FACT SHEET

POET LAUREATE of MARYLAND

About the Maryland Poet Laureate:

- The Poet Laureate will provide public readings for the citizens of Maryland (at least one reading in each geographic region during the term of service).
- The Poet Laureate position was formally established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1959.
- The Poet Laureate is Governor appointed and must be a citizen of Maryland.
- Poet Laureates serve up to a four-year term renewable by the Governor’s consent.
- Eight Poet Laureates have served for the State since the inception of this Act in 1959. Past Poet Laureates include (in order of service): Maria B. Coker, Vincent Godfrey Burns, Lucille Clifton, Reed Whittemore, Linda Pastan, Roland Flint, Michael Collier and most recently, Michael Glaser.

About Poet Laureate Opportunities

- Accompany the Governor and provide readings at public events and receptions
- Appearances and readings in schools, universities, and libraries around the state
- Present lectures and/or poetry writing workshops
- Participate in Maryland Artist Teacher Institute
- Be an active member of the Maryland Humanities Council’s Speaker’s Bureau.
- Connect with literary organizations and festivals across the state
- Commission new works in honor of special occasions, venue openings, dedications

About Stanley Plumly:

- Maryland Distinguished University Professor since 1998.
- Founder of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- He has taught at more than a dozen of the most prestigious universities in the county.
- Author of nine books of poetry, including Old Heart (Norton, 2008), which won the Los Angeles Times Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2007.
- Most recently authored Posthumous Keats (Norton, 2008), a “personal biography” of the English poet, John Keats, which has received widespread critical acclaim by reviewers for The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, The New Yorker, among others, and his poems, essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in many of the country’s best periodicals and newspapers.
- Recipient of eight Pushcart Prizes, the Paterson Poetry Prize (2007), an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2002), and a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation (2001).