



## City of Hartford Commentator Application Guidelines

The Commentator for the City of Hartford acts as a representative for the City, its residents, and the value we place on social/cultural commentary, perspective, and civil discourse in the community. The Commentator encourages appreciation of social and cultural commentary, inspires thoughtful reflection on social and cultural affairs and encourages future commentators and their audiences in the City of Hartford.

### *Eligibility and Criteria*

#### Eligibility

A nominee for Commentator must:

- Be a current resident of the City of Hartford
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have original works of commentary in at least one regionally-recognized publication and/or have performed or shown original commentary in a regionally-recognized venue or juried show
- Be available to serve a 3-year term

#### Criteria to Select the Commentator

Certain criteria will be given consideration in the selection process, including:

- Excellence as evidenced by the submitted work sample
- Professionalism as evidenced by an established history of publication, performances, honors, awards, fellowships, and/or other recognition such as contributions to community culture
- Demonstrated advancement of thoughtful social/cultural commentary and discourse in the community as well as other forms of commitment to community involvement

To maintain the position as Commentator for the City of Hartford, the nominee must reside in the City for the length of their term and must not misrepresent or abuse the position.

### *Duties of the Commentator*

The responsibilities of the Commentator include, but are not limited to:

- Providing public readings, projects, and/or performances
- Appearing at public events
- Encouraging thoughtful discourse within the City of Hartford
- Submitting 1 -3 commentaries to the City each year

The Commentator promotes thoughtful social and cultural commentary and discourse, works with the Hartford Public Library and local schools to promote creative learning through commentary, social and cultural observation and expression of thought, and endeavors to instill pride in the community.

### *Selection Process*

A Selection Committee reviews all applicants and submits three finalists to the Commission on Cultural Affairs. The Commission then selects one finalist and recommends them to the Mayor for approval. The Mayor gives their recommendation to the Court of Common Council, who approves the selection through majority vote.

Applicants may be contacted by the Committee for further interview, references, or material. Applications are not carried over for future years. Prior applicants must re-apply for consideration. An applicant cannot be a member of the Commission on Cultural Affairs or the Committee to select the Commentator.

#### *To Apply, Please Submit the Following:*

- An application form
- A letter of interest
- A current resume or CV, including significant achievements and awards
- At least 2, and a maximum of 4, exemplary samples of the applicant's work with citation of the source of publication or location of venue when applicable (for performances, a video sample is required)
- Three recent references from professional, academic, and/or community settings



## City of Commentator Application Form

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Hartford must be your primary residence

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### Checklist for Attached Materials:

- Letter of interest
  - Current resume or CV, including significant achievements and awards
  - At least 2, and a maximum of 4, exemplary samples of the applicant's work with citation of the source of publication or location of venue when applicable (for performances, a video sample is required)
  - Three recent references from professional, academic, and/or community settings
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Mail to:

Commission on Cultural Affairs  
Attn. Free Center  
460 New Britain Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

or

Email to: [hartfordarts@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordarts@gmail.com)

Subject line: Commentator