

POET LAUREATE OF WESTWOOD

Position Description

Written by Westwood Poet Laureate Selection Committee

Funded by the WPL 21st Century Fund

October 11th, 2022

Westwood Poet Laureate

Purpose and roles:

The primary goal of the Westwood Poet Laureate is to promote public awareness of poetry in the town. To do so, the Poet Laureate's duties are the following:

- To encourage the reading and writing of poetry by creating programs and holding events for the town, such as workshops for writers, readings, poetry slams, and other events throughout the town and its schools.
- To write several annual seasonal poems for local events and holidays.
- To select and mentor the Westwood Teen Poet Laureate, an annual position; applications for the first Teen Poet Laureate will be open in April 2023, and selected in May 2023.

The Poet Laureate is a role open to residents of Westwood, employees of the town, and individuals with a history of public service to the town. While publication history is taken into account, the role is not limited to individuals with publications.

Duration:

The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term (2023 – 2025) with an annual stipend of \$500, which is funded by the WPL 21st Century Fund. The position can be renewed for additional terms following a deliberation process involving the Poet Laureate and a selection committee.

How to apply:

To apply, please send an email to Westwoodpoetlaureate@townhall.westwood.ma.us with your contact information and with the following attached as PDFs:

- A cover letter of no more than two pages describing your plans for the position.
- A Curriculum Vitae.
- A writing sample of five to ten pages.

Submissions will be open from December 1st, 2022, to January 15th, 2023.

Selection process:

The selection committee will review applications beginning January 15th and select the Westwood Poet Laureate in February, 2023. The committee, composed of representatives of the town's Public Schools, Youth and Family Services, Library Trustees, Westwood Cultural Council, Friends of the Library, and poets in the community, will support the Poet Laureate as they assume the role and its responsibilities. During the selection process, the committee will evaluate the poet's (1) plans for public service in the role, (2) history of promoting poetry, and (3) poetic merit, exemplified in their written sample.