



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2025-2026 City of Victoria Youth Poet Laureate

The City of Victoria is seeking nominations for the position of Youth Poet Laureate. Drawing on the expertise of a new generation of Victoria poets, the City seeks to give the community access to strong youth voices, while providing a youth poet with mentorship opportunities and a platform to showcase their talent. Created by the Victoria Youth Council in 2013, this position was the first of its kind in Canada.

The Youth Poet Laureate reaches vulnerable youth populations and encourages peer to peer education and inspiration. The Youth Poet Laureate will pave the way for emerging poets and writers to engage on a civic level through their artistic voice. The Youth Poet Laureate will present original work to the City of Victoria Council and organize an annual community youth poetry event during their two-year term from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.

The Youth Poet Laureate Program is funded by the City of Victoria. We would like to thank the Greater Victoria Public Library for their \$250 contribution towards this program.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees for the City of Victoria Youth Poet Laureate position must fulfill the following requirements:

- Youth must be between the ages of 14-24 years old.
- They must reside within the boundaries of the [Capital Regional District](#).

Nominees cannot be current City of Victoria employees or an elected official for the City of Victoria.

We encourage a diversity of applicants, including and not limited to considerations of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status, class and religion.

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful nominee will:

- Create three new works of poetry per year.
- Organize and lead one project or activity per year that engages youth through poetry and the literary arts. This event will take place in April during Poetry Month.
- Present readings of their work at City Council meetings and perform at other public events.

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum Nation.

Term and Remuneration

The Youth Poet Laureate is an honorary two-year term position that begins on January 1, 2025 and runs until December 31, 2026. The Youth Poet Laureate is provided with an honorarium of \$2,000 per year. In addition, the Youth Poet Laureate will have up to \$2,000 per year to cover programming costs for their annual project or event.

Selection Process & Evaluation Criteria

All eligible nominees will be evaluated by a peer-based selection committee comprised of representatives of the literary and poetry community based on the following selection criteria:

- Community involvement and artistic talent.
- Description of why they want to be the Youth Poet Laureate, including how they will develop professionally.
- Demonstrated ability to engage and collaborate with youth audiences.
- Clear and innovative project ideas that can be accomplished during the term.

Short-listed nominees agree to participate in a review process that may include a live reading and an interview with the selection committee.

Nomination Requirements

Nominees must submit a complete application package, including an online application form, which can be found [here](#), as well as email the following attachments to Andrea Collins, acollins@victoria.ca prior to **11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2024**.

- Maximum of three original poems in any format (written, audio, video). If you are submitting audio or video please include a transcription of the poems you submit.
- A résumé highlighting artistic merit or recognition and outlining community engagement experience (related school, work, or volunteer experience).

Intellectual Property

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the Youth Poet Laureate's tenure will remain the property of the Youth Poet Laureate.

Nomination Deadline

Applicants must submit a complete application form along with all required materials by **11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2024**.

For support or questions please contact:

Andrea Collins

Arts, Culture & Events Liaison
Business and Community Relations
City of Victoria
E: acollins@victoria.ca