

Call for Submissions - Youth Poet Laureate

The City of Mississauga will recognize its fifth Youth Poet Laureate in 2025. The role of the Youth Poet Laureate is to serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the City of Mississauga and to elevate the status of poetry, literary arts and young writers within their communities. The honorary position recognizes a young poet who writes excellent poetry or spoken word and has written on themes that are relevant to the citizens of Mississauga.

Objectives

The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term beginning in April 2025 and ending in March 2027. The objectives of the position are to:

- Serve as a literary ambassador for the City of Mississauga to audiences both within and outside of the City
- Promote poetry and literary arts to young people
- Raise the profile of young writers in Mississauga
- Create an artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions

Key Responsibilities:

- Create literary work that reflects the values of the city and its citizens.
- Produce at least one original work for a specific event or occasion identified by the City in each year of the two-year term.
- Agree to perform poetry readings in person (at least once to City Council during National Poetry month and at minimum, at one additional official City of Mississauga function each year). Agree to send selected poems to City staff in advance of the readings.
- Attend a variety of civic events across the city to promote and attract young people to the literary world.
- With guidance from City staff and the Poet Laureate, complete an event or project to promote poetry and the literary arts to young people.
- Provide content for the Poet Laureate section of the City of Mississauga website as required.

Term and Payment:

The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term beginning in April 2025 and will receive a \$3,000 honorarium paid in six installments throughout the term. Additional project funding of \$1,000 is available to support the execution of a Youth Poet Laureate event or project.

Selection Criteria:

Candidates Must:

- Be 25 years of age or younger as of April 1, 2025.
- Be a current Mississauga resident.
- Have the ability to represent the values of the City of Mississauga in a professional manner.
- Have an established body of work or have been recognized for notable contributions to the literary arts.
- Present work that is relevant to Mississauga and/or subjects that reflect the life of the city.

Submissions:

The application period is open from February 12 – March 9, 2025.

Submission Deadline – March 9, 2025 by 11:59 PM

Eligible poets or spoken word artists are invited to submit proposals that include:

1. Curriculum Vitae.
2. A minimum of three and maximum of five examples of work from within the last five years – one should be an audio or video recording.
3. Confirmation of place of residence and date of birth (acceptable proof of residence and date of birth includes a photo-copy of valid official government photo ID with current address and date of birth listed).
4. Contact information for three professional references that can verify the poet's abilities in the following areas: poetry or spoken word, event or project management, public speaking and professionalism.
5. Letter of Intent (500 words maximum) detailing:
 - The proposal for an event or project to promote poetry and the literary arts to young people including a breakdown of how the \$1,000 project budget would be used.
 - How the poet would represent the City of Mississauga and interact in civic life at specific events or occasions.
 - How the poet would use digital engagement to promote the literary arts to young people during their term.
 - How the poet would benefit from this opportunity.

Submissions are accepted via email.

Submissions should be one document in Word or PDF format. Audio files can be sent as a second document.

Please send email submissions to:
residency.residency@mississauga.ca

Selection Process:

Appointment will be made by a selection committee comprised of arts professionals from the community. Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- The applicant's contributions to the community and to youth in Mississauga through poetry and the literary arts;
- Artistic merit of the submission, including the relevancy to the City of Mississauga and its values; and
- The potential impact of the proposed event and/or poetry project as identified in the applicant's Letter of Intent.

Potential applicants may be requested to attend an in-person interview on March 17 2025 as part of the selection process. Public information about the applicant available online (social media presence, website, media releases) may also be reviewed by committee members as part of the selection process. If selected, the candidate will be asked to provide a Criminal Records Search, Vulnerable Sector Screening, at their own expense that is acceptable to the City of Mississauga.

Reserved Rights of the City Of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga, at its sole discretion, reserves the following rights:

- To request clarification or additional information, as it deems necessary to evaluate submissions
- To determine suitability of the submission and capability of the prospective poet
- To select the poet that it deems most appropriate for the project
- To make no selection or to cancel this process at any time
- To issue public announcements regarding the competition

This document and any submissions in response to it by prospective poets do not create any binding obligations on the City, the prospective poet or any other party.

Any questions about the Youth Poet Laureate Program should be directed to Eldiana Begovic, Supervisor, Culture Programs, Literary, Digital & Visual Arts eldiana.begovic@mississauga.ca

Personal information is collected under the authority of Section 11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purpose of evaluating applicants. It will also be used to contact the individual chosen for the position. Questions about the collection of this personal information should be directed to the Supervisor, Culture Programs Literary Arts, 4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga and 905-615-3200 x4063.