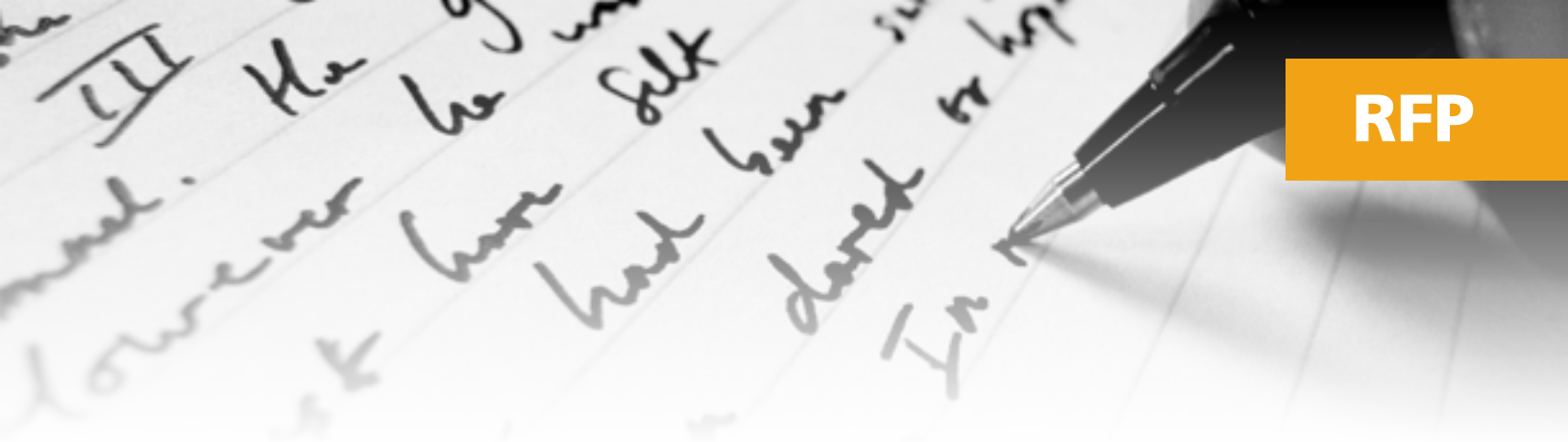


RFP

Richmond's 2027

Writer•!n•Residence

Request for Proposals: Richmond's 2027 Writer-in-Residence

City of Richmond and Richmond Public Library

Deadline:
February 28, 2027 at 11:59 PM (PST)

Location:
Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Public Library–Brighouse Branch, Branscombe House

Eligibility:
Writers of any genre, with a minimum of 1 traditionally published work

Duration:
10-week residency

Compensation:
$5,000 provided in exchange for approximately 50 hours of public programming (contract position)

Details:
WriterInResidence@richmond.ca
richmond.ca/WriterInResidence

SUMMARY

The City of Richmond is seeking proposals for Richmond's 15th annual Writer-in-Residence in the Fall of 2027, hosted in partnership by City of Richmond and the Richmond Public Library.

Emerging or established writers are invited to apply for this 10-week residency, spanning from mid-September to late-November 2027. All forms of literary genre are welcome.

The aim of the residency is to foster a greater appreciation for Canada's writers and creative writing through innovative public programs that will engage readers and writers across generations and cultures.

Past Richmond Writers-in-Residence include: Aaron Chan, Taslim Jaffer, Audrey Thomas, Lindi Nolte, Sonya Lalli, Lindsay Wong, Cynthia Sharp, Andrew Battershill, Nilofar Shidmehr, Karen X. Tulchinsky, Sally Stubbs, Mark Leiren-Young, Nancy Lee and Caroline Adderson.

Richmond

CALL FOR ARTISTS

1. Eligibility

Open to writers of any genre, including but not limited to popular fiction, romance, children's literature, mystery, poetry, memoir, drama, short stories, creative nonfiction and/or literary journalism. Authors and illustrators are welcome and encouraged to apply as a pair.

Preference will be given to writers with experience in developing and facilitating workshops, leading public conversations and hosting readings or events. The Writer-in-Residence will provide advice and mentorship opportunities to emerging writers from diverse populations.

Required:

- Eligible to work in Canada
- A minimum of one traditionally published title
- Professional teaching or public programming experience
- Comfortable and willing to engage with a diverse public audience which may include a range of ages and skill levels

Preferred:

- Active participant in the local writing community
- In the early working stage of a new writing project intended for book-length publication

Writers with experience working with diverse communities are encouraged to apply. Applications are encouraged from writers of under-represented communities including Indigenous, Black, people of colour, 2SLGBTQI+, mixed abilities and other non-dominant groups. Writers are encouraged to self-identify in their application if they feel comfortable in doing so.

2. Budget

The Writer-in-Residence will receive $5,000 for the work between September 17 and November 28, 2027 (contract position). Up to an additional $750 is available for the Writer-in-Residence to invite collaborators to take part in a shared event, such as a panel, if relevant to the proposed programming.

The City of Richmond and Richmond Public Library will provide in-kind marketing support and facility/production support associated with public programs (e.g. basic workshop materials, tech support, etc.).

The successful candidate will be responsible for finding their own accommodation and transportation.

Please note: For writers and illustrators who choose to apply as a pair, the remuneration and hours will be divided between the two applicants at a ratio agreed upon by the applicants and the Writer-in-Residence staff.

3. Opportunity

The residency is an opportunity for a writer to share their work and expertise, while connecting with Richmond's community. During the residency, the writer will lead public programming which must include workshops and may also include panels, lectures, social events or other creative community engagement opportunities.

Proposed activities should engage a diverse, multicultural audience and show strong interest, connection and relevance to the community. The writer should have a strong interest in connecting members of the public to literary programming and experiences.

The residency has the following objectives:

- Provide no-cost literary programming, insights into the writing process and networking opportunities for emerging writers;
- Create a unique opportunity for local writers to engage with the community at-large in a meaningful, interactive setting;
- Create "cross-pollination" opportunities for local writers to meet with and be inspired by other writers and creatives;
- Assist the writer in expanding their portfolio, developing their skills in program development/facilitation and enhancing their presence as a working writer;
- Over time, showcase a range of literary genres, a range of writers from diverse backgrounds, and a range of ideas and perspectives; and
- Foster a literary culture and encourage creative expression among Richmond residents.

The theme for the residency has not been predetermined. The writer's proposal will include a theme that will be illuminated or articulated through the public programming. The goal is to contribute meaningful content to local residents' personal connections and experience with creative writing, foster self-expression and appreciation of literature.

In the application, the writer will be asked to describe the proposed public programs and community engagement opportunities they will organize and facilitate for the public's benefit. Public programming must include workshops and may also include panels, lectures, social events or other creative community engagement opportunities that will contribute to the 50 hours requirement of the residency. If awarded the residency, the writer and City/RPL staff will negotiate the terms and the writer will complete a revised work plan with project specifics.

4. Locations & Partners

The shared building of Richmond Public Library's Brighouse Branch and the Richmond Cultural Centre serves as the program's home base, with some events also hosted at Branscombe House in Steveston. Easily accessible by transit, these vibrant spaces offer opportunities for community members to engage with the literary arts.

Richmond Public Library (RPL) has been proudly serving the Richmond community since 1976. RPL offers four branches as well as two book dispensers, is open seven days a week, and offers a wealth of information which is available 24/7 at yourlibrary.ca. Its mission is to create opportunities for the community to learn, connect and belong. Click here to read more.

Richmond Public Library - Brighouse Branch
7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R8
Map: Richmond Public Library–Brighouse

The Richmond Cultural Centre and Annex is the City's arts education and creation hub for programs, events, organizations and artists. Arts Programs at the Richmond Cultural Centre include a variety of courses taught by accomplished artist instructors. It is also home to a number of local Resident Arts Groups, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Museum, City of Richmond Archives and Richmond Arts Coalition's pilot initiative, the CornerSpace. Click here to read more.

7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, BC V6Y 1R8
Map: Richmond Cultural Centre and Annex

Branscombe House is a restored Edwardian-style home located in the residential area of historic Steveston. One of the earliest settler homes built in the area, the house is significant for its historical association to the development of the area, both as a residential building and through its connection to the Branscombe family's general store on Moncton Street in the early 1900s. It reflects the pattern of commercial and related residential development that occurred early in Steveston's history. Click here to read more.

4900 Steveston Highway
Richmond BC V7E 2K3
Map: Branscombe House

5. Richmond, BC

Located in the Metro Vancouver area with an estimated population of 241,000, Richmond is the fourth-most populous city in British Columbia. The city supports about 100,000 jobs in various areas including high technology, services, retail, tourism, light manufacturing, airport services and aviation, agriculture, fishing and government. Richmond is comprised of 17 separate islands located in the mouth of the Fraser River. While the city's physical landscape is shaped by its location in the river estuary, Richmond's cultural landscape continues to be shaped by its inhabitants.

The hən̓q̓əmin̓əm speaking First Peoples, including the Musqueam, Tsawwassen and Kwantlen Nations, established villages near the Fraser River estuary and fished, hunted, trapped and gathered throughout the islands for thousands of years. It is believed that at one time as many as 2,000 people lived in the area during the winter. However, when the fish came, the population swelled to as many as 20,000. The hən̓q̓əmin̓əm speaking peoples remain today and can be characterized by their unique cultural heritage and longtime stewardship of the South Coast's waters and lands. Founded as a township in 1880, historically Richmond was home to large numbers of Japanese, Chinese, First Nations and European fishers and cannery workers. The fishery also supported a significant boatbuilding and shipbuilding industry as sailing ships from around the world visited to take on cargoes of canned salmon. Farming has also contributed to the settlement and prosperity of the area.

Today Richmond is home to an immigrant population of 60%, the highest in Canada, and more than half of its population is of Asian descent, many of whom immigrated in the late 1980s, mostly from Hong Kong, Taiwan and, more recently, Mainland China. Two of the largest Buddhist temples in North America reside in Richmond: the International Buddhist Temple and the Ling Yen Mountain Temple.

Richmond is also the location of Vancouver International Airport and was the site of speed skating events during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Steveston Village is an historic salmon canning centre at the mouth of the south arm of the Fraser River in Richmond. The village is home to several museums and heritage sites, as well as a working harbour for fishing boats, the largest fishing fleet in Canada. London Heritage Farm, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Steveston Museum, Japanese Benevolent Society Building and the Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site all contribute to Steveston's status as a favourite tourist destination. The neighbourhood is also a popular filming location and prosperous residential area.

6. Residency Provisions

The City of Richmond and Richmond Public Library agree to:

1. Provide $5000 in reimbursement, divided between residency start- and end-dates.
2. Provide up to $750 for the Writer-in-Residence to invite collaborators to take part in a shared event, if relevant to the proposed programming.
3. Provide space for the writer's public programming and offer access to available materials/equipment.
4. Support the writer in developing program plans and provide on-site program support when needed.
5. Market the residency and/or programming as appropriate.
6. Share relevant grants and provide community stakeholder connections.

The Writer agrees to:

1. Provide approximately 50 hours of public programming, such as workshops or events, not including hours spent preparing curriculum, setting up/cleaning up, or in meetings.
2. Take part in photography and/or video for documentation and marketing purposes.
3. Engage in a reporting process with City staff.

7. Timeline

Contingent on the City of Richmond and Richmond Public Library's project schedule and may change at any time:

February 28, 2027

Application deadline

March 31, 2027

Short-listed writers notified

April 30, 2027

Selected writer notified

July 2, 2027

Residency announcement

July 21, 2027

Public programming opens for registration

September 17-19, 2027*

Writer-in-Residence opening event
(Culture Days opening weekend)

November 26-28 2027*

Writer-in-Residence closing event

**Date dependant on selected writer's availability.*

8. Application

Please submit an application with the contents outlined below as a PDF to WriterinResidence@richmond.ca by February 28, 2027 at 11:59 PM (PST).

Cover Letter & Resumé

Include a history of literary publications and previous community engagement experience, including teaching, conducting library programs, facilitating workshops and/or other forms of public presentation.

Program Proposal

Include a clear plan for approximately 50 hours of public programming during the residency. This does not include hours spent preparing curriculum, setting up/cleaning up, or in meetings.

Public programming must include workshops and may also include panels, lectures, social events or other creative community engagement opportunities. Multiple one-day workshops and/or a longer series of workshops will be considered. Programming has historically been for youth, adults and seniors, but may be for any age group or a variety of ages.

Program proposals should address theme(s) the applicant may wish to engage with and explore, as well as how that theme will be illuminated or articulated through the public programming. The theme for the residency has not been predetermined. The goal is to contribute meaningful content to local residents' personal connections and experience with creative writing, foster self-expression and appreciation of literature.

Include a loose plan for an opening event to launch the residency and a final celebration that will bring together program participants and the public together to share writing produced in the program.

Applicants are encouraged to identify some of the innovative ways their residency could foster an appreciation for reading and writing and how their residency could involve and welcome communities not typically exposed to or represented in Canadian literature.

Writing Sample & Reviews

Provide a sample of recent writing, up to 20 pages, and 2-5 reviews of earlier works.

References

Submit contact information (phone number and email address) for two references. Once a short-list of candidates has been determined, the selection committee will contact the provided references from each of the short-listed applicants.