

Madison Poet Laureate 2012-2016

This is our first year with new changes for the selection of Madison Poet Laureate. In the previous 37 year history of the office of the Madison Poet Laureate, the current poet laureate has nominated one successor. We have four people to apply this year with the following information:

1. Art Paul Schlosser, self-nominated with some supporting documents but no references included but references are listed.
2. Robin Elliott Lee, with four nominations (two of them with a signature) with supporting documents
3. Andrea Potos, with one nomination but no supporting documents.
4. Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman with two nominations and supporting documents.

Analysis:

1. Art Paul Schlosser's documents while all there in brief form do not fully give evidence of a professional career in poetry nor does his application speak to the issue of inclusion and making sure that all of Madison is served through community partnerships. The three references listed don't address him or his work as a poet.
2. Robin Elliot Lee gives evidence of a professional poetry career thru his free, The Kit-N-Caboodle and "Creative Collectivity" as well as references who testify of many years of poetry and readings. While he has some community partnerships, diversity is not indicated. His poetry indicates that he is an emerging poet and clearly one to pay attention to in future years.
3. Andrea Potos is an exceptional poet. Unfortunately her application is incomplete and can not be considered. I would certainly recommend that she apply in the next cycle.
4. Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman. I serve on the Advisory Board of **Verse Wisconsin**. I am familiar with their work from the magazine and with their dedication to the field of poetry in general, from literary activities all over Wisconsin. These two meet the criteria in all five areas. From their application, I hope that they are going to expand into poetry with youth as well as continue their work with adults. Their application gives evidence of a large body of work with a professional degree of poetry and writing. Their references are excellent. This application raises the question of two as co-Madison Poet Laureates. I think that they have proven that they can work together thru **Verse Wisconsin** and that their partnership in the office of Madison Poet Laureate will increase the prestige of the office as well as expand the amount work that they can both do for the field of poetry in Madison.

Selection:

Out of the four candidates offering their applications. I choose Sarah Busse and Wendy Vardaman as the next co-Madison Poet Laureates.

Recommendations: That no poet is able to self-nominate.