

# Little Town, Texas Tour & Contest

**Featuring 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton**

This summer, Young Audiences of Southeast Texas is excited to bring to our area Ms. Karla K. Morton, our 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, on her “**Little Town, Texas**” tour, in conjunction with the Texas Historical Commission and Beaumont Main Street. Ms. Morton will be available for bookings in school summer programs and libraries as she presents her unique Texan poetry and inspires a love for writing in children through her aim of making poetry more fun and relevant to today’s youth. In addition, her visit will center around the “**Little Town, Texas**” **Art, Poetry & Photography Contest** for Grades K-12, to culminate in a night of poetry with Karla and an awards ceremony to be held in our area – date and location to follow as it nears. Contest rules and awards information are below – **the turn-in location for entries will be at the YASETX offices at 700 North St., Suite G**. We hope you will encourage your teachers and students to be involved in this wonderful opportunity to meet one of our state’s most celebrated poets and to celebrate the rich history of the city of Beaumont through their original work!

## Contest Rules

- Entrants should write an original poem, create an original art piece, or original work of photography based on the historical buildings of Beaumont. There is no entry fee.
- One submission per person. Students may enter one poem and one piece of artwork of any kind, any medium.
- Limitations: Each poetry submission should be no longer than 30 lines. Artwork must be no larger than 16” x 20” and no smaller than 8” x 10”, including matting, sculpture must be no larger than 16” x 20” x 12”.
- Each submission should include the student's complete contact information (on the submission itself), including: full name, school, teacher, telephone number, full address and email address (if available).
- All poetry and artwork submissions will be received, judged and ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd place by a qualified committee before the Poet Laureate arrives. Judging will be in two divisions, by Grades K-5 and 6-12. Judging criteria for poems shall be Creativity and Poetic Form. Judging criteria for artwork and photography shall be Creativity and Artistic Form.
- The top three winners chosen will be announced and invited to read their poem or display their artwork this summer during an evening of poetry featuring the 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, Karla K. Morton. Date, time and location will be forwarded as it nears.
- The top poem or piece of artwork may be included in a future poetry book about Texas. By submitting an entry, each entrant (and his/her parent or legal guardian) agrees to allow Karla K. Morton to include and publish work for promotional purposes and/or in the future book, without compensation or notification.
- Awards for winners will include a behind the scenes tour of historic Beaumont sites and dinner for 4, inclusion of the winning poem in Ms. Morton’s future book, and all artwork will be displayed for two months after the contest in the Jefferson County Historical Museum located in the courthouse.

## **Ideas & Inspirations**

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Beaumont suddenly exploded into a thriving metropolis as the Spindletop oil boom brought thousands of new residents to the city seeking jobs and a new, prosperous life. Out of the oil fields rose a bustling, colorful downtown, full of beautiful buildings which still stand today and are being preserved through the efforts of local, state, and national historical commissions. Here are some ideas and resources to get started in discovering Beaumont's historical buildings and their fascinating histories!

- **Beaumont Main Street**  
<http://www.beaumontmainstreet.com>
- **Walking tour of downtown buildings included in the National Register of Historic Places**  
<http://www.beaumontmainstreet.com/pdf/promo/tour.pdf>
- **Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
<http://www.beaumontcvb.com/>
- **Texas Escapes – Beaumont** (Be sure to check out the pages for individual buildings)  
<http://www.texasescapes.com/TexasGulfCoastTowns/BeaumontTexas.htm>
- **Beaumont, Texas - Wikipedia**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaumont,\\_Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaumont,_Texas)
- **McFaddin-Ward House Museum**  
<http://mcfaddin-ward.org/index.html>

## **Suggested Buildings**

San Jacinto Building, Tyrell Historical Library, Kyle Building, Stedman Building, Santa Fe Depot, Jefferson Theatre, Hotel Sabine, Antioch Baptist Church, Dixie Hotel, and many more!

List of Beaumont Historical Buildings on the National Register  
[http://www.beaumontmainstreet.com/des\\_contributing.php](http://www.beaumontmainstreet.com/des_contributing.php)