



KILLEEN ARTS COMMISSION POET LAUREATE PROGRAM PROPOSAL

DS-26-053

July 7, 2026

Program Background

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The Poet Laureate Program was first introduced to the City Council on April 7, 2026

- Presented as a Long Range Goal in the Arts Commission Annual Report
- Current proposal is result of subsequent research into funding, legal compliance, and regional program models

Purpose and Mission

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- ❑ Establish the Killeen Poet Laureate Program as an official cultural initiative
- ❑ Appoint a “Literary Ambassador” to promote literacy and civic expression
- ❑ Support downtown activation and community engagement through the arts
- ❑ Celebrate Killeen’s diverse identity through “State of the City” poems and public workshops

Purpose and Mission

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- Establish the Killeen Poet Laureate Program as an official cultural initiative of the City of Killeen
 - ▣ Program fosters inclusive and vibrant literary culture by celebrating poetry as a tool for:
 - Civic Expression
 - Storytelling
 - Literary Advancement
 - Cultural Representation

Purpose and Mission

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- The Poet Laureate will:
 - ▣ Represent the City of Killeen as a Literary Ambassador
 - ▣ Promote literacy and artistic excellence
 - ▣ Engage residents through public readings and workshops
 - ▣ Amplify diverse voices reflective of Killeen's identity
 - ▣ Support civic and cultural events

Program Structure and Eligibility

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- ❑ Term Length: 2-year term beginning Oct 1
- ❑ Compensation: \$5,000 per year, \$10,000 per term
- ❑ Eligibility:
 - ▣ 21 years of age or older
 - ▣ Resident of Killeen for minimum of 2 years prior to application
 - ▣ Established body of poetic work (published, performed, otherwise documented)
 - ▣ Evidence of previous community engagement
 - ▣ Availability for required program commitments

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Poet Laureate shall:
 - ▣ Compose and present an annual civic poem reflecting Killeen's identity, history, and community voice
 - ▣ Conduct a minimum of:
 - Four (4) public readings annually
 - Four (4) school or library workshops annually
 - ▣ Participate in civic events upon request
 - ▣ Collaborate with the Arts Commission or designated administering department on programming initiatives
 - ▣ Develop one (1) legacy literary project during the term

Administration Strategy

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- Administration
 - ▣ Arts Commission
 - Advisory input and program governance as assigned by Council
 - ▣ Current City Staff Liaisons (Finance Department)
 - Administrative coordination, event scheduling, documentation
 - ▣ Library Department
 - Budgetary and Financial Management
 - Archival preservation, literary documentation, digital storage, public access to program materials

Budget Breakdown

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- Budget Allocation Summary
 - ▣ Fiscal Year 2027 total requested: \$18,750
 - ▣ Source: General Fund
 - Venue and event operations: \$5,250
 - Poet Laureate Honorarium: \$5,000
 - Programming: \$3,500
 - Marketing & Communications: \$2,500
 - Travel and professional representation: \$1,500
 - Administration: \$1,000

Discussion and Direction

- Arts Commission requesting a Motion of Direction to proceed with the Killeen Poet Laureate Program as presented
 - ▣ Budgetary Integration: direction to include proposed \$18,750 program request within the Fiscal Year 2027 Library Division budget

Questions?