

The State of Mississippi is now accepting nominations for the official Mississippi Poet Laureate

As authorized by Governor Haley Barbour and the State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC), Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), and other entities as jointly determined by these partners and the Governor to be the Poet Laureate Selection Panel Committee, will assist in seeking nominations for the Governor to make an appropriate appointment to the position of Mississippi's next Poet Laureate. **A postmark deadline of October 28, 2011 has been determined for nominations to be received by the office of the Mississippi Arts Commission.**

The Poet Laureate Selection Panel Committee is now soliciting nominations of poets who meet the following criteria:

- a) Either born or domiciled in Mississippi at the time of nomination;
- b) Possess a body of quality works; (submit six samples of the nominees poetry)
- c) Have works widely published in books, anthologies, literary journals or magazines by recognized, reputable publishers;
- d) Reflect the essence and unique cultural heritage of Mississippi;
- e) Be available to travel and actively serve in the state;
- f) Have (no more than three) letters of support from the general public and the literary community;
- g) Be available for a personal interview with the Poet Laureate Selection Panel.

Letters of nomination should address the criteria. Nominees must be able to perform the following duties of the State's Poet Laureate. The Mississippi Poet Laureate's role shall include but is not limited to the following:

1. To serve as the official state poet, creating and reading appropriate poetry upon state occasions and state agency activities;
2. To represent the rich cultural heritage of Mississippi;
3. To help identify Mississippi poets, write poetry, and promote literacy and the literary arts by attending events and speaking with schools and organizations;
4. To serve as the Honorary Host of the NEA's Poetry Out Loud initiative in Mississippi;
5. To serve as a Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist

The Governor shall name a Poet Laureate to serve a term of four (4) years.

The postmark deadline for nominations is **Oct. 28, 2011**. The Nomination form can be found on the Mississippi Arts Commission website: www.arts.state.ms.us

For more information or to submit a nomination form, please contact:

Diane Williams, Chair – Poet Laureate Panel
Mississippi Arts Commission
501 North West Street
Suite 1101A
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-6529
dwilliams@arts.state.ms.us

Mississippi Poet Laureate - 2012



Type or print (in black or blue ink) all sections below. Copy the form as needed (correct contact information for nominee is required).

Nominee	
Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Day Phone	
Evening Phone	
E-Mail Address / Website	
Nominated by	
Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Day Phone	
Evening Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Narrative of Nominee's Achievements: Awards are made to individuals for lasting, outstanding and visionary work in the literary arts genre of poetry. **Please attach a narrative, bibliography, support letters, nominee's resume or vitae, and six poems representative of the poet's work.** Nominees will be selected based on the following criteria:

- ___ Be either born or domiciled in Mississippi at the time of nomination;
- ___ Possess a body of quality works;
- ___ Submit six poems representing the work of the nominee;
- ___ Have works widely published in books, anthologies, literary journals or magazines by recognized, reputable publishers; **(please cite sources in bibliography);**
- ___ Reflect the essence and unique cultural heritage of Mississippi;
- ___ Be available to travel and actively serve in the state;
- ___ Submit **(no more than three)** letters of support from the general public and the literary community;
- ___ Be available for a personal interview with the Poet Laureate Selection Committee (if selected as a potential finalist)

Mail or hand deliver nominations to:

Poet Laureate Selection Panel Committee
Diane Williams, Arts Industry Director/Panel Chair
501 North West Street, Suite 1101A, Woolfolk Building
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-6529
www.arts.state.ms.us