

Youth Poet Laureate

2025 Application Process

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 1, 5:00PM (AST)

The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking nominations for the position of Youth Poet Laureate for a 1-year term, to commence January 2025.

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Halifax Regional Municipality

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a legacy project celebrating over 20 years of the Poet Laureate Program the Halifax Regional Municipality have created this exciting opportunity for young poets to hone their writing skills and engage with others on issues that resonate with the Municipality. The Municipality defines the Youth Poet Laureate as a resident poet, storyteller or spoken word artist between the ages of 12-21 who has an interest in bringing their work to a wider audience. The role of the Youth Poet Laureate is to serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Through their tenure in this position the Youth Poet Laureate will seek to inspire and engage local youth to share their stories through written and spoken word.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Youth Poet Laureate will create new works of poetry, present at select Regional Council meetings and be an advocate for poetry, language, arts and young writers through various speaking engagements. New in 2025, the Youth Poet Laureate will take part in AfterWords Literary Festival’s Youth Mentorship Program and paired with a mentor to support their development as a poet in this community. The goal of this role is to instill a long-lasting love of the literary arts for all citizens of Halifax while modelling creative action and leadership for the Youth Poet Laureate’s peers. This is a role that underscores the importance of hearing from our community’s youth in creative ways encouraging youth to engage in municipal politics and movements.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

While there are a few expectations around deliverables for the Youth Poet Laureate, the intention is to keep this program as malleable and flexible as possible to be programmed in consort with the selected Youth, their interests/abilities, and their Poet Laureate counterpart.

Duties would include:

- Attend and provide a reading at 1-2 council meetings throughout Youth Poet Laureate term.
- Participate and complete the Youth Mentorship Program through AfterWords Literary Festival
- Youth Poet Laureate may also attend and provide readings at various events should they have the capacity and interest.

TERM AND SUPPORT

Term	One (1) year (January – December, 2025)
Financial Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorarium from the Municipality of \$1000 split into two payments at the beginning and end of term. • Speaking fee of \$100 from AfterWords Literary Festival
Additional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and participation in the AfterWords Literary Festival Youth Mentorship Program (valued at over \$1,500) • Additional paid speaking opportunities as available.

MENTORSHIP

The selected Youth Poet Laureate will participate in the AfterWords Literary Festival Youth Mentorship Program. This will include connecting the new Youth Poet Laureate with an established, professional poet in Halifax who can provide guidance and advice on every aspect of poetic life, from writing to presentation, with a particular focus on presenting poetry as a municipal poet laureate.

This mentorship will be delivered during a six-week period, with weekly meetings (virtual or in-person, to be determined by the mentor and mentee, with guidance from the mentorship program organizer). In addition to the mentorship, the Youth Poet Laureate will have access to two virtual writing workshops, alongside all the applicants to both the Youth Poet Laureate position, and the Youth Mentorship Program. AfterWords will also provide the Youth Poet Laureate with an additional paid opportunity to read at a public event alongside the other two mentees and all three mentors.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for the position of Youth Poet Laureate must meet the following criteria:

- Be between the ages of 12-21;
- Show a keen interest in the role and its responsibilities;
- Be a current resident (with an expectation to remain for the duration of the term) of the Halifax Regional Municipality;
 - NOTE: the term of this position spans over two school years, applicants should keep this in mind before applying.
- Be prepared to work alongside the Poet Laureate to grow their writing practice and experience through citizen engagement and community outreach.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Your submission should be emailed as one (1) PDF document in 8.5" X11" portrait format, not exceeding a file size of 5 MB to artgrants@halifax.ca. Video applications are also welcome.

Submissions should include:

1. **LETTER OF INTENT** – Letter of Intent up to 500 words telling us a bit about them and their interest in the role and their goals and objectives in terms of how they would represent the Municipality; considerations could include:
 - Why is poetry important to you?
 - What are some themes and topics you are interested in exploring and sharing?
 - Are you comfortable reading your work in front of people?
 - What kinds of audiences do you want to read or speak to?
2. **PAST WORK** – 2-3 examples
 - Videos** must be submitted according to the following format:
 - in .avi, .mov, .mpg, or .mpeg format; and
 - viewable with QuickTime, RealPlayer, Windows Media Player or VLC.
 - Audio files** must be submitted according to the following format:
 - uncompressed in .aif, .aiff, .wav format; or
 - lossless (.flac, .m4a, .mp4); or
 - compressed (.mp3, .wma).

Submissions are due by NOVEMBER 1, 2024, 5:00PM (AST)

SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions are reviewed by peers in the field of poetry and the literary arts and spoken word.

Selection is based on the following scoring rational:

Vision for the Role: The candidate’s vision for their time in this position and their enthusiasm for this opportunity.	25 points
Community Interest: The candidate’s interest in the field of poetry, including storytelling and spoken word.	25 points
Past Work: The quality of the candidate’s submitted work.	25 points
Goals and Objectives: The candidate’s goals listed for the term as Poet Laureate are realistic and achievable.	25 points

Applications must be submitted by email to artgrants@halifax.ca.

Please Use Subject Line: **HRM Youth Poet Laureate – [NAME]**

Applications must be received by **5:00PM (AST) on NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

All applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by email, within 6 weeks of the nomination deadline. All applicants will be invited to a group writing workshop hosted by AfterWords Literary Festival as a thank you for submitting your work.

For questions regarding the program, nominations or the selection processes, please contact:

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