



## **OVERVIEW: Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project**

**MISSION:** The mission of the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project is to inspire and celebrate poets and poetry in our community.

**GOAL:** The goal of the Poet Laureate Project is to designate the best of our region's poets as Poet Laureate and to support related programming that connect poets and poetry with our community in ways that are personal and meaningful.

**OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of the Poet Laureate Project include: raising funds and providing organizational support for the Poet Laureate and related activities including readings, workshops, and other literary and cultural events. The Project also will connect other regional poets with community groups and schools for special programs in the Pikes Peak region (El Paso and Teller counties).

**THE POET LAUREATE:** During a two-year term the Poet Laureate will make from six to 10 public appearances per year at workshops, readings or other events and facilitate a special communitywide poetry activity. Additional appearances by the Poet Laureate are subject to his/her availability and support from interested host organizations.

**PRESENTING PARTNERS:** The presenting partners of the project are the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado College, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, COPPeR (Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region), and Poetry West, a local nonprofit poetry organization. These five organizations together with other volunteers and local poets are working together to organize the project and to facilitate programming during the Poet Laureate's term.

**ACTIVITIES:** The project was initiated in January 2008 with formal solicitation of donations. Since then the project has met its fundraising goal of \$13,000 thanks to over 130 donations from individuals, companies, organizations, and foundations. Nearly 20 nominations and applications for Poet Laureate were received, and a Poet Laureate was selected by a project subcommittee. A public ceremony presenting the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. April 12 at the East Library, 5550 N. Union. Poetry-

related projects will be facilitated throughout the next two years. One of the first activities is "Poet Laureate Invitational - Poetry Readings," 7-8:30 p.m. April 21 at the East Library community room. Another activity will be "How to Engage your Students in Poetry," a workshop for area secondary teachers on September 27 at Colorado College's Cornerstone Arts Center. For more information about the project's activities, go to [www.PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org](http://www.PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org), e-mail [info@PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org](mailto:info@PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org) , or call COPPeR at 719-634-2204.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Any person contributing \$50 or more before April 12, 2008 will be permanently designated as a "Founding Muse" of the project. Organizations, businesses or individuals giving at \$250/\$500/\$1000 levels will receive additional "Founding Muse" recognition. Of course, contributions are welcome at any time. Checks should be made payable to PPLD Foundation with "Poet Laureate Project" written in the memo field and mailed to PPLD Foundation, P. O. Box 1579, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1579.

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