

**TOWN of WESTPORT
POET LAUREATE SEARCH
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED NOW**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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March 16, 2022

WESTPORT CT: The Westport Arts Advisory Committee (WAAC), has announced a search for the town's second Poet Laureate, whose 2-year term will begin on July 1.

WAAC initiated the Town Poet Laureate position in 2019. The inaugural Laureate, Diane Lowman, will have served a 3-year term on June 30, extended a year due to the pandemic. During her tenure, Diane recited and curated poetry at Town ceremonies and events, schools, the Center for Senior Activities, the Library and arts events. Diane was particularly creative during the pandemic, launching a lawn sign campaign to help raise spirits in town.

The Town of Westport Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for both the town and for the literary form, helping to celebrate and continue the town's vibrant literary history. The First Selectwoman's office appoints the Poet Laureate; WAAC administers the program.

The Poet Laureate's objectives are, but are not limited, to:

- Promote poetry as a form of communication, inspiration, and entertainment for local residents.
- Participate in the Connecticut Poet Laureate group to create and participate in programs throughout the state.
- Expand access to and create connection through poetry.
- Elevate awareness of and appreciation for all forms of poetry.
- Advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts.
- Contribute to the town's literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events.

Candidates should be 21 years of age or older, live in Westport, and have a wide range of relevant knowledge and experience. They must be comfortable with public speaking, and willing to work collaboratively with the town school district, library, and other cultural organizations to develop and present poetry-related activities and events. The candidate must have adequate time and flexibility to complete these and other requirements of the position. The Town of Westport Poet Laureate is an honorary, non-compensated two-year position.

For more information, and for the application packet, please visit:
<https://www.westportart.org>. Direct inquiries to waac@westportct.gov with the subject line
POET.

The deadline for submitting applications and supporting materials is Friday, April 15. A committee made up of representatives from the Westport Schools, the Westport Library, and WAAC will review the applications and interview finalists as part of the selection process. The new Poet Laureate, whose term begins July 1, will be announced on June 1.

Westport Arts Advisory Committee was established by the RTM in 1997; its members are appointed by the First Selectwoman. WAAC is committed to increasing public awareness of all of Westport's artists, arts organizations and cultural resources.

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