



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-249

Meeting Date: 6/06/2024

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 revise the Poet Laureate Handbook and reopen the Poet Laureate application.

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.

ANALYSIS:

The application for the Poet Laureate Program was open from March 11, 2024 and closed on May 6, 2024. Staff prepared an announcement for outreach to the community, using the following methods:

- The Spring Spotlight, the City's recreation magazine
- The Snapshot, the City's weekly newsletter
- City social media accounts
- Emails sent to various artists and arts organizations and schools
- Print and digital flyers were available at all Parks and Community Services facilities and distributed to local libraries
- Digital flyers were available and downloadable from the City website
- A Costa Mesa Minute

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 or four (4) subject matter expert panelists, each with a

background in the literary arts. After reviewing applications, the review panelists recommended that staff reopen the application process to include Orange County residents in addition to Costa Mesa residents.

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 revise the Poet Laureate Handbook and reopen the Poet Laureate application.