage in a collaborative atmosphere with members of the Poets Laureate Program Board, fellow poets and Poets Laureate, and other members of the creative communities of Kenosha and Racine County.* Engage with a goal to develop and carry out events, other activities, promotion of the Program, publication of chapbooks, zines, and broadsides (as program funding may allow), and to assure the sustainability of the Program through fundraising, public appearances, and other means.

*3. Be comfortable with public speaking, delivering presentations, & interacting with audiences.*

*4. Provide at least ten (10) public readings in Southeastern Wisconsin during the term.* Readings may include open mic performances, poetry slams, poetry readings, radio or television

appearances, as well as presentations before writing groups, book clubs, school classrooms and assemblies, and other public or private bodies. Readings may be in-person or virtual.

*5. Write and distribute poems through print and/or electronic media, including, but not limited to, submission of poems to print and electronic poetry publications.*

*6. Compose and perform a poem about the poet's city/town/village of Kenosha or Racine County.*

*7. Submit monthly written reports on activities and achievements to the Poets Laureate Program Board of Directors and meet with the board on a monthly basis.*

Currently, the board meets on Thursday evenings near the end of each month.

### **WHO MAY APPLY**

Residents of Kenosha or Racine County, including its city, towns, and villages are encouraged to apply, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, socioeconomic background or physical ability.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA**

1. Reside in Kenosha or Racine County, including its city, towns and villages.
2. Be at least 18 years of age by December 31, 2022.
3. Demonstrate excellence in promoting awareness, benefits and enjoyment of poetry.
4. Have access to reliable transportation, either public or private.
5. Agree to maintain residency in their respective County during their term of appointment.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Following the end of the application period, the Poets Laureate Program Board of Directors distributes blind applications and materials received to its members for their review and then meets to determine finalists for the positions in Racine and Kenosha. An interview date is established and finalists are invited to meet with the board to discuss their qualifications, share their ideas on a creative project or community outreach effort they wish to undertake as Poet Laureate, and to read or perform selections of their work. Based on the application, materials provided, and the interview, the board determines the candidates to become the next Poet Laureate of Kenosha and of Racine. The board provides orientation to the Poets Laureate Designate prior to officially taking office on January 1.

### **BENEFITS OF THE POET LAUREATE POSITION**

The primary benefits of being the Poet Laureate are in being recognized as an ambassador for poetry and literacy, and the ability to encourage others to grow through creative expression. Depending on availability of funds and approval of the board on their use, the Poet Laureate may attend conferences, seminars, and workshops related to the purpose of the Program. The board strives to obtain adequate funding for the Program through grants and donations. The Poet Laureate may accept honoraria or remuneration from organizations, businesses, institutions, groups and/or individuals for such endeavors as readings at public and private functions, teaching poetry workshops, travel and related expenses to these types of events, and for other activities related to their role as Poet Laureate.



**2023-2024**  
**POET LAUREATE APPLICATION**

Applications will be accepted from residents of Kenosha and Racine Counties, Wisconsin, including their cities, towns, and villages.

Type or print clearly with a ballpoint pen.

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS (P.O. Boxes not accepted):

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PRIMARY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE AT LEAST AGE 18 BY 12/31/2022:  YES  NO

I AM ABLE AND HAVE MEANS TO TRAVEL IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DURING MY TENURE AS POET LAUREATE:  YES  NO

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN KENOSHA/RACINE COUNTY? \_\_\_\_\_

LANGUAGES SPOKEN & LEVEL OF FLUENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I CERTIFY THAT REPRESENTATIONS MADE IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND THAT THE POEMS I HAVE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION ARE MY OWN MATERIAL AND ACCURATELY REPRESENT MY WORK.**

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include the following materials with your submission:**

- A sample of your poems,
  - Poems should be printed in 12 pt. font, no more than eight (8), single-sided, 8.5x11" pages.
  - Applicant's name and contact information *should not appear* on any of these pages.
- A cover letter, no more than two (2) pages
- Any of the following, as applicable to the applicant:
  - Any recognition you have received as a poet
  - Any educational work in the literary arts you have performed
  - Tell us about your experiences performing your work in the last two (2) years
  - Information on your professional career, volunteer work and hobbies, as they may apply to the literary arts and to literacy, in general.
  - Tell us about any ideas you may have for a creative project or other community outreach effort you'd be interested in undertaking as Poet Laureate
  
- The reason(s) why you wish to become Poet Laureate
- Letters of Recommendation (Optional)

**Please note the following:**

- Incomplete submission and/or an incomplete application may disqualify the applicant at the discretion of the Kenosha/Racine Poets Laureate Program.
- Submitted items will not be returned to you.

**Applications must be submitted and/or postmarked before October 15, 2022 to be considered.**

Submissions will be acknowledged upon receipt and successful candidates will be notified by December 1, 2022.

Digital applications are encouraged and may be submitted at [krpoets.com/apply](http://krpoets.com/apply).

Physical applications may be submitted at the Kenosha Public Library or at Racine Public Library. Please write *Poet Laureate Application - % Jennifer Kozelou* on your envelope.

Physical applications may also be mailed to:

Kenosha Public Library  
% Jennifer Kozelou, KRPoets  
7979 38th Avenue  
Kenosha, WI 53142

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jennifer Kozelou | [jkozelou@mykpl.info](mailto:jkozelou@mykpl.info) | 262-564-6159