



# City of McAllen Poet Laureate, 2022 - 2023 Call for Nominations

Sponsored by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce

The McAllen Chamber of Commerce, Cultural Arts Department announces the application process for selection of the next McAllen Poet Laureate for calendar years 2022-2023. Submissions are welcome from individual poets who are seeking the position. A person who is nominating a poet for the position of Poet Laureate may also submit application packages. In either case, the McAllen Chamber of Commerce must receive the complete application package described under "Application/Nomination Requirements" below by **11:59 AM by August 30, 2021**. The Poet Laureate to be announced by November 1, 2021.

## GUIDELINES

### Purpose of Post

The McAllen Poet Laureate is a ceremonial position meant to promote poetry and the arts in the City of McAllen and the Rio Grande Valley. The Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for McAllen's poets and their work. They also engage the public with their own poetry, both in their own writings and through readings, events, and special projects.

### Service Term

The term of service for the position is **January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023**. The Poet Laureate will also help select the next Poet Laureate and help them transition into their role.

### Expectations

1. Contribute to the growth of poetry in the City.
2. Perform at civic events as requested by the Mayor's office or the McAllen Chamber of Commerce, up to four per year.
3. Be willing to perform and speak in public about poetry and literary arts.
4. Engage the public in projects and events that promote and grow poetry.
5. Prepare and provide a written report of activities upon request.
6. Engage in social media by sharing updates on poetry-related topics and activities.

### Honorarium & Recognition

1. A \$250 honorarium will be provided each calendar year at the start of the Chamber's fiscal year (October 1). For a total of \$500.
2. Upon selection, a proclamation by the City of McAllen will be issued.
3. Upon selection, media coverage will be announced in the local newspaper.
4. Recognition at Good Day luncheons and other events.



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## Criteria for Selection

1. Must be at least 21 years of age at the time of appointment.
2. Must have lived, worked, or worshiped in the McAllen city limits since at least January 1, 2020 and will continue to do so until December 31, 2023.
3. Accomplishment as a poet proven by a record of publications or performances.
4. Willingness to promote and advocate for poetry.
5. Access to technology, such as a computer and camera, for online engagement.
6. Access to reliable transportation for travel to events.
7. Demonstrate a character appropriate for representatives of the City of McAllen.

## Nomination Packet

The application form will be available on the McAllen Chamber of Commerce and the McAllen Creative Arts Incubator websites or by submitting a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

McAllen Cultural Arts Department  
City Poet Laureate Application  
P.O. Box 790  
McAllen, Texas 78505-0790

## To nominate an individual, please submit the NOMINATION FORM by the deadline to [lrobes@visitmcallen.com](mailto:lrobes@visitmcallen.com)

1. Complete the NOMINATION FORM, including the signed binding statement assuring that the *nominated poet is aware of the nomination, is willing to participate in the selection process described in these Guidelines and is willing to fulfill the requirements of the McAllen Poet Laureate if selected.*

## To APPLY, please submit the APPLICATION FORM by the deadline to [lrobes@visitmcallen.com](mailto:lrobes@visitmcallen.com)

1. Complete the APPLICATION FORM including the signed binding statement assuring that the poems are the poet's own and the materials submitted are true and accurate.
2. Work sample not to exceed six (6) pages, 8 ½ x 11, no less than a 12-point font, no more than one poem on each page, at least one of which is about the Valley and at least one of which is appropriate to read to children.
3. Resume or curriculum vitae not to exceed two (2) pages.
4. There must be a statement signed stating in writing that the work sample submitted accurately represents her or his own work.
5. Self-addressed stamped envelope or email address if applicant wishes to be notified of final selections. Work will not be returned.



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Completed application packets should be mailed to:  
McAllen Cultural Arts Department  
City Poet Laureate Application  
P.O. Box 790  
McAllen, Texas 78505-0790

**Application packages received after September 1, 2021 will not be considered.**

## **Selection Process**

- The first review will be anonymous, based solely on the poetry, which will be sent to the McAllen Chamber of Commerce/Cultural Arts Department and reviewed.
- A committee selected by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce/Cultural Arts Department will review the packets of materials and select three finalists.
- The three finalists may be interviewed in person by the Committee on a date to be determined.
- The name of the nominee selected by the Committee will be forwarded to the Mayor. A personal interview with the Mayor may be required.
- The Mayor will announce the next McAllen Poet Laureate.

## **Projected Timeline**

Deadline for applications/nominations to be received at the McAllen Chamber of Commerce is **11:59 AM by August 30, 2021**.

## **Questions**

For questions, please contact [lrobles@visitmcallen.com](mailto:lrobles@visitmcallen.com) or 956-687-2787.