



City of Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate 2026-2028

Call to Youth Poets

Date issued: July 15, 2025

Deadline: 11:59pm Pacific Time, October 19, 2025

Table of Contents:

• Introduction...	Page 1
• About the Program & Eligibility...	Page 2
• Timeline & Duties...	Page 3
• Supplementary Info...	Page 4
• How to Apply...	Page 6
• Questions?...	Page 7

Should you experience challenges or barriers in this application process or require additional support, we encourage you to reach out to: cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca (250-755-4483).

Become Nanaimo's next Youth Poet Laureate

The City of Nanaimo is seeking nominations for our next [Youth Poet Laureate](#)!

Drawing on the expertise of a new generation of Nanaimo poets and the success of previous Youth Poet Laureates, the City of Nanaimo's next Youth Poet Laureate will serve as a literary ambassador, creating opportunities for the community to appreciate strong youth voices. Reaching a variety of audiences and encouraging peer to peer education and inspiration, the Youth Poet Laureate will pave the way for future youth to engage on a civic level using their artistic voice. The Youth Poet Laureate is an advocate for poetry, language, and the arts.

Mentored by the Poet Laureate, the Youth Poet Laureate will present original work to City Council and the community through a variety of civic events. They will also be responsible for organizing community-based youth poetry projects.



Youth Poet Laureate, Paige Pierce (2024-2026)

About the Program

Term and Renumeration

The City of Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate will be provided an annual \$2500 honorarium and \$500 of project funding, in addition to being mentored by the City of Nanaimo's Poet Laureate. The term for the Youth Poet Laureate is for two (2) years, beginning 2026-JAN-01.

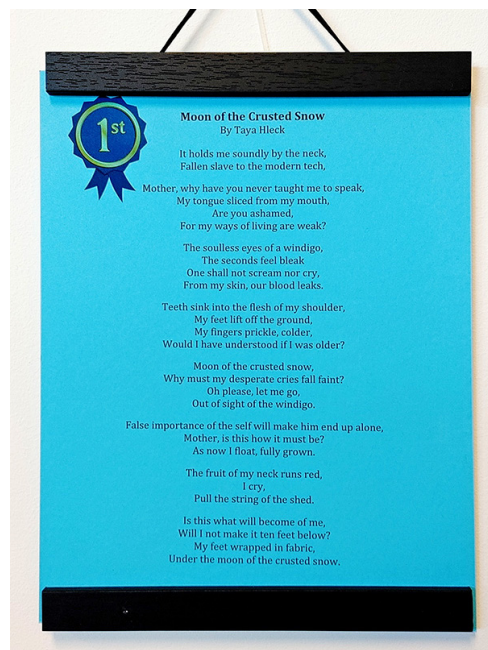
Eligibility

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible as Nanaimo's Youth Poet Laureate, candidates must be 13 to 24 years of age (youth) and reside within the [City of Nanaimo](#). Candidates can be nominated by someone else or be self-nominated.

Applicants must include in their submission the following documentation:

- At least three (3) original poems in any format including written, audio or video. If submitting audio or video, please include a written transcript of the poems.
- Letter of intent including an outline of the vision for the Youth Poet Laureate position and at least three (3) sample ideas of projects that they would undertake as Youth Poet Laureate.
- Résumé outlining their community engagement experience related to school, work and/or volunteering.
- Emergency contact information



Youth Poetry Contest: Book Response, July 2024

Timeline

Anticipated Schedule

- Deadline for Entries Oct. 19, 2025
- Interviews with Shortlisted Candidates Nov. 6/ 7, 2025
- Notification of Acceptance/ Council Approval Dec 2025
- Project opportunities Jan 2026 - Dec 2027

Duties

The Youth Poet Laureate will:

- Participate in the cultural life of the city and serve as a literary youth ambassador for Nanaimo.
- Engage in a mentee relationship with the current City of Nanaimo's Poet Laureate
- Undertake a community engagement project to engage youth (example: youth-at-risk).
- Perform a poetry reading during at least one (1) City Council meeting and may choose or be asked to perform at other public events.
- Work with community and cultural partners (such as Youth Literacy Central Vancouver Island) to organize a poetry readings, with the potential for additional programming.
- Create three (3) new original works of poetry.
- Collaborate with the Vancouver Island Regional Library (Harbourfront) to develop poetry related programs, such as a poetry writing workshop culminating in a poetry slam event.

Note: Bookable meeting space/ working space at the Vancouver Island Regional Library (Harbourfront) will be available to the Youth Poet Laureate.



Youth Poetry Reading, August 2024

Supplementary Information

Selection Process

The selection and appointment process for the Youth Poet Laureate will be undertaken by a selection committee consisting of:

- One (1) current City of Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate;
- One (1) current City of Nanaimo Poet Laureate;
- One (1) members of the Nanaimo youth literary community;
- One (1) additional representative from the literary community (poet, writer);
- One (1) representative from the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

The selected candidate will be recommended to City Council for final approval.

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated ability to engage and inspire the community.
- Clear and innovative ideas regarding the vision for the position of Youth Poet Laureate.
- Ease and skill at presenting and performing work to the public.
- Ability to capture their audience through live readings.

Short-listed candidates for the Youth Poet Laureate position will be invited for an interview with the selection panel.

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.



Supplementary Information

Conduct

The Youth Poet must demonstrate commitment to [City of Nanaimo Policy C4.2 Equity and Inclusivity](#):

- “Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates resources and opportunities to support more positive outcomes for all regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, faith practice, ancestry, or background. By identifying inequities and targeting investment in prevention and intervention, the wellbeing and inclusion of the diversity of people that make up our entire community can be enhanced, creating a city that puts people first and supports a sense of belonging.”
- Youth Poets will contribute to a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere where all people feel safe, comfortable and represented (Policy C4.2.1); Encourage diversity awareness and build a culture of compassion for people of all cultures, genders, orientations, ages and abilities (Policy C4.2.8).

Terms & Conditions

Once submitted, the application is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*. Questions about the collection of your personal information may be referred to the Legislative Services Department at (250) 755-4405, or via email at foi@nanaimo.ca.

Confidentiality

Materials submitted for consideration to the Youth Poet Laureate Program will be treated as confidential. Ideas presented are understood to be the intellectual property of the applicant and the information contained therein will not be reproduced or adapted for any purpose, except to the extent necessary to communicate information to Staff and the committee for the purpose of evaluation and analysis. The City will not release this information to the public except required under the Province of BC’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



How to Apply

Delivering Submission Materials

Submissions must be received no later than 11:59pm Pacific Time, October 19, 2025.

There are four ways to submit:

1. Submit your application via the [ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM](#).
2. Submit your application via email: cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca, ATTN: Youth Poet Laureate Application.
3. Submit your application by mail:

ATTN: Youth Poet Laureate Program
Culture & Events
455 Wallace Street,
Nanaimo BC, V9R 5J6

4. Drop off your application in-person to the Culture & Events Dropbox, located at the Bowen Complex, 500 Bowen Road. The Dropbox is located on the lower level of the building near the tennis courts (Pine Street Entrance). The application must be enclosed and sealed in an envelope/package clearly marked:

Your Name
Youth Poet Laureate Application
City of Nanaimo
Culture and Events



Bowen Complex Drop-Box
(500 Bowen Rd, Nanaimo, BC)

Should you experience challenges or barriers in this application process or require additional support, we encourage you to reach out to:

cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca or 250-755-4483

Questions?

Please see [Page 3](#) for a detailed timeline of application process.

Questions regarding the Youth Poet Laureate Program may be directed to Culture & Events at cultureandevents@nanaimo.ca, ATTN: Youth Poet Laureate Program or 250-755-4483.



Youth Poetry Competition Display (2025)

**LOVE
ARTS
NANAIMO**

Stay in touch! Find info on latest projects and opportunities to get involved. Follow the Culture & Events team on Instagram [@prc_nanaimo](#). Or sign-up for the [Love Arts Nanaimo Newsletter](#) and learn about how the City is amplifying and championing local creativity!