



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 3.1

DATE: June 8, 2026
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II
SUBJECT: Appointment of Faith Alpher as Poet Laureate for a two-year term.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the City Council confirm the appointment of Faith Alpher as Poet Laureate for a two-year term starting July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028, and direct the City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office.

SUMMARY

The City Council established the position of Poet Laureate on October 25, 2002, and since that time has enjoyed the service of five individuals as Poet Laureate. The fifth and current Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman's term will expire on June 30, 2026. The consideration of candidates for the City of Livermore's sixth Poet Laureate was initially conducted by an ad hoc committee of the Commission for the Arts; the ad hoc committee formed a recommendation that was subsequently shared with the full Commission for the Arts.

The Commission for the Arts approved the Poet Laureate ad hoc committee's recommendation of Faith Alpher at their regular meeting on April 28, 2026, and recommends the City Council approve their appointment as the City's sixth Poet Laureate.

DISCUSSION

Since the City Council established the Poet Laureate position on October 25, 2002, five individuals have been appointed to serve in this role:

- Connie Post - 2005 to 2009
- Cher Wollard - 2009 to 2013
- Kevin Gunn - 2013 to 2017
- Cynthia Patton - 2017 to 2022
- Peggy Schimmelman - 2022 to 2026

As in the past, the City's Commission for the Arts formed a Poet Laureate ad hoc committee to interview

applicants for the position. The application period opened on February 26, 2026, and closed on April 3, 2026. Two applications were received, and the Poet Laureate selection committee interviewed the applicants on April 16, 2026.

The Commission for the Arts approved the recommendation of Faith Alpher at their regular meeting on April 28, 2026, and recommends the City Council approve their appointment as the City's sixth Poet Laureate. If the City Council approves their appointment, Faith Alpher's term will start on July 1, 2026, and will expire on June 30, 2028.

Staff wishes to extend thanks to current Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman for her four years of service.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

The Poet Laureate position does not receive a monetary stipend and is purely a volunteer and honorary position. The expenses for the Poet Laureate program and activities have a budget of up to \$9,000 annually of the City General Funds and are included in the 2025-27 Financial Plan. No additional appropriation is necessary. The Poet Laureate serves at the pleasure of the City Council.

COMMUNITY PILLAR:

4: Inclusive and Inviting Spaces & Places

GOAL:

1: Further enhance Livermore's unique sense of place

ATTACHMENTS

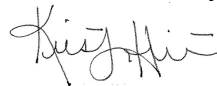
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Management Analyst II

Approved by:



Marianna A. Burch
City Manager

Fiscal Review by:



Kristen Hilton
Acting Administrative Services Director