

NEBRASKA STATE POET

GUIDELINES

Purpose

To promote and encourage appreciation of poetry and literary life in Nebraska while inspiring an emerging generation of new writers.

Duties

The Nebraska State Poet will serve a five-year renewable term. Duties include:

- Serving as an advocate for poetry, literacy and literature in Nebraska.
- Giving public presentations and readings, leading workshops and discussions, and providing other outreach in schools, libraries, literary festivals, and various venues in rural and urban communities throughout the state.

Compensation

Statewide presentations by the State Poet will be funded in part through the Nebraska Arts Council's Nebraska Touring Program and Humanities Nebraska's Speakers Bureau.

Eligibility

The Nebraska State Poet must be a legal, full-time Nebraska resident for at least three years prior to the nomination deadline, must maintain Nebraska residency during the full term of office, must pass a standard background check, and must be available to travel statewide and give presentations. Nominees will not be considered until they indicate their consent to the nomination.

Review Criteria

This designation recognizes and honors a Nebraska poet of exceptional talent and accomplishment. The Nebraska State Poet will be selected based on artistic excellence, exemplary professionalism demonstrated by significant publications and special honors, an established history of community service in the advancement of poetry in Nebraska, and the ability to present poetry and interact effectively with a public audience.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be made by any organization or individual in the state of Nebraska. Self-nominations are allowed.

The **first step** in making a nomination is to send a query by e-mail to Erika Hamilton, Director of Literary Programs for Humanities Nebraska, at info@humanitiesnebraska.org. Your e-mail should give the name of the poet you wish to nominate. If the poet has already been nominated, you will be asked for a letter of support. If that poet has not yet been nominated, you will receive permission to proceed to the next step of the nomination process.



If you receive permission to proceed, the **second step** is to complete an online nomination form. The nomination must include:

- Completed and signed online nomination form.
- One-page narrative, uploaded into the online system as a PDF file, describing the nominee's qualifications for Nebraska State Poet, including experience as a Nebraska writer, efforts to advance poetry in Nebraska, and ability to interact with the public in promoting poetry and writing.
- Three (3) letters of support or recommendation, combined into one PDF file and uploaded into the online system.

When a poet has been nominated, the poet nominee will also use the online service to consent to the nomination and provide additional material for review. Consent documents must include:

- Completed and signed online consent form.
- One-page statement of intent answering these questions: What is your vision for the role of Nebraska State Poet? If selected, what would you like to do or accomplish in that role? This will be uploaded into the online system as a PDF file.
- Poet nominee's résumé, including education, publications, awards, and recent activities such as poetry readings, workshops, interviews, and school visits. This will be uploaded into the online system as a PDF file.
- Three (3) samples of poet nominee's published writing. These will be combined into one PDF file and uploaded into the online system.

Online Nomination Process

State Poet nominations will be collected and reviewed using the Nebraska Arts Council's SlideRoom online application site. Nominators and poet nominees will register (sign in with a user-created name and password) and submit materials using this site. Since the online review is web-based, those who use the site will only need an internet connection and a modern web browser. There is nothing to download or install. Those with prepared digital files and text can quickly upload their submission within minutes.

The link to the NAC SlideRoom website is: <https://nebraska.slideroom.com>

The NAC SlideRoom website offers complete instructions for submitting work and includes a preview of the online form. For technical assistance, a video tutorial is available at the site and applicants may access the online help desk at <http://slideroom.zendesk.com>.

Selection Process

A selection committee assembled and convened by the Nebraska Arts Council, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission will review all nominations, select finalists, attend private presentations by finalists, and make recommendations to the Governor. The committee is comprised of five individuals who are established members of Nebraska's literary, cultural, educational and academic communities. The Governor will make the final State Poet selection.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be submitted online no later than **midnight CST on August 1, 2018**.

For more information, contact Erika Hamilton, Director of Literary Programs, Humanities Nebraska, at info@humanitiesnebraska.org or (402) 474-2131 ext. 104.

