

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### Poetry and Science Exhibition to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON — Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces *Poets for Science*, an exhibition exploring unexpected connections between poetry and science. Opening in April to coincide with National Poetry Month, the exhibition will be on view April 3 through Sept. 8, 2023, at the National Academy of Sciences, and was created by the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University and poet Jane Hirshfield.

From imagery generated by the Hubble Telescope and MRI machines to the fields of childhood cognitive development, biology, mathematics, chemistry, and natural history, this exhibition features 24 poems printed on human-sized banners that explore connections between the seemingly divergent disciplines of scientists and poets. It features poems by Kazim Ali, Dan Beachy-Quick, Camille Dungy, Laura Fargas, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Jane Hirshfield, Marie Howe, Mark Jarman, Dorianne Laux, Peter Meinke, W.S. Merwin, Simon Ortiz, Alicia Ostriker, Linda Pastan, Kim Roberts, Pattiann Rogers, Kay Ryan, Vijay Seshadri, Tracy K. Smith, Gary Snyder, Arthur Sze, and Wislawa Szymborska. Visitors have the opportunity to participate by contributing to the “Pledge” global community poem at <https://poetsforscience.org/participate>.

The concept for this exhibition originated on Earth Day, April 22, 2017, when demonstrators around the world participated in the March for Science in a call to support and safeguard the scientific community, fact-based decision-making, basic research, and freedom of speech for scientists. Partnering with *Poets for Science* founder, poet, and environmental spokesperson Jane Hirshfield, the Wick Poetry Center joined the pre-march Teach-In on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Today, *Poets for Science* is both an exhibition and a movement.

#### Special Events:

On Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. EDT, attend a **D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous** conversation at the National Academy of Sciences about poetry, science, and society, moderated by National Endowment for the Arts Chair **Maria Rosario Jackson** and featuring poet, naturalist, and best-selling author **Diane Ackerman**, poet and *Poets for Science* founder **Jane Hirshfield**, Nobel Laureate and poet **Roald Hoffmann**, and Arizona State Poet Laureate **Alberto Ríos**. The program will include short presentations by each panelist, an audience discussion, and time to view the exhibit. Register at <https://poetsforscience.eventbrite.com>.

**A Poetry and Science Family Day** at the National Academy of Sciences is planned for Saturday, July 8, organized in collaboration with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center and the Wick Poetry Center.

*Poets for Science* will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences, West Gallery, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. A photo ID and proof of up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 is required. For details about our operating status and COVID-19 vaccination policy, visit <https://www.nationalacademies.org/about/operating-status>. For more information about our exhibitions, visit [www.cpnas.org](http://www.cpnas.org).

**Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and — with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine — provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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