



Poetry in April 2015 Application Guidelines

We are accepting applications for readers for our 15th season, April 2015, for Tempe Poetry in April, a reading series that celebrates National Poetry Month on Wednesdays in April. In 2015, we will have five readings that take place at the strikingly-beautiful Tempe Center for the Arts.

Along with the reading, we include poetry or links to poetry on our website, www.tempe.gov/Poetry. Our program includes an interview period with the poet and moderator Catherine Hammond. Afterward, the discussion is opened to the audience and followed by an opportunity to purchase books. Our goal is to enjoy a deep, respectful exploration of each poet's work.

Here are some guidelines we use to choose participants for *Poetry in April*.

- The poetry itself has reached a professional level of excellence and sophistication.
- There should be an acknowledgement by the national poetry community of that excellence. Generally the poets will have won important national awards and often have published books to critical acclaim. It is important to note that we are not looking for vanity press publications to fulfill this criterion.
- The poets must have powerful stories to tell and they must be able to share those stories articulately in a discussion.
- The roster of poets must be culturally diverse in keeping with the culturally diverse nature of the city of Tempe and the state of Arizona.
- If a poet has read for us in a previous season, it is important that the poems represent new work, preferably with a significant change in direction from poetry previously shared at *Poetry in April*.
- Please note that we also have a particular interest in collaborations between poetry and other art forms such as music or visual art. If you are working collaboratively, keep our format in mind. Our goal always is to present a poetry reading as a basis for the event.

As we put together each season, we emphasize diversity in programming. We always look at the whole of the series and at scheduled readers to examine ways that their work interacts or even debates with other readers for the season. Some seasons we have explored a particular theme, which influences our choice of readers. Also, it is important to note that we view the performance aspect of the program to be a key component. Each season we receive many more excellent applications than we have reading dates. That may mean that it will take us more than one season to find the right slot for a qualified reader. Our selection process is admittedly more art than science. The goal is to produce the best possible season for the audience of *Poetry in April*.

We add a couple of other notes about our selection process. Many of our readers have come first to Tempe Poetry as audience members. Please do not try to apply to us without attending one of our readings. *Poetry in April* always is interested in discovering writers who would be appropriate to the series. Please note, however, that some of our readers come to us through other means of discovery than this application process. These readers come by our own invitation and we reserve the right to continue that practice also. This process is not a contest.

Please e-mail us a letter that describes your credentials for the Poetry in April reading series. This should include:

- a one paragraph biography
- a one paragraph statement describing what you would bring to the series, that is, how your story is unique
- the poet's name, address, telephone number and an e-mail address
- If you have read for us before, please also include a description of ways the work you would be sharing would represent a shift in direction from the poems you read in an earlier season.

Please e-mail us 10 pages of your best poems. Poems may be published or unpublished, and there are no restrictions on style, subject matter or length of poems submitted: quality is the single criterion. The writer's name should be clearly indicated on each poem. When Poetry in April has chosen its roster for April 2015, we will notify you by e-mail. We expect to have a roster in place by the end of October 2014. If you and your work are chosen, we would ask that you provide us sometime in the early part of the year, January or February would be good, a copy or copies of books you will be reading from to facilitate the interview portion of the evening.

Deadline for submissions: please submit your work no later than July 15, 2014.

Thank you for your interest in *Poetry in April*. Our series understands that the writing community is right at the core of our celebration of National Poetry Month. We are overjoyed at all the excellent writing we receive and at the richness and diversity we always encounter.

If you have questions, contact Catherine Hammond, moderator, at cathammond1@gmail.com or Mary Fowler at 480/350-2880 or at mary_fowler@tempe.gov

Sincerely,
Catherine Hammond/Mary Fowler