



March 25, 2025

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEE
POETRY AND CREATIVE WRITING ANTHOLOGY FOR THE
LA COUNTY WELLNESS, ARTS, AND CULTURE FESTIVAL AT NHM**

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), in partnership with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM), are pleased to announce the Los Angeles County (County) Employee Wellness, Arts, and Culture Festival (Festival) will take place on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

This year, the Festival will focus on the healing power of the arts through poetry and creative writing. This April and May, DHR and Arts and Culture invite you to participate in a special series of virtual workshops designed for all employees – regardless of your creative writing experience. These six one-hour workshops will offer a safe space to process difficult experiences through creative writing exercises led by professional poets who understand loss firsthand. Each workshop will be facilitated by a Los Angeles teaching artist/poet who have been personally affected by the January 2025 wildfires and will be curated by Creative Strategist christy roberts berkowitz (who presents her name in lowercase, honoring the late writer bell hooks). A selection of the poems and creative writing pieces by County employees will be put into an Anthology that will debut at the Festival.

Q1. Who can submit a poem or piece of creative writing for the Anthology?

A1. This opportunity is open to all current part-time and full-time County employees, only. **You must have an employee ID that begins with “e” to apply.** Temporary employees with an employee ID that begins with “e” may apply. If you are not a part-time or full-time County employee, please visit lacountyarts.org/opportunities for more information about Arts and Culture opportunities for artists, arts organizations, school districts, and nonprofit social service organizations that use the arts in service of their mission.

Q2. Will I be paid or receive compensatory time for preparing and submitting my poem or creative writing?

A2. Employees will not receive compensation for participating. This is a voluntary program for part-time and full-time County employees; no compensatory (comp) time will be provided for preparing submissions. If your submission is selected for the Anthology, you will be asked to acknowledge and sign a release granting DHR and Arts and Culture the right to include your selected poem/creative writing in the Anthology. Printed copies will be available at the Festival and digital copies will be accessible through the mylacounty.gov website.

Q3. Will I be able to attend the Festival on County time?

A3. Yes. All County employees are invited to attend the event, to be held at the NHM on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. A Save-the-Date and Invitation with details on how to make a reservation and parking will be shared in April 2024. You may attend this event on County time. Please obtain your supervisor's approval to attend prior to the event.

Q4. How many creative writing submissions per employee will be considered for the Anthology?

A4. Up to six submissions per employee may be submitted for possible inclusion in the Anthology. However, no more than one creative writing submission per individual will be selected for the Anthology.

Q5. Will everyone who submits a poem or creative writing submission be included in the Anthology?

A5. All qualifying submissions will be included, provided they meet the following guidelines:

Poetry and creative writing submissions must be the original works of the County employee. Submissions must be free of copyright infringement. Submissions must be suitable for all ages. Submissions deemed inappropriate for children, such as works that feature sexually explicit text, profanity, violence, text that inflicts harm or trauma, or references to the use of illegal drugs will be rejected. Submissions should not include commercial messaging and may not be used or intended as advertising. Poetry and creative writing submissions that include any of the foregoing will not be considered for final selection.

Q6. Can I attend a Creative Writing Workshop if I'm scheduled to work during the workshop time?

A5. If you're scheduled to work during a Creative Writing Workshop, please speak with your supervisor beforehand to obtain approval to attend.