

PUBLIC ART SAINT PAUL

ART. SPIRIT & PRACTICE

ÓMAKHA 2026 ODÓWAN LÁPI AKHÍNIČA SIDEWALK POETRY CONTEST 2026

Ómakha 2026 Odówan lápi Akhíniča kiŋ Yaóthanŋpi **Announcing the 2026 Sidewalk Poetry Contest**

Imnížaska Othúnwe wétu kiŋ dé čanŋkú-amánipi kiŋ ayúwašte ničhópi. Čanŋkú-amánipi oínažinŋ kiŋ aínažinŋpi ečhúnhanŋ oyáte kiŋ hówanžipidanŋ k'a wítayawa wíyukčanŋpi kte. Imnížaska othúnwe k'a Capitol Region Mní Awányakapi kiŋ hená Ómakha 2026 Odówan lápi Akhíniča kiŋ Wóžupi-Wí 4 etánhanŋ Wažúštečaša-Wí 3 hehánhanŋ Odówan lápi kiŋ mnayánpi kte.

This spring, Public Art Saint Paul invites you to help transform our city's sidewalks into spaces of reflection, beauty, and shared voice. In partnership with the Capitol Region Watershed District, the 2026 Sidewalk Poetry Contest opens for submissions from May 4 through June 3, 2026.

Wóečhunŋ Thokáheya k'a Waúnspewičhakhiyapi Kickoff Workshop + Info Session

Wayák'u šni-ečhéd wóbdieča k'a wówahokunŋkhiye kiŋ oyéde he? Wóžupi-Wí 9, wiyótanhanŋ sánpha k'a wančá aphé etánhanŋ tópa aphé hehánhanŋ, Capitol Region Mní Awányakapi kiŋ Odówan lápi owáunspe wanŋ yuhápi kte. Owáunspe kiŋ dé éd Odówan lápi kiŋ nayáh'unŋ k'a oyáte obé óta ób wóyahdake k'a nakúnŋ wóiwohdake kiŋ ektáh oyákañniže kte.

Looking for inspiration or guidance before you submit? Join us on May 9, from 1–4 PM, for an engaging Info Session and Poetry Workshop hosted by the Capitol Region Watershed District. It's a chance to explore ideas, connect with others, and deepen your approach to this year's theme.

Tuwé ópha okíhi he? Who Can Participate

Tuwé-g owás óphapi iyówinwičhakhiyapi. Théčapi k'a thánŋkapi k'a kánpi khó Odówan lápi owápi kiŋ hená, mnaúnhanŋpi kte. Tkhá wóophe kiŋ dé ahóphapi kte – óyapha yačhínŋ héčahanŋ, Imnížaska othúnwe éd yathí kte héčha.

Writers of all ages and experience levels are welcome, from first-time poets to seasoned voices. To be eligible, participants must live in the City of Saint Paul.

Táku wak'ú kta he?

What to Submit

Odówan lápi kin ptéchedan káš nína waš'áke. Odówan lápi iyóhi oówa 200 etánhan 300 hehánhan (wičhóie-okó ižá iyáwapi). K'a nakún Odówan lápi núnm yak'ú oyákihi. Sidewalk poems are brief but powerful. Each poem should be 200–300 characters (including spaces), and you may submit up to two poems.

Wóiwohdake: Mní

Theme: Water

Ómakha kin dé wóiwohdake dé é – Mní. Capitol Region Mní Awányakapi wapázopi wan Mní Heúňčhapi eyápi kin etánhan wóiwohdake kin ičúpi. Mní tókhed khápi kin hé, awíyukčan po. Tókhed óničiya k'a tókhed Uŋčí Makhá ókiya k'a oyáte-g owás tókhed iwóhdakapi k'a nakún tókhed owápi kin hená, awíyukčan po.

This year's theme is *Water*, inspired by the Capitol Region Watershed District's *We Are Water* exhibit. We encourage you to explore water in all its forms: personal, environmental, cultural, and symbolic.

lápi

Languages

Imnížaska othúnwe éd oyáte obé óta héuŋ Odówan lápi kin Dakhód'iapi k'a Hmong-iápi k'a Karen-iápi k'a Somali-iápi k'a Spayó-iápi k'a Wašíču-iápi ohná owáphiča. Wašíču-iápi ohná wóyawa šni hánťanhanš, Odówan lápi kin Wašíčuia yuieska k'a aikhoyaka wo.

To reflect the richness of Saint Paul's communities, submissions are welcomed in Dakota, Hmong, Karen, Somali, Spanish, and English. If you submit in a language other than English, please include an English translation directly after the original text in the same submission field.

Déched wayák'u kte

How to Submit

Link kin dé yuǵán k'a héd Odówan lápi kin yák'u kte. Odówan lápi núnm yak'ú oyákihi. Follow and enter your submission via this link. Participants are able to submit up to two poems. <https://forms.gle/ThEH6YfNWRrf8TTg7>

Ómakha 2023 héehan Odówan lápi kin dená kañnígapi

[See the Winning Poems from 2023](#)

Wóyaothanŋ Ehákedan

Final Notes

Odówan lápi uŋgé Imnížaska čhanjú-amánipi akáŋn owá-ehnákapi kte. Wažúštečaša-Wí oíhanke kinhan PASP Odówan lápi kin ohíyapi kin hená, yaóthanŋipi

kte. Ohíyapi kiŋ Odówaŋ lápi kiŋ naǵókiya wičhákičhopi k'a wanáǵoyapi kiŋ PSAP website éd pazópi kte.

Selected poems will become part of Saint Paul's public landscape, appearing on sidewalks across the city. PASP will contact all submitters and announce the winning poems at the end of June. Winners will also be invited to record their poem to be featured on the PASP website.

Ómakha 2026 Odówaŋ lápi Akhíniča kiŋ Capitol Region Mní Awáŋyakapi kiŋ nína óuŋkiyapi čha phidáwičhuŋyapi!

The 2026 Sidewalk Poetry Contest is made possible through the generous support of the Capitol Region Watershed District.