



COUNTY OF ERIE, PA

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Erie County launches search for next Poet Laureate

Erie, PA – April 24, 2018 – Erie County is announcing its search for the next Erie County Poet Laureate, as current Poet Laureate Marisa Moks-Unger’s two-year tenure draws to a close.

Those interested in applying should be published poets and must complete an application packet, which is available at www.eriecountypa.gov/poetlaureate. The application period runs from May 1 through June 27. The selected applicant will be given a \$7,000 grant to carry out a project to bring poetry to the people of Erie County.

For more information about the Poet Laureate application process or the upcoming events, contact Douglas Smith, County Clerk, at (814) 451-6303 or dsmith@eriecountypa.gov.

About the Erie County Poet Laureate Initiative

Erie County Government, in cooperation with Edinboro University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, and Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, started the Poet Laureate Initiative in 2009. Already it has received recognition for its impact on the arts in our region; receiving the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association County Arts Award in 2011 and the National Association of Counties National Arts Award in 2012.

Concluding her second term (2016-2018) as Erie County Poet Laureate, is Marisa Moks-Unger. Past Laureates include Berwyn Moore, 2009-2010; Dr. Thomas Forsthoefel, 2010-2012; and Ron Hayes, 2013-2015, and Christopher “Cee” Williams, 2013-2015. Governing the Initiative are the members of the Erie County Poetry Committee: Joseph Giles, former Erie County Councilman; Dr. Greg Brown, Professor of English, Mercyhurst University; Helene Grande, Communications Specialist, Erie School District (retired); Mary Jane Koenig, Writing Specialist (retired), Erie School District; George Looney, Professor of English, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Berwyn Moore, Professor of English, Gannon University; Caroline Hohmann Campbell, Professor, Edinboro University; Amanda Brown-Sissem, Executive Director, Erie Arts & Culture; Ben Speggen, Program Director, Jefferson Educational Society; and Douglas Smith, Erie County Clerk.

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