



City of Costa Mesa

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 26-178

Meeting Date: 3/5/2026

TITLE: SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT REVIEW
DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST
CONTACT INFORMATION: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission:

1. Review the new Sidewalk Poetry Project information and application (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The sidewalk poetry project brings poetry to parks by imprinting poems into concrete walkways, and addresses two (2) goals from the Arts and Culture Master Plan:

- Goal #2: *Expand public art throughout the City*
- Goal #3: *Professionalize and elevate the status of arts and culture in city government, Action 3.1.4., to appoint an Artist Laureate (Poet Laureate)*

The City's inaugural Poet Laureate, Danielle Hanson has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the literary arts in Costa Mesa. The sidewalk poetry project is part of these efforts.

The Parks and Community Services Department has three current park renovations occurring in Fiscal Year 2025/2026, as part of the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) list; Brentwood Park, Ketchum-Libolt Park and Shalimar Park.

In December 2025, a review panel comprised of Arts and Parks and Community Services commissioners and two (2) community members, convened to select poems to be imprinted into newly cemented sidewalks for Brentwood Park. Brentwood Park is currently undergoing renovations and will include four (4) new poems selected by the review panel. An outside vendor will create heavy vinyl molds/imprints of the selected poems, to be pressed into the sidewalk as part of the Brentwood Park renovation in the coming months.

ANALYSIS:

The Ketchum-Libolt Park renovation is currently underway, with Shalimar Park to follow sometime in the fall of 2026. For these next two (2) parks, the sidewalk poetry project will include an additional community inclusion component by administering a call for poems application for Costa Mesa constituents to participate in. Poems will be reviewed and selected from the pool of applicants by a review panel, and with final approval by the Arts Commission. Number of poems, placement and themes will vary by park.

FISCAL REVIEW

No fiscal review is required at this time, as there are no associated costs.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission:

1. Review the new Sidewalk Poetry Project information and application (Attachment 1).