Role Description - Durango Poets Laureate Program 1/2024-12/2026

The Durango Poet Laureate, both adult and young adult, shall act as representative of the poetic arts through recitation of original poetry and attendance at various events and community gatherings, creation of poetry that reflects our unique past and present, and furthering Durango’s creative economy through active engagement. The Poets Laureate are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities and commitments:

Residency: The Poets Laureate must reside in La Plata County, and preference will be given to candidates who plan to remain in the area throughout their three-year appointment (January 2024 - December 2026).

Stipend: The adult Poet Laureate will receive a $6,000 stipend ($2,000/year) paid upfront. Upon signing this agreement, the Young Adult Poet Laureate will receive a $1,500 stipend ($500/year) paid upfront.

Committee Attendance: The Poets Laureate must attend the quarterly Poets Laureate Committee meetings as nonvoting members during the duration of their appointment, contributing their insights and perspectives to the committee's discussions and initiatives.

Public Display of Poetry: The Poets Laureate should make their poetry available to be displayed in public places throughout Durango, providing an opportunity for the community to engage with their work.

Poetry Recitation: The Poets Laureate should be available to recite their poetry on occasion at events organized by the City of Durango, Durango Public Library, and other community gatherings, enriching the cultural landscape of the city.

Promotion of Appointment: The Poets Laureate will actively promote their appointment, acting as advocates for poetry and its appreciation within the local community.

Relevance to Durango: The Poets Laureate should strive to create poetry that resonates with the essence of Durango, capturing its unique character, history, and natural beauty.

Uplifting Other Poets: The Poets Laureate are encouraged to uplift and support other poets in the community, fostering a nurturing and collaborative environment for literary expression by working towards establishing Durango as a hub for poetry in the region.

Parental or Guardian Approval: The Young Adult Poet Laureate must obtain approval from a parent or guardian to participate in the program.

Prohibition of Hate Speech or Discriminatory Poetry: The Poets Laureate must refrain from producing or promoting any poetry that utilizes hate speech or is discriminatory, or promotes harm towards any individual or group.