

Sidewalk Poetry Project - 2026

Call for Poems

The City of Costa Mesa is accepting short poem entries for the Sidewalk Poetry Project from residents and individuals with connections of ties to Costa Mesa.

THEMES:

Ketchum-Libolt Park: Community, Heroism, Duty, Safety, Service

Shalimar Park: Youth, Athleticism, Love, Family, Teamwork

ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Ketchum-Libolt Park:

All writers/poets are invited to submit poetry for consideration.

Shalimar Park:

Teens (13-18 years of age) are invited to submit poetry for consideration.

Both Parks:

- No previous experience or publication is necessary.
- The poem must be the original work of the entrant (published or unpublished).
- Must be a resident, work in, or attend school in Costa Mesa
- Applicants may submit one poem per park.
- Subject matter must be appropriate for the public.
- All applications must be submitted by the end of day, April 13, 2026.

LIMITATIONS:

- Short poem submissions may be free form or traditional short form, including Haiku, Distich, Cinquain, etc.
- Poems must be no more than five (5) lines (including title if applicable) with a maximum of 32 characters including spaces per line, and 160 characters overall (including spaces).
- Poems in languages other than English must be accompanied by an English translation.
- One (1) entry per individual may be submitted for the Call for Poems; no team entries are permitted.

COMPENSATION AND RECOGNITION:

- Selected poets will receive monetary compensation of a \$150 stipend.
- Selected poems will also be recognized on the City's website and on public art maps.

Application

POET INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Guardian Name: (first and last, if the artist is under the age of 18)

Street Address: _____

City and Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Poem

Poems must be no more than five (5) lines (including title if applicable) with a maximum of 32 characters including spaces per line, and 160 characters overall (including spaces).

Title: _____

Poem: _____

Year it was created: _____

Comments (add your translation here if applicable):

Which Park are you applying for?

☐ Ketchum-Libolt Park

☐ Shalimar Park

Do you reside, work or attend school in Costa Mesa?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please select your age group?

☐ Over 18

☐ Age 13-18

Please acknowledge the statement below by signing and dating below:

If my poem is selected for the Sidewalk Poetry Project, I represent that I am the author of and owner of all rights in and to the Artwork and that I have the sole and exclusive right to make within the grant of rights, including but not limited to moral rights, that neither I nor anyone else has any contractual or other arrangements which will interfere with rights herein granted and warrant that the rights herein granted will not infringe on the rights of any third party and that the consent or permission of no other party is required by City in connection with the use of the Artwork. I agree to indemnify and hold City harmless from and against any and all liability, damages, claims and demands of whatever kind and nature, either in law or in equity, which arises or may hereafter arise from the City's use or display of the Artwork or in connection with the breach or alleged breach of my representation and/or warranty made hereunder. I understand and agree that the City may remove my artwork at any time without prior notice. I further acknowledge the City will make an effort to inform me as the artist in advance of the removal of the artwork, but any such removal will not be dependent on advance notice being given.

Signature

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____