77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA
92626

City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 24-043 **Meeting Date:** 02/01/2024

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

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation to review, discuss, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program and Application Process (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The Artist Laureate Program is part of the Arts & Culture Master Plan **Goal 3.1**, *Boldy 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 of 2021.

ANALYSIS:

The Artist Laureate Program description in the Arts and Culture Master Plan suggests opening the program to artists from all disciplines. To launch the program, staff recommends beginning with a Poet Laureate Program, as there are already many successful programs and examples to learn from, and the city does not currently have any programming that addresses the literary arts. If successful, staff recommends making the Poet Laureate Program a permanent program. Once an application process is implemented, applicants will be reviewed by a peer panel and then the Arts Commission and chosen to be the City of Costa Mesa's Poet Laureate for a two-year term.

ALTERNATIVES:

Implement the poet laureate program on a temporary basis and review after the initial 2-year period or; Choose to recommend an alternative and/or rotating art discipline for the program.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

No fiscal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission make edits and recommendations to the new program handbook and application, for implementation in the 23-24 fiscal year, and approve the new Poet Laureate Program.