

ALASKA STATE WRITER LAUREATE: ELIGIBILITY, NOMINATION, & SELECTION

Program Principles

The State Writer Laureate program commits to the following principles, understanding that while no individual Writer Laureate can fulfill them, the administrators of the program must apply these principles to the nomination and selection processes within the program's historical context:

- The historic cohort of Alaska State Writer Laureates should be representative of the racial, cultural, ethnic, and geographic diversity of our state.
- The collective body of work of Alaska State Writer Laureates should advance awareness and understanding of the diverse life experiences of Alaskans.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Currently be a citizen of the United States and legal resident of Alaska
- Intend to remain a resident of Alaska throughout the two-year term
- Live within the borders of the state at least 18 months over the 24-month period
- Not be a full-time student enrolled in a college or university degree program
- Be able and available to engage with rural and urban communities during the two-year term

To be considered, the nominee should have a body of work in the literary arts that has been professionally published, produced, and/or publicly exhibited. This body of work may consist of traditional, nontraditional, mixed-genre, multimedia, or genre-bending material. While there is no minimum size requirement for a body of work to be considered, it is unlikely a single poem, story, or essay published in a larger anthology will be sufficient to be competitive with other nominees.

The following works may not be used to establish eligibility:

- Unpublished manuscripts
- Self-Publications
Includes work that has appeared in a publication for which you are the editor, publisher, or staff.
- Vanity Press Publications
Includes publications that do any of the following: requires individual writers to pay for part or all of the publication costs; asks writers to buy or sell copies of the publication; publishes the work of anyone who subscribes to the publication or joins the organization through membership fees; publishes the work of anyone who buys an advertisement in the publication; or publishes work without competitive selection.

Selection Criteria

Body of work

- Literary excellence and quality
- Meaningful influence on Alaska and its literary community

Capacity to serve as a literary ambassador

- Commitment to a public audience
- Expected impact of public project
- Exemplary professionalism

Advancement of the Writer Laureate program's principles

- Racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of cohort
- Geographic diversity of cohort
- Awareness and understanding of Alaskans' diverse life experiences

Application Materials

1. A one-page nomination statement in response to the selection criteria
2. A biography or resume that demonstrates why this person should be considered for the position
3. Letters of support (limited to three) are welcome, but not required
4. Contact information for both the nominee and nominator (self-nominations are acceptable)

Manuscripts will **not** be read or reviewed by the selection committee.