

Poet Laureate Ad-Hoc Committee Final Report

November 8th, 2019

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The Pomona Public Library Commission in partnership with the Cultural Arts commission recommended the city of Pomona create an ongoing Poet Laureate program. The Poet Laureate program was established by the City Council of the City of Pomona on August 5, 2019 (Resolution No. 2019-106). The Poet Laureate honorary position for Pomona is commissioned as a two-year term, funded by the Pomona Public Library Foundation, for the purpose of the development and advancement of poetry and literature in Pomona.

The Poet Laureate ad hoc committee, established by the Board of Library Trustees, sought applications for Pomona Poet Laureate through a Facebook page, an Instagram account, postings at various sites including the Pomona Public Library, the DPOA office, Cafe con Libros, and by posting flyers at several venues including the September 27th Pomona Valley Poetry Slam. The opening for a Pomona Poet Laureate was posted on the Pomona Public Library Foundation website on August 22, 2019. The application download button was clicked 164 times in total. Seven applications were received by the closing date of October 31st, 2019 at 6pm.

Each of the top three applicants were within single points of each other, all scoring between 84-87 points out of a possible 100 points. Not in any particular order, they are George Hammons, David (Judah1) Oliver, and Gustavo Ramirez.

After discussion about the three top Poet Laureate applicants, the Board of Pomona Public Library Trustees will vote to select the Poet Laureate for January 2020—December 2021 at their November 20th meeting.

After this vote, the Poet Laureate Ad-Hoc committee will be dissolved, and a Poet Laureate Ad-Hoc Oversight Committee will be formed with at least three members to oversee and work with the newly commissioned Pomona Poet Laureate as that Poet Laureate creates classes, trainings, events and opportunities for the public of Pomona to engage with poetry. The Poet Laureate will receive their stipend through the Pomona Public Library Foundation.