

WEEKLY Volcano

THE RANGER / NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER ENTERTAINMENT SECTION
April 27-May 3, 2017 #808 | www.northwestmilitary.com

SCREEN | Big screen beauty



STAGE | *La Périchole* at Tacoma Opera

T. Poetry

The New Era of

TACOMA'S LITERARY ARTS

Every April, Tacoma's literary arts community comes to life in a flourish of poetry, spoken word performances and literary festivals, often in celebration of April as National Poetry Month. It's no coincidence that the Tacoma Arts Commission chooses April to appoint a new Tacoma poet laureate every two years, either. This year is no different, as the Tacoma Arts Commission announced its selection of Kellie Richardson as Tacoma's 2017-2019 poet laureate April 14. Cathy Nguyen, Tacoma's current poet laureate, will welcome Richardson to her new position April 29 at the "Pass the Torch" ceremony, held at the Tacoma Community College auditorium.

"The (selection) panel was impressed with Kellie's poetry work, both written and performing, and her vivid storytelling style," said Naomi Strom-Avila, the cultural arts specialist for the City of Tacoma. "The panel appreciated Kellie's deep roots in Tacoma and how she intends to engage audiences through multi-generationally focused workshops and projects."

During her two-year tenure, Richardson plans to host workshops, organize public poetry readings and participate in the Tacoma Arts Month in October. One of her goals is to "ensure that residents see themselves reflected in our arts community," she explained. "I want to help hold spaces that provoke authentic discourse and meaningful exchanges, particularly among groups with differing, and even opposing, perspectives ... I believe art is impactful when you take risks and dare to share a bit of your soul with virtual strangers."

Tacoma's current poet laureate, Cathy Nguyen, will host the "Pass the Torch" event and officially welcome in Richardson as Tacoma's 2017-2019 Poet Laureate. The event will be held from 5-8 p.m. and is free to the public. There'll be light refreshments, poetry readings, music, and opportunities for community members to

Richardson named new
Tacoma poet laureate

BY CHRISTINA BUTCHER

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