



## Memorandum

**Date:** 11/6/2023  
**Meeting of:** City Council

**File No.** AM No. 23-159  
**Type:** Consent Item

**TO:** Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Mayor Angela Birney  
**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):**

Parks	Loreen Hamilton	425-556-2336
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**DEPARTMENT STAFF:**

Parks	Chris Weber	Cultural Arts Supervisor
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**TITLE:**

Poet Laureate Approval

**OVERVIEW STATEMENT:**

Established in 2008 by Ordinance 2444, The Poet Laureate program builds a more literate and understanding community through poetry and the literary arts by broadening the awareness of poetry and expressing the spirit of Redmond culture. The selection process for Redmond's 8th Poet Laureate is underway with the Arts & Culture Commission recommending Ching-In Chen to be interviewed by the Mayor and City Council later this month, for potential appointment at the November 6 City Council Meeting.

Ching-In Chen is a lifelong educator, community organizer, poet, and the author of *The Heart's Traffic* (Arktoi/Red Hen Press, 2009) and *recombinant* (Kelsey Street Press, 2017). They are an Assistant Professor teaching creative writing and performance classes at the University of Washington Bothell and the current Poet-in-Residence at Hugo House. They are also a community organizer, specifically in Asian American communities in coalition with other communities of color and LGBTQIA\* communities.

☒ **Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached**

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

☐ **Receive Information**      ☐ **Provide Direction**      ☒ **Approve**

**REQUEST RATIONALE:**

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**  
2015 PARCC Plan, 2017 Public Art Plan
- **Required:**  
Ordinance #2444 - Establishing a Poet Laureate
- **Council Request:**

N/A

- **Other Key Facts:**  
N/A

**OUTCOMES:**

The goal of the Redmond Poet Laureate program is to make a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city and reveal new ways of understanding throughout our diverse community. This may take place through participation in municipal events, public poetry readings, reading at city council meetings, workshops, classes, lectures, text based visual art, composing, and publishing original works, public art projects or other literary based performance or activity, which could include partnerships with the library, local schools, or other community groups.

**COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:**

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**  
N/A
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**  
N/A
- **Feedback Summary:**  
N/A

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

**Total Cost:**

\$10,000 (Artist Fees: \$5,000 per year, Project materials: \$5,000 per year)

**Approved in current biennial budget:** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

**Budget Offer Number:**

#000249

**Budget Priority:**

Vibrant & Connected

**Other budget impacts or additional costs:** ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐ **N/A**

*If yes, explain:*

N/A

**Funding source(s):**

Arts Activity Fund

**Budget/Funding Constraints:**

N/A

☐ **Additional budget details attached**

**COUNCIL REVIEW:**

**Previous Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
10/24/2023	Special Meeting	Receive Information

**Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)**

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
	None proposed at this time	N/A

**Time Constraints:**

N/A

**ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Ordinance 2444 - Establishing a Poet Laureate

Attachment B: Application Materials for Ching-In Chen