

Poet's Pause Poetry Competition

Introduction

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) invites submissions of unpublished, original poetry for display at two public art sites in Alta Lake Park. The public art project is known as Poet's Pause.

Writers are invited to submit poems for one or both of the display sites. The poems should respond to the theme selected for each site: the north site theme is "listening"; the south site theme is "togetherness".

The Display Sites at Alta Lake Park:



Alta Lake Park features a spectacular location along the southwest shore of Alta Lake. The park is connected to the Valley Trail network with easy trail links to Wayside Park and Alta Lake Road. The park does not have vehicle access.

More information on the display sites and associated sculptures is explained on page four.



Poetry Competition Terms of Reference

1. Apart from the specified themes, proponent may choose the style and format of the poem(s).
2. The jury will select two winning poems; one poem will be selected for each theme, if the jury feels selection is warranted.
3. The prize for poems selected through this competition will be **\$250 each**.
4. The poems should be inspired by the sculpture sites or by Whistler.
5. The winning poet(s) will be invited to read their poems at the Council meeting on **Tuesday, April 8th 2025**.
6. Submissions are accepted only from individuals living in the Sea to Sky Corridor or with a long-term connection to the region. If the winning poets cannot attend the reading, the Mayor and/or Council members may read the poems.
7. Poems will be on temporary, not permanent, display.
8. Authors may submit up to two poems.
9. Poems that were submitted previously but were not selected may be resubmitted, so long as they still meet the competition eligibility criteria (they remain unpublished).
10. The RMOW may publish the selected poetry in the local media. The poems will be displayed on the municipal website www.whistler.ca/poetrycompetition. The collection of winning poems from past years can also be viewed here.
11. There will be no compensation for writers' submissions. The RMOW is not required to submit all poems to the jury.
12. Questions can be forwarded to communications@whistler.ca.



Submission Requirements:

1. The deadline for proposals is on or before **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific.**
2. Proposals can be submitted via email to: communications@whistler.ca
3. Poems must not exceed 240 words and must include a title (if the poem is untitled, please indicate so). Please use regular characters only, avoid emojis and/or diagrams
4. Please specify the following:
 - a. Which of the themes (*Listening or Togetherness*) applies to the poem being submitted.
 - b. Whether you will be willing and available to take part in the Council reading on **Tuesday April 8, 2025**, should your submission be selected. In-person attendance is required, as there will be no remote option.
 - c. Your name and contact information (email address and phone number).

Schedule:

- Deadline for submissions: **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific**
- Notification of selected poets: on or before **Wednesday April 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
- Reading at council meeting: **Tuesday April 8, 2025**, meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Pacific

THE POET'S PAUSE SITES

Site One - Alta Lake Park North Site

In the north part of the park, there is a house that has been used as a venue for the Art Workshops on the Lake series, staged by the Whistler Arts Council. It has also been the venue for the Whistler Readers and Writers Festival Writer-in-Residence program, staged by the Vicious Circle.

The sculptural setting for the poem at the north site in Alta Lake Park can be found along the path from the house to the lakeshore. The piece is a timber frame structure with large metal chimes, titled 'Lost in Sound'.

The theme for this site is 'Listening'.



Theme: Listening
Photographer: Oisín McHugh

Site Two - Alta Lake Park South Site

The south site in Alta Lake Park is by the lake shore. This site offers a great view of the lake and Whistler Mountain.

The sculptural setting for this location is a pair of giant Adirondack chairs, titled 'Lakeside Couple'. The chairs are large enough to accommodate a couple of adults. The theme for this site is 'Togetherness'.

Artist Joan Baron conceived the sculptures to be larger than life, as she felt Whistler offers a larger-than-life experience. The sculptures are intended to inspire and be contemplative places to write.



Theme: Togetherness
Photographer: Oisín McHugh