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ARTSFAIRFAX Announces New Fairfax Poet Laureate Program

Fairfax County, VA– ARTSFAIRFAX is pleased to announce an agreement with Fairfax County to create and implement a Fairfax Poet Laureate Program. The Fairfax Poet Laureate will serve as a poetry ambassador, promoting the appreciation of poetry as an art form in the county, region and state. The Poet Laureate will encourage writing and reading of poetry and all types of literature, as well as create opportunities for civic engagement through poetry with diverse audiences around the county.

"We are excited to join Prince William County, Arlington and Alexandria in having a Poet Laureate program. The Fairfax Poet Laureate is an investment by Fairfax County and **ARTSFAIRFAX** in the sustained growth and development of the arts in Fairfax County. We wish to honor a poet's commitment to their craft, their professional activity in Fairfax County, and their contributions to the quality of life in Fairfax County," says Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

A key feature of the program is a community service project designed by the new poet laureate, which will serve as a focus for their two-year term. At the close of their tenure, the poet laureate will compose and read a final poem, as a reflection on their two-years.

"Some may think of poetry as refined and rare as silverware; as technical as advanced mathematics; as otherworldly as to be understood only by professors. When, in fact, poetry is actively public, giving us the means to see things in a new light and an opportunity to engage in conversations as a community. This is the essence of the Fairfax Poet Laureate program. **ARTSFAIRFAX** is investing in another opportunity for county residents to encounter the arts in daily life", says Linda Sullivan

ARTSFAIRFAX will manage the Poet Laureate Program as a two-year appointment, selected through a competitive application process.

Applications for the Poet Laureate Program are due January 9, 2020. A panel of distinguished writers, poets and other literary professionals will meet in February to review the applications and make recommendations to be approved by the **ARTSFAIRFAX** Board of Directors. The review panel is open to the public and the Fairfax Poet Laureate will be announced in early April 2020.

More information about how to apply and about the Fairfax Poet Laureate program can be found at artsfairfax.org.

About ARTSFAIRFAX

ARTSFAIRFAX is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, incorporated in 1964, as Fairfax County's designated local arts agency. **ARTSFAIRFAX** is funded in part by Fairfax County, corporations, foundations, individuals, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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