

Poets

Laureate

August 24, 5:00-7:00pm

Harned Hall, Room 110

Saint Martin's University

in Lacey

*Free live event.
Please join us!*

Rena Priest, Washington State Laureate

Our current Washington State Poet Laureate, Rena Priest, is a member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She holds the 2022 Maxine Cushing Gray Distinguished Writing Fellowship given by the University of Washington libraries. Priest is also the recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award and fellowships from Indigenous Nations Poets and the Vadon Foundation. *Patriarchy Blues* received an American Book Award. Her second collection, *Sublime Subliminal*, was published as the finalist for the Floating Bridge Press Chapbook Award. Her most recent book, *Northwest Know-How: Beaches*, includes poems, retellings of legends, and fun descriptions of 29 of the most beloved beaches in Washington and Oregon.



Ashly McBunch, Olympia Poet Laureate

Ashly McBunch, the current poet laureate of Olympia, is originally from the Midwest and moved to Olympia in 2017 when they were stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord. An Army retired veteran, Ashly spent many years writing for a creative outlet. They enjoy the aspects of creative collaboration, performance, and use of intuitive guidance to bring out artistic expression that leads towards healing, growth, introspection and fun. They believe art is a tree with many creative branches that connects us all through the same nurturing soil. They are excited about exploring these inclusive artful branches with poetry and raising the poetic voices of Olympia.



Cynthia Pratt, Lacey Poet Laureate

Cynthia Pratt is one of the founding members of the Olympia Poetry Network's board, which has been in existence for over 30 years. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals, and several anthologies including two anthologies by the Fusion Collective, *Dancing on the Edges* (2017) and *Garden of the Covid Museum* (2021). Her poems also have had the honor of riding around in Tacoma and Metro buses. Her manuscript, *Celestial Drift*, was published in 2017. She was a former Lacey Councilmember and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Lacey with her term ending in December 2021. She is Lacey's 2022 inaugural Poet Laureate.



**Laureates in Lacey is sponsored by Saint Martin's University,
Humanities Washington and Olympia Poetry Network.**

