



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Port Townsend City Council began a civic poet laureate program to honor the city's vibrant literary arts community, promote the City's commitment to the arts and celebrate the written word; and

WHEREAS, Conner Bouchard-Roberts served as the inaugural poet laureate in 2024 and 2025, helping to bring these ideas to life through his poetry and through events that shined a light on other writers and artists; and

WHEREAS, each poet laureate serves for two years so that a new laureate now begins their term in January 2026 and will serve through December of 2027; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee of literary artists and member of the Port Townsend Arts Commission convened in September of 2025; and

WHEREAS, this committee chose a new poet laureate because of the strength of their vision; history of creating meaningful community programs; thoughtful perspective on poetry's power to build connection; and written work; and

WHEREAS, this new laureate will continue to build on the success and impact of the program as the second laureate for the city and an honorary ambassador of poetry through public events, civic engagement, and written work; and

WHEREAS, Port Townsend is proud to have a vital community of artists and writers who bring joy, meaning, and creativity to our lives and to support this community through programs like the city poet laureate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Howard, Mayor of the City of Port Townsend, do hereby proclaim and welcome

Rufina C. Garay

as the 2026-2027 Port Townsend Poet Laureate and recognize the importance of the poetry, art, and the written word for our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Howard".

Amy Howard, Mayor