



City of Seattle  
Seattle City Council

## News Advisory

**Council President Nick Licata**

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### **Seven poets vie to be *Seattle Poet Populist***

*Winner to be announced at Bumpershoot*

**SEATTLE**—Seven Seattle poets have been nominated by the city's literary community, but only one will become the **2006-2007 Seattle Poet Populist**. Seattleites can cast their vote (one per person, please!) at [www.seattlepoetpopulist.org](http://www.seattlepoetpopulist.org) until August 21<sup>st</sup>.

"We're looking forward again to another great year," said **City Council President Nick Licata**.

"Last year, people participated who might not otherwise have ever paid attention to poetry. That's what I love about this - it extends poetry beyond traditional boundaries." Licata launched the Poet Populist program in 1999, inventing it as an alternative to conventional poet laureate titles offered in other places.

This year's seven nominated poets (and their nominators) are **Anna Maria Hong** by Eleventh Hour Productions, **Lynn Coffin** by PEN Washington, **John Burgess** by the Washington Poets Association, **Joannie Kervran Stangeland** by Rose Alley Press, **Jourdan Keith** by from the ground up reading series at Richard Hugo House, **Barbara Petite** by the Cancer Lifeline Reading Series at Third Place Ravenna Books, and **Crysta Casey** by It's About time Writers Reading Series, also at Ravenna Third Place Books.

The nominated poets will read from their work at the downtown **Central Public Library on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the Microsoft Auditorium (1000 Fourth Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor).**

The winner of this year's Poet Populist election will be announced on the **Literary Stage at Bumpershoot Arts Festival on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30 pm** and will receive a cash prize of \$500.

The Seattle Poet Populist program is sponsored by the Seattle Public Library, Council President Nick Licata and Bumpershoot.

For more information, please visit the official Seattle Poet Populist Web site at

[www.seattlepoetpopulist.org](http://www.seattlepoetpopulist.org)

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