



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-172

Meeting Date: 2/06/2025

TITLE: REVIEW AND APPROVE NEW POET LAUREATE AND SCOPE OF WORK

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTED BY: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST

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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission review the Scope of Work for the Poet Laureate Agreement and approve the appointment of Danielle Hanson as the City of Costa Mesa's first Poet Laureate (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:

The Poet Laureate Application reopened on September 9, 2024 and closed on October 28, 2024. Two review panelists from the previous panel met to discuss four (4) new applications while also considering poets from the first round of applications and chose one (1) applicant (Danielle Hanson) to serve as the new Poet Laureate for a two (2) year period from 2025-27.

FISCAL REVIEW

Funding for the Poet Laureate Program is currently supported with funds from the Arts & Culture Plan. The Poet Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$2,500 per year.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission review the Scope of Work and approve the appointment of the Danielle Hanson as the City of Costa Mesa's first Poet Laureate for a period of two (2) years.