



SOMOS would like to announce the second two-year position of Taos Poet Laureate, which will begin on January 1, 2020. The purpose of the Poet Laureate is to build awareness and appreciation of poetry in Taos County by undertaking a project that will make poetry more available and accessible to the public. The position celebrates poetry and the power of the written word by recognizing a resident poet who makes meaningful connections, honors and serves our diverse community, elevates the importance of the art form, and shares poetry with local residents. Funds for the position are provided by a grant from the Witter Bynner Foundation.

Applications, forwarded to somos@somostaos.org or mailed to SOMOS, POB 3225, Taos, NM 87571, are now being accepted and should include the following: three poems, and a personal statement of their vision for how the Taos Poet Laureate will serve the town and literary community of Taos and why they should be chosen, including:

- how they have participated in the literary community of Northern New Mexico
- their ability to conduct outreach and public engagement activities related to poetry
- how their body of work has had a positive influence on other writers
- have an appreciation and sensitivity for our multi-cultural community
- be willing to encourage pursuit of literary activities in all age groups, including engaging in programming with the local schools
- how the Taos Poet Laureate will promote regional writers and poets and the transformative qualities of poetry
- have the time and willingness to create a long-term project or program of special interest, with the support of the Town of Taos & SOMOS, and other potential partners
- Are willing to occasionally be called upon to write a poem commemorating an occasion of historic and/or cultural importance

The due date for the application is **November 1, 2019**. Judges will review each application and make their final decision by mid-December 2019; at which time the selected poet will be notified.