

**Agenda Item Summary**BOC Meeting Date
9/16/2020**Requesting Agency**

Arts and Culture

Commission Districts Affected

All Districts

Requested Action *(Identify appropriate Action or Motion, purpose, cost, timeframe, etc.)*

Request approval of a resolution establishing the Fulton County Poet Laureate and naming the inaugural Fulton County Poet Laureate, Dr. Karen J. Head

Requirement for Board Action *(Cite specific Board policy, statute or code requirement)*

In accordance with Board Resolution 9 dated October 17, 1979, the Department of Arts & Culture shall serve as a resource to provide quality of life enhancements for Fulton County citizens through the delivery of arts and cultural services.

Is this Item related to a Strategic Priority Area? *(If yes, note strategic priority area below)*

Yes Arts and Libraries

Is this a purchasing item?

No

Summary & Background*(First sentence includes Agency recommendation. Provide an executive summary of the action that gives an overview of the relevant details for the item.)*

Scope of Work: The Department of Arts & Culture (FCAC) recommends the approval of the resolution establishing the Fulton County Poet Laureate who will engage diverse communities using poetry as a vehicle for literary competency, cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary artistic dialogue and understanding for the citizens and visitors of Fulton County.

The goals for the Poet Laureate are to broaden the awareness of poetry, express the spirit of Fulton County's culture through poetry, expand and enhance literacy and access to literature in its varying forms and to generally promote the literary arts and raise the level of discourse around the artistic form.

An open call for applications and nominations via artcall.org was completed in mid-September 2019 with 16 submissions. Eight submissions were then moved forward to the selection committee for assessment of the poets' submitted work as well as his or her ability to broaden the awareness of poetry, enhance literacy, and promote the literary arts in Fulton County. Three finalist were invited to interview with the selection committee in January 2020.

Dr. Karen J. Head was the most successful in laying out a plan for promoting and enriching Fulton County's literary community and poetry among citizens.

Agency Director Approval**County Manager's
Approval****Typed Name and Title**

Lionell Thomas, Director-Arts & Cultuere

Phone404-612-5783
404-840-7025**Signature***Lionell Thomas***Date**

KAREN J. HEAD (PhD University of Nebraska) is Executive Director of the Communication Center at the Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as the Associate Chair and Associate Professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication. Since 2006, she has been a Visiting Scholar at Technische Universität-Dortmund, Germany, where she serves as the primary consultant for their academic center. Her research areas focus on writing and communication theory and pedagogical practice, especially in the following areas: higher education rhetoric, sustainable and innovative pedagogy and space design implementation, development of writing centers, writing program administration, communication ecologies, technical communication, business communication, multidisciplinary communication, and creative writing.

In 2012-13, she was part of the GT team awarded a Gates Foundation Grant to develop one of the first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) focused on college writing, and she has published several articles about the experience. Her book *Disrupt This!: MOOCs and the Promises of Technology* (University Press of New England, 2017) describes her experience teaching a MOOC and the attendant pressure on professors, especially those in the humanities, to embrace new technologies in the STEM era. She has also published four books of poetry (*Sassing*, *My Paris Year*, *Shadow Boxes*, and *On Occasion: Four Poets, One Year*), co-edited the poetry anthology, *Teaching as a Human Experience: An Anthology of Poetry*, and has exhibited several acclaimed digital poetry projects. She was the 2010 winner of the Oxford International Women’s Festival Poetry Prize.

An award winning teacher, Head’s courses center on analyzing, critiquing, evaluating, and creating a variety of texts that demonstrate an understanding of audience and adaptation of multimodal and multi-literacy rhetorical strategies and tools. In 2013, she won Georgia Tech’s CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Award, and has won the Class of 1934 Course Survey Teaching Effectiveness Award several times. She also serves as the editor of *Southern Discourse* in the Center: A Journal of Multi-literacy and Innovation. In summer 2016, she became the editor of the international poetry journal, *Atlanta Review*.

Community Impact: Enhance literary competency throughout Fulton County, engage a diversity of citizens in poetry specifically and how the literary arts intersect with other artistic forms more broadly.

Department Recommendation: Approval of the resolution to establish the Fulton County Poet Laureate.

Project Implications: The poet laureate will serve to enhance the arts through poetry and a greater engagement of citizens and visitors with the literary arts.

Community Issues/Concerns: N/A

Department Issues/Concerns: Approval of the poet laureate recommendations is essential to addressing the need to elevate poetry to assist the County in addressing literacy challenges for its citizens.

History of BOC Agenda Item: This item has not been presented to the BOC before

Contract & Compliance Information	<i>(Provide Contractor and Subcontractor details.)</i>
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Agency Director Approval		County Manager's Approval
Typed Name and Title Lionell Thomas, Director-Arts & Cultuere	Phone 404-612-5783 404-840-7025	
Signature <i>Lionell Thomas</i>	Date	

Revised 03/12/09 (Previous versions are obsolete)

20-0564

Solicitation Information	NON-MFBE	MBE	FBE	TOTAL
No. Bid Notices Sent:				
No. Bids Received:				
Total Contract Value	.			
Total M/FBE Values	.			
Total Prime Value	.			
Fiscal Impact / Funding Source	<i>(Include projected cost, approved budget amount and account number, source of funds, and any future funding requirements.)</i>			
.				
Exhibits Attached	<i>(Provide copies of originals, number exhibits consecutively, and label all exhibits in the upper right corner.)</i>			
Source of Additional Information	<i>(Type Name, Title, Agency and Phone)</i>			

Agency Director Approval		County Manager's Approval
Typed Name and Title Lionell Thomas, Director-Arts & Cultuere	Phone 404-612-5783 404-840-7025	
Signature <i>Lionell Thomas</i>	Date 	

Revised 03/12/09 (Previous versions are obsolete)

Continued

Procurement**Contract Attached:**

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Previous Contracts:

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Solicitation Number:

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Submitting Agency:

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Staff Contact:

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Contact Phone:

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Description:.**FINANCIAL SUMMARY****Total Contract Value:**

Original Approved Amount: .

Previous Adjustments: .

This Request: .

TOTAL: .

MBE/FBE Participation:

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Amount: . %: .

Grant Information Summary:

Amount Requested: .

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Cash

Match Required: .

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In-Kind

Start Date: .

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Approval to Award

End Date: .

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Apply & Accept

Match Account \$: .

Funding Line 1:

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Funding Line 2:

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Funding Line 3:

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Funding Line 4:

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KEY CONTRACT TERMS**Start Date:**

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End Date:

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Cost Adjustment:

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Renewal/Extension Terms:

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ROUTING & APPROVALS

(Do not edit below this line)

X	Originating Department:	Stocker, Delando	Date: 8/13/2020
X	County Attorney:	Fuller, Eugene	Date: 8/10/2020
.	Purchasing/Contract Compliance:	.	Date: .
.	Finance/Budget Analyst/Grants Admin:	.	Date: .
.	Grants Management:	.	Date: .
X	County Manager:	Anderson, Dick	Date: 8/13/2020

1 **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POET LAUREATE FOR FULTON**
2 **COUNTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Arts Council ("Arts Council") was created by the
5 Fulton County Board of Commissioners on October 17, 1979, to advise the Board of
6 Commissioners generally with regard to the expenditure of funds in support of the Arts
7 in Fulton County, to determine the needs of the Arts in Fulton County, and to review and
8 channel Arts programs and contracts; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture believes the Arts
10 are essential to the quality of life of the citizens of Fulton County and they provide a
11 benefit to the economic and social health of communities throughout Fulton County; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the stated Mission of the Fulton County Department of Arts and
13 Culture is to coordinate with the Arts Council to ensure all citizens of Fulton County
14 have access to the Arts; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is committed to enriching the Arts
16 provided to all citizens in Fulton County in line with Fulton County's Strategic Plan; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wish to establish a Poet Laureate for a
18 two year term conditioned upon satisfactory annual review of appointment by
19 administering department. Administrative and programmatic oversight for the Poet
20 Laureate program shall be the responsibility of the Fulton County Department of Arts &
21 Culture; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Establishing a Poet Laureate for Fulton County shall aid County
2 efforts to engage diverse communities using poetry as a vehicle for literary competency,
3 cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary artistic dialogue and understanding; and

4 **WHEREAS**, establishing a Poet Laureate for Fulton County would inspire
5 creative expression in others that raises the level of discourse and interaction in our
6 everyday lives. The Poet Laureate will be responsible for collaborating with local,
7 national and international literary agents and others key stakeholders including Fulton
8 County Libraries while planning and executing an annual series of public poetry and
9 fiction readings, lectures, symposia, and occasional dramatic performances and other
10 programmatic activities that enhance and expose the literary landscape of Fulton
11 County to its citizens and visitors; and

12 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of
13 Fulton County hereby establishes a Poet Laureate for Fulton County with Dr. Karen J.
14 Head serving as the inaugural Poet Laureate.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the
16 Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture to coordinate with the Fulton County Arts
17 Council, and others, to ensure that the objectives of this Resolution are effectuated.

18 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective when
19 adopted, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution
20 are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

3 **Fulton County Board of Commissioners**

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7 Robert L. Pitts, Chairman

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14 Tonya Grier, Interim Clerk to the Commission

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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