



CITY OF RICHMOND POET LAUREATE APPLICATION 2026 - 2028

All applications require two components:

1. A completed Microsoft Form: go.rva.gov/poet-apply
2. An application packet including a resume/CV, poetry portfolio, project proposal, and two reference letters. *This packet should be emailed to askosc@rva.gov with the subject line "Poet Laureate Application."*

MICROSOFT FORM SUBMISSION

When you're ready to submit your application, please visit go.rva.gov/poet-apply. Microsoft Forms does not save ongoing work, so we strongly recommend developing the materials below on a separate document and then pasting them in once they're complete.

SHORT ANSWER RESPONSES (UNDER 250 WORDS EACH)

- Please describe your experience living, working, and/or studying in the City of Richmond. When and where have you lived, worked, or studied? From your vantage point, what makes our city special, and what are some of our challenges?
- Tell us about your relationship to poetry. How did you find your way to it, and how has it shaped the person you are?
- How do you participate in and advance Richmond's poetry communities? How would you describe Richmond's poetry scene today and where is it headed?
- What does it mean to be "A City that Tells its Stories"? How would you help the city reach this goal as Poet Laureate?

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PORTFOLIO

Please email all four portfolio elements to askosc@rva.gov.

Resume or CV

This document should highlight previous poetic achievement, commitment to service and community building through the arts, and experience with education or outreach.

Sample Packet of 7-10 Poems

Packets must include at least **one video recording** of a spoken performance and at least **one written poem**. Remaining submissions can include written poems or accessible links to performances or readings in any combination.

Project Proposal

Richmond's Poet Laureate receives \$2,000 to support a project that will impact a community or demographic of the Laureate's choice. In 500-1000 words, explain the project you would champion during your two years as Poet Laureate. Your pitch should answer the questions below. Be sure to give your project a title before submitting!

- What kinds of activities does your project include? Ex. Educational programming, events, tours, community walks.
- What community or demographic will your project serve? Why is this community or demographic meaningful to you? How have you engaged with this community in the past, and what is your current level of engagement? And why does this population need more access to poetry and artistic expression? Ex. Previous laureates in Richmond or elsewhere have focused on youth populations, veterans, incarcerated populations, nature enthusiasts, and/or other poets and artists.
- Why is partnering with the City as Poet Laureate a helpful way to advance this project? You might reference existing City programs, agencies, or resources.
- What other resources might you need to accomplish this project? Resources could include funding, additional collaboration, space, etc.
- How does this project advance the goal of being "A City that Tells its Stories" or another one of the Mayor's Pillars?

References

At least 2 references from community members speaking to the applicant's poetic skill and/or investment in a poetic community. References may not come from relatives.