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Colorado Poet Laureate Nominations Open Today

Denver — Nominations for the next Colorado Poet Laureate are now open, today through February 1, 2023. Chosen by the Governor, the Colorado Poet Laureate will serve a four-year term beginning in July 2023. The Poet Laureate position was created to promote an appreciation of poetry in Colorado, to honor outstanding Colorado poets, and to serve as an active advocate for poetry, literacy, and literature by participating in readings and other events at schools, libraries, literary festivals, and the State Capitol.

The Poet Laureate will also provide the Governor with an annual account of the impact and success of the Colorado Poet Laureate program. Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book and Colorado Creative Industries will annually supply the Poet Laureate with a \$5,000 honoraria and up to \$5,000 to cover public presentation travel expenses.

The selection of the Poet Laureate will be based on artistic excellence, a demonstrated history of community service in the advancement of poetry, and the ability to present poetry effectively. A panel of former laureates and poetry leaders will review nominations and make recommendations to the Governor, who will make the final selection.

Any organization or individual may nominate a poet for consideration. Nominators should work closely with their nominees to submit the nomination form and

information requested. Self-nomination is also an option. The Colorado Poet Laureate must be a legal, full-time Colorado resident for at least three years prior to the nomination deadline. In addition, the Poet Laureate must remain a resident of Colorado during the term of office and pass a standard background check. Nominations must be submitted no later than February 1, 2023 to Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book via Submittable at <https://coloradohumanities.submittable.com/submit/240980/colorado-poet-laureate-nominations-2023>

Colorado became one of the first states to have a Poet Laureate when Governor Oliver Shoup appointed Alice Polk Hill in 1919. Since then, eight additional Coloradans have served: Nellie Burget Miller (1923-1952), Margaret Clyde Robertson (1952-1954), Milford E. Shields (1954), Thomas Hornsby Ferril (1979-1988), Mary Crow (1996-2010), David Mason (2010-2014), Joseph Hutchison (2014-2019), and Bobby LeFebre (2019-Present).

To learn more about the Poet Laureate's history and role in the literary life of the state, and to sign up for Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book and Colorado Creative Industries newsletters, please visit coloradohumanities.org and coloradocreativeindustries.org.

About current Colorado Poet Laureate Bobby LeFebre

Bobby LeFebre is a two-time Grand Slam Champion, a National Poetry Slam Finalist, an Individual World Poetry Slam Finalist, and a two-time TEDx speaker. He has performed at hundreds of cultural events, social actions, detention centers, conferences, and colleges and universities across the United States and abroad. He is also co-founder of Cafe Cultura, an award-winning nonprofit organization that uses poetry as a tool for youth literacy and educational and cultural development.

About Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 48th year and its 18th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book, Colorado Humanities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Library of Congress Center for the Book, the Smithsonian Institution, and the national award-winning educational nonprofit Helps Education Fund. To learn more, visit coloradohumanities.org or call 303.894.7951.

About Colorado Creative Industries

Colorado Creative Industries is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Established to capitalize on the immense potential for our creative sector to enhance economic growth in Colorado, the mission of Colorado Creative Industries is to promote, support, and expand the creative industries to drive Colorado's economy, grow jobs, and enhance our quality of life. oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-creative-industries

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