



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of St. Albert and St. Albert Public Library announce Lauren Seal as new Poet Laureate

ST. ALBERT – The City of St. Albert and St. Albert Public Library are pleased to introduce Lauren Seal as the city’s new Poet Laureate. Mayor Cathy Heron announced Seal’s appointment at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 19.

Seal will serve for a two-year term as St. Albert’s third Poet Laureate, representing the City during readings at civic functions and public poetry events. Seal is a poet, writer, and librarian who works in St. Albert at Jensen Lakes Library. Her work has appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, and once on a beer can. She mentors the teen and young adult poets of SWYC – the Spoken Word Youth Choir – and performs in the adult incarnation of the group. She has deep lifelong ties to St. Albert, having spent many of her childhood weekends here with grandparents and extended family.

“It is my pleasure to welcome Lauren as the City of St. Albert’s next Poet Laureate,” says Mayor Heron. “Lauren’s poetry is accessible, charming and playful. She writes in a way that is both approachable and moving, and I’m looking forward to seeing how her vision for bringing poetry to the community, and conversely, having the community participate in the creation of her poetry, further elevates the Poet Laureate program here in our city.”

During her two-year term, Seal will act as a cultural and literary ambassador, and as a champion for poetry, language, and the arts. She will receive \$1,000 annually, thanks to a continuing partnership between St. Albert Public Library and The City of St. Albert.

“I am delighted to be chosen as St. Albert’s third Poet Laureate. This is a great honour and I look forward to deepening my connection with the community through poetry,” Lauren says. “I

believe poetry is for everyone. It can be whatever you want – serious, playful, simple, complicated, long, short. During my time as Poet Laureate, I will work to make poetry as inclusive, accessible, and fun for St. Albertans as possible."

Seal takes over from Poet Laureate Julia Sorensen. The City and the Library wish to acknowledge the tremendous work Sorensen has done throughout her term, in particular the stunning city-wide piece she shared in November 2021: throughout that month, Sorensen shared segments of her poem, *eight realisations from a visit with old friends in fall 2021*, on interior advertising spaces on St. Albert Transit, on window clings at St. Albert Place and at Jensen Lakes Library, on bookmarks available at both Library locations, and online, with videos appearing on the City's Instagram stories. The piece reflected on the power of friendship and community in the pandemic. We thank her for her excellent service and wish her the very best.

For more information, visit the Poet Laureate page at www.sapl.ca.

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For more information contact:

Geoff Manderscheid
Poet Laureate Committee, Chair
St. Albert Public Library
780-418-6621
gmanderscheid@sapl.ca

Amy Nastase
Communications Advisor
City of St. Albert
780-994-3800
anastase@stalbert.ca

