



Royal City Literary Arts Society presents

# poetry in the park 2022

July 6 - August 31  
Queen's Park Band Shell  
Wednesday Nights  
6:30PM - 8:30PM

a free summer poetry reading series  
two feature poets and open mic each week

July 6 — Candice James and Elliott Slinn

July 13 — Joanne Arnott and Isabella Wang

July 20 — Fiona Tinwei Lam and Jude Neale

July 27 — Tawahum and D Fretter

August 3 — Evelyn Lau and Hasan Namir

August 10 — Joseph Dandurand and Jessica Lee McMillan

August 17 — Carlie Blume and Catherine Lewis

August 24 — Alan Hill and Kevin Spent

August 31 — Jónína Kirton and Cecily Nicholson

[www.rclas.com](http://www.rclas.com)

Royal City  
Literary Arts  
Society



NEW WESTMINSTER



ARTS COUNCIL  
OF NEW WESTMINSTER



Opening Night  
July 6 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Candice James

Poet Laureate Emerita, City of New Westminster

Elliott Slinn

Poet Laureate, City of New Westminster



Host Aidan Chafe

poetry in the park  
July 13 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Joanne Arnott

and

Isabella Wang



Host Angela Kenyon

poetry in the park  
July 20 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Fiona Tinwei Lam

(Poet Laureate, City of Vancouver)

and

Jude Neale



Host Alan Hill

poetry in the park  
July 27 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Tawahum

and

D Fretter



Host Elliott Slinn



poetry in the park  
Aug 3 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Evelyn Lau  
and  
Hasan Namir



poetry in the park  
Aug 10 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Joseph Dandurand  
and  
Jessica Lee McMillan



Host Carol Johnson

poetry in the park  
Aug 17 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Carlie Blume  
and  
Catherine Lewis



Host Hope Lauterbach

poetry in the park  
Aug 24 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Alan Hill  
and  
Kevin Spenst





Royal City Literary Arts Society presents

# poetry in the park 2022

Finale Night  
Aug 31 Wed 6:30pm

Featuring Poets

Jónína Kirton

and

Cecily Nicholson



Royal City  
Literary Arts  
Society



NEW WESTMINSTER



ARTS COUNCIL  
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## 2022 POETRY IN THE PARK POETS

**Candice James** was appointed Poet Laureate Emerita of New Westminster BC by order of City Council in November 2016 after serving 2 three-year terms as Poet Laureate. She's founder of Royal City Literary Arts Society, and Fred Cogswell Award For Excellence in Poetry and past president of the Federation of BC Writers. She's a member of the League of Canadian Poets and The Writers Union of Canada. She's the author of 20 books of poetry through 6 Publishing Houses. Her first book *A SPLIT IN THE WATER* was published in 1979 by Fiddlehead Poetry Books, University of New Brunswick.

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Poet **Elliott Slinn** was named New Westminster's fifth (and youngest) Poet Laureate in June 2021. Slinn was born and raised in the Queen's Park neighbourhood of New Westminster and still resides in the Royal City today. In addition to being a poet, is also a singer-songwriter whose first single, *It's You*, was featured on Apple Music's "Hot Tracks" list and in *BeatRoute* magazine. Slinn's poetry and lyrics focus on the existential events of our day-to-day existence. Slinn's work has been described as immediate and accessible, as he aims to transform his personal tale into a shared experience. He is currently working on his first book of poetry and aims to record more music in the future.

You can find excerpts of his work on his Instagram account: [@elliott\\_slinn](https://www.instagram.com/elliott_slinn)

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**Joanne Arnott** is a writer, editor, arts activist, launching her fourth poetry chapbook, *pandemic friendship* (above/ground press 2022). Poetry Mentor for The Writers Studio (SFU) and Poetry Editor for *EVENT Magazine*, she is one of the co-founding members of the Aboriginal Writers Collective West Coast. Mother to six young people.

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**Isabella Wang** is the author of the chapbook, *On Forgetting a Language*, and her full-length debut, *Pebble Swing*, currently shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. Among other recognitions, she has been shortlisted for *Arc's Poem of the Year Contest*, *The Malahat Review's Far Horizons Contest* and *Long Poem Contest*, and was the youngest writer to be shortlisted twice for *The New Quarterly's Edna Staebler Essay Contest*. She is completing a double-major in English and World Literature at SFU. She is also a youth mentor with Vancouver Poetry House, and an Editor at *Room* magazine.

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Vancouver's 6th Poet Laureate, **Fiona Tinwei Lam** has published three collections of poetry and a children's book. Her poems have been featured in *Best Canadian Poetry* and thrice with BC's *Poetry in Transit*, as well as in award-winning poetry videos made in collaboration with filmmakers that have screened internationally. She is the editor of *The Bright Well: Contemporary Canadian Poems about Facing Cancer*, and has co-edited two nonfiction anthologies. Shortlisted for the City of Vancouver Book Prize and other awards, her work has been included in over 40 anthologies. [fionalam.net](http://fionalam.net)

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**Jude Neale** is a Canadian poet, well known nationally and internationally. She has written eleven books including: *Impromptu*, *The River Answers*, *Inside the Pearl and the Flaw*, all written during the pandemic. She is known for drawing focus to those small and forgotten things that often get overlooked in our ordinary daily lives.

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**Tawahum** is a Łutselk'e Dene, Plains Cree poet and spoken word artist from unceded Musqueam, Squamish & Tsleil-waututh Territory (Vancouver). Their Scorpio-moon-ass poems expose growth, resistance & persistence as a hopeless Two Spirit Nonbinary sadboy on occupied Turtle Island. With a BA in Creative Writing from KPU, Tawahum has performed at countless festivals with poems featured in numerous publications including Red Rising Magazine, Prairie Fire, CV2 and Arc Poetry Magazine. Their land protection work versus Trans Mountain pipeline expansion had him face incarceration in 2020. Tawahum's debut collection of poetry *Cut to Fortress* published by Nightwood Editions is available now. Find him online [@Tawahum](#) on Instagram, twitter and more.

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Poet **D Fretter 's** mother jokes that he's had a way with words since before he could talk. His self-published collection *Joy + Misery* peaked at number six in Canadian Poetry and Number one in African Canadian literature. D's performances have earned him praise from poets such as Sabrina Benaim, In-Q, and Brandon Leake. He is a self-reflective, deeply emotional writer who hopes to encourage and empower his audience to access their own vulnerability and find strength in it

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**Evelyn Lau** is a lifelong Vancouverite who has published thirteen books, including eight volumes of poetry. Her memoir, *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*, published when she was 18, was made into a CBC movie starring Sandra Oh in her first major role. Evelyn's prose books have been translated into a dozen languages; her poetry has received the Milton Acorn Award, the Pat Lowther Award and a National Magazine Award, as well as nominations for the Governor-General's and a BC Book Prize. Evelyn's work has appeared in over a hundred magazines and anthologies, including the *Best American Poetry* and *Best Canadian Poetry* series. From 2011-2014, she served as Vancouver's Poet Laureate; she has also served on numerous national grant and prize juries. Evelyn's most recent collection is *Pineapple Express* (Anvil, 2020).

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Iraqi-Canadian author **Hasan Namir** graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in English and received the Ying Chen Creative Writing Student Award. He is the author of *God in Pink* (2015), which won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Gay Fiction and was chosen as one of the Top 100 Books of 2015 by *The Globe and Mail*. His work has also been featured on *Huffington Post*, Shaw TV, Airbnb, in the film *God in Pink: A Documentary*, *Breakfast Television Toronto*, *CTV Morning Live Saskatoon*. He was recently named a writer to watch by CBC books. He is also the author of poetry book *War/Torn* (2019, Book\*Hug Press), children's book *The Name I Call Myself* (2020, Arsenal Pulp Press) and *Umbilical Cord* (Book\*Hug Press). Hasan was the 2021 LGBTQ2s+ guest curator for Word Vancouver. He lives on the unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen First Nations with his husband and their child.

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**Joseph A. Dandurand** is a member of Kwantlen First Nation located on the Fraser River about 20 minutes east of Vancouver. He resides there with his 3 children Danessa, Marlysse, and Jace. Joseph is the Director of the Kwantlen Cultural Center. Joseph received a Diploma in Performing Arts from Algonquin College and studied Theatre and Direction at the University of Ottawa. He has just completed his residency as the Storyteller in Residence at the Vancouver Public Library. He sits on a committee for the Canadian Museum of History and is tasked with consulting on the redesign of the new Children's Museum. He has published 13 books of poetry and the latest are: I WANT by Leaf Press (2015) and HEAR AND FORETELL by BookLand Press (2015) The Rumour (2018) by BookLand Press in (2018) SH:LAM (the doctor) Mawenzi Press (2019) The Corrupted by Guernica Press (2020) his children's play: Th'owixiya: the hungry Feast dish by Playwrights Press Canada (2019) his book of short stories and short plays for children: The Sasquatch, the fire, and the cedar basket will be published by Nightwood Press along with his poetry manuscript: Here we come (2020-21) He also is very busy Storytelling at many events and Schools.

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**Jessica Lee McMillan** (she/her) is an emerging poet with an MA in English. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Blank Spaces*, *Pocket Lint (gnurr)*, *Antilang*, *Tiny Spoon*, *The South Shore Review*, *Dream Pop Journal*, *Pinhole Poetry*, *Lover's Eye Press* and *SORTES*, among others. She is currently completing her first poetry chapbook. Jessica lives in New Westminster, British Columbia on stolen and unsundered lands of the Coast Salish and Halkomelem-speaking Peoples, in particular, the QayQayt and Kwikwetlem First Nations.  
Twitter: @JessicaLeeMCM Website: <https://www.jessicaleemcmillan.com>

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**Carlie Blume** was born on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (Vancouver). She is a 2017 graduate of Simon Fraser University's The Writer's Studio and the author of *Gigglepuss* (2022). She currently lives on Salt Spring Island, B.C with her husband and two children.

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**Catherine Lewis** is a bisexual Chinese Canadian writer based in Vancouver. Her debut queer poetry chapbook *Zipless* (845 Press, 2021) is in its third printing. Recently featured at the Verses Festival of Words and the Real Vancouver Writers' Series, she has been interviewed on Vancouver Co-op Radio's Wax Poetic. Shortlisted for Pulp Literature's 2022 Magpie Award for Poetry, Catherine was a finalist in the 2021 creative nonfiction contests hosted by The Fiddlehead and The Humber Literary Review. A graduate of the Writer's Studio at SFU, she is a Banff Centre Literary Arts alumna.  
Catch her on Twitter or Instagram at @cat\_writes\_604 or at [www.catherinewriter.com](http://www.catherinewriter.com).

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**Alan Hill** was born in the UK and immigrated to Canada in 2005 after meeting his wife while working in Botswana. He is the former Poet Laureate of the City of New Westminster, BC (2017-2020), former president of the Royal City Literary Arts Society (RCLAS), and was the editor and curator of *A Poetry of Place: Journeys Across New Westminster*, published in partnership with New Westminster Arts Services. His writing has been published internationally and his poetry has appeared in *Event*, *CV2*, *Canadian Literature*, *The Antigonish Review*, *subTerrain*, *Poetry is Dead*, among others. He works in the field of community development and immigrant settlement and lives in New Westminster, BC.

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**Kevin Spenst** is the author of *Ignite*, *Jabbering with Bing Bong*, and *Hearts Amok: a Memoir in Verse* (all with Anvil Press), and over a dozen chapbooks including *Surrey Sonnets* (JackPine Press), *Upend* (Frog Hollow Press) and a holm with the Alfred Gustav Press coming out at the end of 2022. His most recent writing has appeared in the anthologies *Event 50: Collected Notes on Writing* and *Resonance: Essays on the Craft and Life of Writing*. His book launch during the pandemic was featured in a book about creative practices: *The Creative Instigators' Handbook*. He teaches creative writing at Vancouver Community College and Simon Fraser University and he lives in Vancouver on unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) territory.

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**Jónína Kirton** is Red River Métis/Icelandic poet and a graduate of the Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio. Jónína's third book, *Standing in a River of Time*, was recently released in the Spring of 2022. A late-blooming poet, she was sixty-one when she received the 2016 City of Vancouver's Mayor's Arts Award for an Emerging Artist in the Literary Arts category. Her first collection of poetry, *page as bone ~ ink as blood*, was released with Talonbooks in 2015. Her second collection, *An Honest Woman* was a finalist for the 2018 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. We are also pleased to add that Jónína was our 2021 Cogswell Award Judge.

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**Cecily Nicholson** is the author of four books, and past recipient of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry. She has held the Ellen and Warren Tallman Writer in Residence at Simon Fraser University, and Writer in Residence at the University of Windsor. Her forthcoming poetry collection *HARROWINGS* considers Black rurality and art history.

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