

May 26, 2017

academy of
american poets

Creative Cities Network
Culture Sector
Museums and Creativity Section (CLT/DDD/MAC)
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
France

Dear Members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Selection Committee,

The Academy of American Poets, our nation's largest membership-based organization promoting poets and poetry, is pleased to endorse Seattle as a candidate for the Unesco Creative Cities Network. In national surveys and studies, Seattle is regularly recognized as one of the most literate cities in the United States. Seattle also has a strong and unique literary tradition.

The Northwest school of writers includes numerous significant poets, such as Carolyn Kizer, who was the first director of the literature program at the National Endowment for the Arts, and Raymond Carver, who wrote poetry in addition to his widely admired short stories. Other award-winning poets associated with the region include Sherman Alexie, Ralph Angel, Linda Bierds, Madeline De Frees, Richard Hugo (beloved poet and teacher, after whom the Seattle writers center Hugo House is named), Tess Gallagher, Richard Kenny, Heather McHugh (a former Chancellor of our organization), Theodore Roethke, and David Wagoner (another former Chancellor of our organization).

Three of the country's important literary presses were founded in the Seattle area (two of which continue to operate there): Copper Canyon Press, Graywolf Press, and Wave Books. Other respected local publications include *Poetry Northwest*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Floating Bridge*, and the *Seattle Review*.

In short, Seattle is an important western hub for readers and writers worthy of your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Benka
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Marie Bullock

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