



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.4

DATE: April 28, 2026
TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts
FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II
SUBJECT: Recommendation of Faith Alpher as Poet Laureate.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff and the Poet Laureate Ad Hoc Committee recommend the Commission for the Arts recommend Faith Alpher for City Council appointment as Poet Laureate.

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

The City Council established the position of Poet Laureate on October 25, 2002, and since that time six individuals have served as Poet Laureate. The City Clerk's Office organizes the recruitment for the Poet Laureate position, and an ad hoc committee of the Commission for the Arts reviews applications, consults with previous Poets Laureate, and interviews applicants. The ad hoc committee has recommended that Faith Alpher be recommended by the full Commission for the Arts for appointment by the City Council.

DISCUSSION

The Poet Laureate is called upon to write themed-based poetry and read poetry at civic events such as public ceremonies and dedications. He or she serves as a resource and liaison between the City's Cultural Arts Program, local schools, and literary organizations.

At the meeting of February 24, 2026, the Commission for the Arts appointed a Poet Laureate Selection Ad Hoc Committee to review application materials and interview applicants. The recruitment period closed on April 3, 2026, and the applications materials were sent to the Ad Hoc Committee. There were two applications received and interviews were held on April 16, 2026. At the conclusion of the interviews, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended the full Commission recommend Faith Alpher for appointment by the City Council to a two-year term (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028) as Poet Laureate at

their regular meeting of June 8, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

[1. Faith Alpher - Poet Laureate Application](#)

Prepared by: Allen McFarland
Management Analyst II