



MEDIA ADVISORY

2007 Poet Populist Program Announces CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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Seattle, WA April 30, 2007 – What's more satisfying than being a great poet? Becoming the People's Poet. Seattle's Poet Populist program has returned, and is currently open for nominations through June 8th, 2007.

Art and Democracy don't have to be separate. The Poet Populist program — now in its seventh election — supports creative public thinking, articulate leadership, and the practice of democracy. It proposes that artists can be part of the civic discourse, and that the civic discourse can be artistically inclined.

It also gives dozens of arts organizations a chance to reach out to new audiences city-wide, through substantial promotions (a first for the program!).

How does it work? Seattle Arts organizations (specifically, any group that supports or promotes literary arts in Seattle) nominate one candidate by June 8th, 2007. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.poetpopulist.org>. The nominees are then confirmed and listed on the website, along with bios, nominator profiles, and of course poetry.

Public Voices: The public registers their opinions in online voting for two months. Nominated candidates will (figuratively) clash tongues this July 15 during a word-slinging "Read Off" at the Seattle Public Library, with other events TBA. Four finalists will read at a Bumbershoot Festival "inauguration," during which current Poet Populist Jourdan Keith will relinquish her laurels to a deserving successor. The new Poet Populist will walk away with the People's Love, \$500 dollars cash, and a mandate to write a new piece and read in public for the next year.

About the Program: The Poet Populist Program was founded by the office of City Council President Nick Licata in 1999, and is supported by resolution of the Seattle City Council. Past Poets Populist have included Bernard Harris, Jr., Bart Baxter, Tara Hardy, Peshya Joyce Gertler, and current Poet Populist Jourdan Imani Keith.

The Poet Populist Program is a program of Eleventh Hour Productions and Ampersand Arts, with support in 2007 by the City of Seattle, the Seattle Public Library, and Bumbershoot. For information, contact poetpopulist@speakeasy.net, or www.poetpopulist.org.

All Hail the Poet Populist!