



City of Malibu News

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City of Malibu Starts Search for Second Malibu Poet Laureate

(Malibu, CA) – The Malibu City Council and the Cultural Arts Commission started the search for the City of Malibu’s second Poet Laureate candidate, as the inaugural Poet Laureate, Ricardo Means Ybarra, concludes an outstanding term. The application period closes on January 25, 2019.

During his time as the City’s first Poet Laureate, Ybarra led youth poetry education programs in local schools, organized poetry readings, oversaw the publication of two Malibu student poetry anthologies, and presided over the creation of Malibu’s first poetry stone monuments that are placed in Legacy Park. Ybarra also created the Pizza and Poetry program, where printed poems written by Malibu students were delivered with pizzas to customers who ordered from D’Amore’s Pizza and Spruzzo Restaurant.

The Poet Laureate will focus on promoting the literary arts, both in Malibu and outside communities, while representing the City of Malibu for a two-year term. The application submission period opened December 6, 2018 and closes on January 25, 2019. Community members may also nominate a candidate through December 21, 2018. To apply or to submit a nomination, visit www.MalibuArtsandCulture.org/poet, apply in person at City Hall, or call the Community Services Department at 310-456-2489, ext. 350 or email Kristin Riesgo, Community Services Deputy Director, at KRiesgo@MalibuCity.org.

Any poet who resides in, or is affiliated with Malibu is eligible to become the Poet Laureate. A panel made up of five members of the Malibu Poet Laureate Committee will review the applications and make their recommendation for the 2019-2021 Poet Laureate to the Cultural Arts Commission. Lastly, the recommendation will be presented to City Council for final approval. The Poet Laureate Committee has worked with Ybarra to increase poetry awareness, fundraise and promote literary arts in the community for the past two years. The panel includes Ybarra, Ann Buxie, Ellen Cohen, Kathleen Sullivan and Jacob Wolfe.

The City Council received and approved a recommendation by the Cultural Arts Commission to create the Poet Laureate program in November 2016. The Cultural Arts Commission’s goal is for the Poet Laureate to forever keep poetry as an integral piece of the community’s artistic landscape. While the importance of poetry in literature needs no explanation, it is often the art form that receives the least support in community arts programming.

The Poet Laureate acts as the official Consultant in Poetry to the City of Malibu and the Malibu Library, and participates in or creates one Poetry Invitational event each year. The Poet Laureate also represents the City at literary and poetry events, and works with the Laureate Committee to promote poetry and literary arts in local schools and the broader community.

The Poet Laureate's term formally starts on March 28, 2019 and ends on March 27, 2021, and includes a \$2,000 annual stipend.

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