



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-307

Meeting Date: 8/1/2024

TITLE: REVIEW POET LAUREATE PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST
CONTACT INFORMATION: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission review edits and approve the Poet Laureate Handbook (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The Artist Laureate Program is part of the Arts & Culture Master Plan **Goal 3.1**, *Boldly Assert Costa Mesa's "City of the Arts" Stature and Brand, Placing Arts & Culture Front and Center in All That The City Does.*, approved by the City Council in March 16, 2021.

On February 1, 2024, the Arts Commission granted approval for the City to initiate a Poet Laureate Program, with the understanding that if the Poet Laureate Program proves successful and is well-liked within the community, it will become a permanent program, replacing the Artist Laureate Program.

The application for the Poet Laureate Program opened March 11, 2024, and closed on May 6, 2024. Staff reviewed seven (7) applications, to ensure that all the guidelines were followed, as written in the Poet Laureate Program Handbook (Attachment 1). Five (5) applications that met all the requirements were reviewed and interviewed by a peer panel of four (4) subject matter expert panelists, each with a background in the literary arts. After reviewing the five (5) applications, the review panelists recommended that staff reopen the application process to include Orange County residents in addition to Costa Mesa residents.

ANALYSIS:

On June 6, 2024, the Arts Commission reviewed the peer-panelists' recommendation and provided staff with direction to amend the Criteria for Submission in the Poet Laureate Handbook. The requested amendments are detailed in the Poet Laureate Program Handbook (Attachment 1).

The application is scheduled to re-open on September 9, 2024, a two-year term appointment commences on January 6, 2024 and concludes on December 31, 2026.

FISCAL REVIEW

Funding for the Poet Laureate Program is currently supported with funds from the Arts & Culture Plan.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission review edits and approve the Poet Laureate Handbook.