

# Call for Writers: Poets of Place

Up to five (5) **Poets of Place** will be selected as an important part of ArtReach St. Croix's 2025 Mobile Art Gallery season. The Poets of Place will act as advocates and ambassadors for poetry and creativity in the lower St. Croix Valley.

Initially hosted as part of NEA Big Read in the St. Croix Valley in 2022, the Poets of Place program embraces the diversity of human experience, identity, and literary aesthetics. **Poets of Place** seeks to be representative of the rich and diverse cultures of poetry in the region.

The poets will be selected by May 2, 2025. Poems will be published in a chapbook and will be the center of the Mobile Art Gallery exhibit as it tours area parks. Together, we will present the Poets of Place new work at an event in the Valley, location and date to be determined.

All applications are welcome, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, socio-economic background, physical ability or poetic sub-genre.

## Expectations

The Poets of Place are expected to:

- contribute to the awareness of poetry throughout the lower St. Croix Valley by promoting poetry and the Poets of Place program via social media and/or print media.
- participate in a literary event at a Mobile Art Gallery destination.
- submit 4 current, unpublished poems of which 2 will be published in the chapbook, shared online and with regional media outlets.
- attend the chapbook launch event and perform/present one or more poems.

## Eligibility and Criteria

- The applicant should show evidence of achievement in the art of poetry, including publications (books, literary magazines, and/or digital media).
- The applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
- The applicant must be a resident of the lower St. Croix Watershed (approximately between the Falls area to the confluence with the Mississippi).
- In July or August 2025, the applicant must be able and willing to connect with audiences via the Mobile Art Gallery (multiple dates) and via the chapbook launch event (date to be determined by cohort).
- Poets will maintain the rights to their work and may publish in another outlet.

## Application Requirements

The following items are required as part of the application:

- A. A one-page cover letter that includes contact information and a short biography for the applicant.
- B. A work sample not to exceed six (6) pages, 8 ½ x 11, no less than a 12-point font, no more than one poem on each page. The work sample may contain information that indicates where the poem has been published or performed, or if it has received any awards for merit.
- C. (Optional) Up to two (2) pages of supplementary materials, including excerpts from published book reviews, judges' comments, or other critical writings that help contextualize the poet's work for the commission. Note: recommendation letters are not appropriate and will not be considered.

Completed application packets should be saved as a single .pdf file and e-mailed to [lit@artreachstcroix.org](mailto:lit@artreachstcroix.org) or mailed to ArtReach St. Croix, 224 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Stillwater MN 55082.

**\*\*To be considered, applications must be received by noon on Monday, April 21, 2025\*\***

## Selection Process

The committee reviews all submitted materials and may meet finalists (via zoom) before deciding on the new Poets of Place.

## Recognition of the Poets of Place

- The Poets of Place will each be awarded a \$250 stipend, which honors the poet's achievements and helps to defray expenses (ex. mileage to/from Mobile Art Gallery) not reimbursed by ArtReach. If invited to participate in other programs, Poets of Place are encouraged to accept honoraria or remuneration from host organizations.
- ArtReach St. Croix and the Literary Arts Committee will work with the Poets of Place and the other event hosts to facilitate press coverage related to key activities.
- A limited-edition chapbook of the Poets of Place work will be produced.
- The Poets of Place will be featured on St. Croix 360 website and e-newsletter.