



Media Release

May 5, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of St. Albert and St. Albert Public Library announce Julia Sorensen as new Poet Laureate

ST. ALBERT – The City of St. Albert and St. Albert Public Library are pleased to introduce Julia Sorensen as the city’s new Poet Laureate. Mayor Cathy Heron announced Sorensen’s appointment at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 4.

Sorensen will serve as St. Albert’s second Poet Laureate for a two-year term, representing the City during readings at civic functions and public poetry events. A recent graduate of the University of Alberta with a B.A (English) and minors in Arts and Cultural Management and German, Sorensen is active in spoken word and poetry circles in St. Albert and Edmonton. She has performed her work throughout Alberta and beyond, including a performance at the Berlin Spoken Word Festival in 2019. Her written work has been published in *Glass Buffalo*, the 2017 Amplify Festival anthology and several chapbooks.

“The City of St. Albert is committed to the creation, delivery and expression of culture,” says Mayor Cathy Heron. “The Poet Laureate will act as a connector of voices and ideas, and help our community celebrate the many ways the arts intersect with citizens’ daily lives.”

During her two-year term, Sorensen 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'm so very thrilled to be chosen as St. Albert's second Poet Laureate! It's a huge honour to me and I'm looking forward to connecting with St. Albert through poetry on a greater scale," Sorensen says. "For me, poetry brings us closer to articulating feelings and experiences we

don't have language for, and I'm going to try my very best to inspire St. Albertans to speak their unspoken."

Sorensen takes over from St. Albert's inaugural Poet Laureate, Zach Polis. The City and the Library wish to acknowledge the tremendous work Polis has done throughout his term, from performing at numerous local events to taking photos at the local dog park as part of a poetry project involving community members and their dogs. Most recently, he has worked to connect with the community through poetry during the pandemic closures. We thank him for his extraordinary service and wish him the very best.

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

-30-

For more information contact:

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

Troy Funk
Marketing & Communications Supervisor
The City of St. Albert
780-399-4853
tfunk@stalbert.ca

