



ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION
FOR THE ARTS

March 21, 2013

The Honorable William D. Euille
City Hall, 301 King
Alexandria, VA 223 14

Dear Mayor Euille:

On behalf of the Alexandria Commission for the Art's Poet Laureate Selection Panel for Alexandria's Poet Laureate, it is my pleasure to write that we have chosen Tori Lane as our nominee, to serve a three-year term beginning April 15, 2013 and ending April 15, 2016. The Panel asks that Tori be appointed officially to this position.

Tori Lane sees poetry as the cornerstone of both her art and what she advocates for and teaches. In her work as Poet Laureate, she will highlight the potential intersections of traditional poetry and modern spoken word, the wisdom of experience and imaginative spirit of childhood, poetry and other artistic mediums, as well as respectful remembrance of the past and hope for a better and bolder future. Her goal as Poet Laureate is to bring people together from the various cross sections of our culture, creating ways of relating and understanding through poetry, as well as the intersection of poetry and other forms of art.

We were fortunate in having a Selection Panel that brought a variety of thoughtful perspectives from all walks of life and experiences to their task. The Panel consisted of Shelly Bell, Carol E. Erion, Jennifer M. Lane, David Martin, Steven Allen May, Erin E. Nunnally, John Franklin Pickett III, Shawn C. Thorpe, Beth Tuttle and myself as chair. We feel that Tori Lane's talent, youthful perspective, enthusiasm, and her commitment to expanding the interpretation of poetry will make her an excellent Poet Laureate for our city.

The Selection Panel recommends further that Margaret Ingraham as an alternate nominee for Poet Laureate, should Tori Lane be unable to serve the three-year term. We also recommend that the Selection Panel remain in place as an advisory body for the Poet Laureate, to be available to her to discuss ideas, provide feedback, and stay informed of her activities. We will work with the Alexandria Commission of the Arts and the staff of the Office of the Arts to support the work of our Poet Laureate.

It has been a privilege to work with my fellow Selection Panel members and I look forward to working with them again during Tori's tenure. I commend them for their dedication to this effort and thank them for their time, effort, and interest.

Thanks to you and the City Council for your continued support of the Poet Laureate program and the Arts community in Alexandria. Your active support is valued and greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate in contacting me if you have questions.

Best to you,

Sydney-Chanele Dawkins

Chair, Poet Laureate Selection Committee
and Vice Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

