



SUBJECT: Interview of Poet Laureate Candidate, Maria Denney

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

STAFF: Lindsay Pinell, Recreation Supervisor

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending the Arts Commission Interview Maria Denney, applicant for the City of Brentwood's Poet Laureate Position.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the discussion of this item.

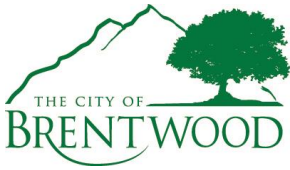
BACKGROUND

The City of Brentwood established the Poet Laureate position in 2002. Part of the "Powers and Duties" of the Brentwood Arts Commission is to promote programs for cultural enrichment of the city in diverse art disciplines. Designation of a Poet Laureate provides a means for Brentwood to confirm publicly the value of literary arts as an enlightened and educated community. Despite many recruitment attempts the City of Brentwood has been without a Poet Laureate since June 2020.

The Poet Laureate is responsible for increasing the public's awareness of the benefits of poetry, as well as commemorating certain civic events through composing and reading poetry at inaugurations, dedications, etc.

The specific duties of the Poet Laureate include:

- The Poet Laureate will serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the arts, particularly poetry.
- Provide a minimum of six readings as approved by the Brentwood Arts Commission during their appointment. These readings should be presented in a variety of geographical locations, thus providing equal access to the community.
- Serve as a liaison between the Arts Commission and local schools, library, and literary organizations and may conduct readings and workshops devoted to poetic works on an as-needed basis.
- Create a project, through the Arts Commission, to bring poetic art to those residents who might not otherwise have this exposure.



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- Serve as a scout for suitable poets who could appear at cultural performances sponsored by the Arts Commission.
- Will serve as the facilitator for monthly open mic sessions in person and possibly on Zoom.

After the interview Staff is suggesting the Arts Commission have a discussion and decide whether or not to make a motion to recommend the appointment of Maria Denney as Poet Laureate to the City Council. If the decision is made tonight, the item will go to City Council at their December meeting which will be the last meeting for 2024. If the Commission would like to table the decision until the November Arts Commission meeting, the item cannot be brought to City Council until early 2025.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Previous Action by the Commission is included on Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1: Previous Action
2. Attachment 2: Poet Laureate Application- Maria Denney
3. Attachment 3: Poet Laureate Resume – Maria Denney
4. Attachment 4: The Construction Meeting by Maria Denney
5. Attachment 5: The Farm Stand by Maria Denney