



Poetry Express Application Guidelines

Mission: Connecting communities through poetry and performance as a catalyst for deeper engagement with poetry.

Poetry Express is a collaborative poetry performance program that enables organizations and individuals to bring their community together.

Selected applicants are awarded two workshops with a prominent Maine for community members to write and/or perform poems. Program hosts convene and present a stellar community poetry performance for their broader community.

Terminology

Prominent Maine Poet: A Maine poet selected by MHC to teach workshops and lead the poetry performance.

Community Performers: Community members from the region or organization who want to write or read poetry for the performance.

Host: The individual or organization awarded to hold the event, invite Community Performers, and gather audience members.

For Hosts

So, you want to bring your community together around important themes and issues through poetry? You've come to the right place!

Whether you're an individual or an organization, in The County or Kittery, you're a poet yourself or you've never read a poem out loud before, we want you to apply.

The Hosts responsibilities include:

- Bring community performers together for 2 workshops with a prominent Maine poet
- Gather an audience for the poetry performance (which MHC can help with if you need it!)
- Handle logistics – emailing community performers to gather, connecting with the venue or working to coordinate registration for your in-person, online, or hybrid event.

For Community Performers

So, you've been asked to be a community performer at Poetry Express? How exciting!

If you've never read poetry before or you're a writer yourself, this is an excellent opportunity to work with a prominent Maine poet on writing and reading. In preparation for the performance, community performers will attend two workshops with a prominent Maine poet where you'll:

- **Read poetry from Maine writers**
- **Write your own poems**
- **Share your poems with your fellow performers**

After the workshops, you'll be ready to share at the Poetry Express event with an audience of supporters and poetry enthusiasts in your community.

"I didn't expect to feel so empowered to express myself, which was terrifying and nice. I was really deeply scared in my body to do it, but I wanted to and this was a really safe and nurturing space to be working through my feels." - Participant, 2022

For Prominent Maine Poets

You've been selected to be our prominent Maine poet at one of our Poetry Express events this year. We are so excited to work with you!

For this program, you will:

- Host two workshops with community performers to prepare them for the event
- Lead the event! This might include deciding the order of the performers and acting as the emcee.
- We want to feature you as a poet if you so wish, so this might also include sharing an extended set list of your own poetry.

Poets are typically paid \$600 and are compensated for travel.