

Contact
[Mollie Flanagan](#)
Director of Individual Artists Program
401-222-3881

[Click here to proceed to the online application for the Poet of Rhode Island](#)

State Poet of Rhode Island Guidelines and Information

Overview

- The State Poet of Rhode Island is appointed by the Governor to serve as an advocate for poetry and promote the appreciation and participation in poetry and literary arts activities among the state's residents. The position of State Poet of Rhode Island was established by the legislature in 1987. The term is for 5 years.
- Award Amount: \$1,000 per year for five years.
- Who can apply: Poets that live in Rhode Island.

Deadlines and Funding Periods

The deadline to apply for the position of State Poet of Rhode Island is 11:59pm on Aug. 21, 2023. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Note that the application portal closes at 11:59 p.m. You must hit submit before that time for your application to be considered.

The term will be approximately for January 2024 to January 2029.

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Not currently be in an arts degree seeking program or attending high school full time.
- Have been domiciled in Rhode Island for at least three years at the time of application. This means your home in Rhode Island is your primary residence, and is the address you use for legal forms, state income taxes, car registration, driver's license or state issued id, and voter registration - regardless of whether you own or rent your home.
- Be a legal resident of the United States with a tax id number (either Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number- ITIN). This includes refugees, immigrants, and temporary residents. This does not include people in the country on a tourist visa.
- Not be a staff member or council member of RISCA, or an immediate family member of a staff or council member.

- Be a practicing poet. RISCA defines practicing poet as: A person that intentionally creates or practices poetry that:
 - Has sought learning or training in the artistic field from any source, not necessarily in formal academic institutions.
 - Is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity, as is possible financially.
 - Is or is working towards earning some portion of their income from their art.

Other rules/things to know

- This honorary position includes a \$1,000 stipend per year for a total of \$5,000.
- You must complete a yearly report and confirm residency to receive your next payment.
- If you are appointed State Poet of Rhode Island, you are ineligible for the General Operating Support for Artists grant and the Folks Arts Fellowship for the length of your term. You are eligible for other project-based grants.
- You must continue to be a resident of Rhode Island for the length of your term. If you move out of state for any reason during your term, you will be asked to resign, and the Governor will appoint the next State Poet. Additionally, you will not receive any of the remaining stipend payments. You will not have to repay previous payments.
- This is a Governor appointed position, with finalists recommended by a panel.

Application

You are required to submit

- **Resume or CV:** The resume or CV must be submitted as either a Word Doc. or PDF. Please submit whichever you feel best represents you.
- **One Page Statement:** A statement describing why you are interested being appointed the State Poet of Rhode Island, and what you hope to accomplish during your term. This must be submitted as either a Word document or PDF and must be a maximum of one page.
- **Letter of Nomination:** A one-page letter of nomination from a Rhode Island resident. This letter should speak to your connection to the state of Rhode Island, and your commitment to the field of poetry. This must be submitted as either a word document or PDF, include the nominator's contact information, and must be a maximum of one page.
- **Work Samples:** All files must be included in a Google drive folder you create, with sharing settings either open to anyone or "anyone with the link." You must submit:
 - Between five and 10 pages of poetry.
 - Between five and 10 minutes of video or audio of the poet reading/performing their work.
 - A numbered list of the work samples, including year completed/recorded, title, and any important context.

You may submit

- **Poet's Website:** The website must be submitted as a link.

Selection Process

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts facilitates the recommendation of five finalists to the Governor. The process to identify the five finalists is very similar to the panel review process for our grants.

Five panelists will serve in the recommendation process. They will be experts in poetry and literary arts and/or deeply connected to and committed to the state of Rhode Island.

RISCA is committed to a peer review process that provides fresh and diverse input from an ever-changing field. In addition, RISCA will consider age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, geography, discipline of arts experience, relationship to arts and culture (e.g., being an artist, arts administrator, or arts enthusiast), and other factors when curating its application review panels.

Decision Making Process

- **STEP 1: Panelists are recruited.**
- **STEP 2: You submit your application by the deadline.** Once the application deadlines pass, no alterations or additions may be made to your application. Applications are reviewed by the grant panel based on the contents of your application only.
- **STEP 3: Applications are screened.** RISCA staff members review each application for completeness and compliance with eligibility and submission requirements. If any issues are detected, the applicant may be contacted or asked to fix their application within a certain number of days.
- **STEP 4: RISCA staff provides orientation and training to panelists.** Panelists don't receive the applications they are to review until they complete a two-part panel training: the first part focuses on implicit bias; the second part focuses on the logistics of being a panelist.
- **STEP 5: Eligible applications are sent to the panel.**
- **STEP 6: The panel reviews and scores their assigned applications.** Panelists have typically between 2-6 weeks to review applications and score each application prior to their panel meeting.
- **STEP 7: Panel(s) meet for Panel Review and make recommendations.** The panel then meets in person at RISCA offices or via Zoom to discuss each application. RISCA staff facilitate the discussion, but do not participate in or influence the discussions. By the end of the meeting, the panel will identify the five poets they will be recommending to the Governor.
- **STEP 8: RISCA sends recommendations to the Governor.**
- **STEP 9: The Governor appoints the State Poet of Rhode Island.**

Requirements of the State Poet of Rhode Island

- **You must submit a brief report to RISCA once a year.** This will be submitted via the online grant system and will be due once a year beginning 12 months after the beginning of the term. You will not receive your next yearly stipend, or be eligible for other RISCA grants, if you have an overdue final report.
- **You must maintain Rhode Island Residency.** If you move out of the state of Rhode Island, you are expected to resign, and the Governor will appoint the next State Poet.
- **Participate in a minimum of 3 public events per year.** These events will be agreed upon by both the poet and RISCA.
- **Write and read an inaugural poem for the Governor's inauguration.**
- **Work to foster appreciation of and participation in poetry around the state of Rhode Island.**
- **RISCA reserves the right to use any submitted materials for promotional purposes.** This includes any text, photographs, audio, or video submitted as part of selected applications for limited non-commercial educational or promotional use in publications or other media produced, used or contracted by RISCA including, but not limited to brochures, invitations, newsletters, postcards, websites, etc.

Glossary:

Practicing Artist: A person that intentionally creates or practices art in any discipline that:

- Has sought learning or training in the artistic field from any source, not necessarily in formal academic institutions.
- Is committed to devoting significant time to artistic activity, as is possible financially.
- Is or is working towards earning some portion of their income from their art.
- Disciplines include, but are NOT limited to: musician, painter, poet, choreographer, teaching artist, ceramicist, storyteller, performer, playwright, sculptor, photographer, wampum artist, printmaker, animator, cartoonist, textile and fashion designer, and filmmaker.

Rhode Island residency: Have been domiciled in Rhode Island for at least one year at the time of application. This means your home in Rhode Island is your primary residence, and is the address you use for legal forms, state income taxes, car registration, driver's license or state issued id, and voter registration - regardless of whether you own or rent your home. You must also spend a minimum of 183 days per year in the state.