

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Nominations Accepted for Vermont Poet Laureate**

Montpelier – Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Arts Council invite the public to submit nominations for the appointment of a new Vermont poet laureate. The deadline for nominations is April 25, 2019.

The poet laureate serves as Vermont's ambassador for the art of poetry and is called upon to participate in official ceremonies and readings within Vermont and nationally. This is an honorary position, appointed by the governor based on the recommendation of a distinguished panel of judges.

Poets laureate are chosen every four years. Robert Frost was originally declared poet laureate in 1961; in 1988 Governor Madeline Kunin re-established the position. Chard deNiord of Westminster West is the current appointee and will remain in that position until the new one is named for the next four-year term. Poets Sydney Lea, Ruth Stone, Grace Paley, Ellen Bryant Voigt, Louise Glück, and Galway Kinnell have also held the post.

#### **Criteria**

The Vermont poet laureate is a person

- who is a resident of Vermont (Vermont being his/her primary residence)
- whose poetry manifests a high degree of excellence
- who has produced a critically acclaimed body of work
- who has a long association with Vermont

The nominated poet must agree to participate from time to time in official ceremonies, events, and/or readings within Vermont and, as appropriate, to share poetry with a broad audience.

The poet selected shall receive an honorarium of \$1,000 provided by the Vermont Arts Council.

#### **Estimated Timeline**

The deadline for nominations is April 25, 2019. Nominations will be reviewed in the spring and summer with an appointment ceremony anticipated in late 2019.

## **Submit a Nomination**

All nominations must be submitted through the Council's [online nomination form](#). Submitters will be asked to provide:

- the name and contact information of the nominated poet
- a short statement explaining why the particular poet meets the criteria and should receive the appointment
- the name of at least one published work of the nominated poet including the name of the publisher and date published
- the name and address of the person making the nomination

## **About the Vermont Arts Council**

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a Vermont where all people have access to the arts and creativity in their lives, education, and communities. Engagement with the arts transforms individuals, connects us more deeply to each other, energizes the economy, and sustains the vibrant cultural landscape that makes Vermont a great place to live. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org).

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