

**WHEREAS**, Poet Laureate positions have existed in cities, states, and countries since the 1600s to be stewards of poetry in their communities through programs that positively impact the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Texas ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> among states supporting artists in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, as of 2003, 121,074 adults in Central Texas either could not read or struggled with reading; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, many local organizations have created and nurtured Austin’s poetry scene with little to no budget or recognition, the University of Texas at Austin has one of the most nationally recognized Masters of Fine Arts programs, and Austin is a mecca for Texas arts; and

**WHEREAS**, a Poet Laureate program would keep Austin accountable to its promise of being the arts center of Texas and assist with improving Austin’s literacy rate; and

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25 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

26 The City Manager is directed to establish an adult Poet Laureate program to  
27 be housed in and managed by the Austin Public Library department or another  
28 department deemed appropriate by the City Manager.

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

30 The Austin Public Library, or other department designated by the City  
31 Manager, shall establish a City Poet Laureate committee, to include a representative  
32 of the Austin Public Library, a representative of the Arts Commission, and members  
33 of the City's literature community to be charged with providing input and guidance  
34 on the structure of the Poet Laureate program and the Poet Laureate position,  
35 reviewing applications, and recommending City Poet Laureate nominees to the  
36 Director of the Austin Public Library or other department designated by the City  
37 Manager.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager is directed to create the City Poet Laureate committee and  
40 develop the Poet Laureate program by October 1, 2024.

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44 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

45 Myrna Rios  
46 City Clerk  
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