Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival

2027 Haiku Exhibition

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Featured in multiple outdoor locations in Spring 2027

The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival (VCBF) invites a unique opportunity for emerging and established artists, with priority being given to artists who identify as Indigenous and/or Japanese Canadian, to produce an exciting new work to celebrate the 2026 winners of the Haiku Invitational and the transcendent fleeting beauty of the flowering cherry tree.

Interested artists will choose one of the six winning haiku poems and propose an original visual piece (or an adapted piece that works well in conversation with the poem that integrates the poem text into the artwork). Selected artists will be chosen by a panel of Festival artists.

To submit your application form, please visit the following link:

Apply Here: https://airtable.com/app1RXaapKx2bbmXi/pagY4drfQkVVq9mSf/form

Deadline Extended: November 30, 2026 (11:59PM PST)

Artist Application Deadline: November 15, 2026 (11:59PM PST)

About

The installation will be displayed at several of our Signature Events, including The Big Picnic, Blossoms After Dark, and Sakura Days Japan Fair.

It will consist of 6 illuminated cylinders independently supported to highlight the beauty of the cherry tree trunks and the cylinders will be 4’ diameter x 6’ high wooden structures that will support a printed translucent fabric (held at top and bottom only). The translucent fabric will be backlit using LED flex light, located at the top and bottom of the cylinder.

Requirements

We invite you to showcase your creativity by displaying the winning haiku in a large, easily visible font on a fabric canvas. Each artist will be responsible for designing one cylinder wrap. To view previous year’s featured artists and their artwork, visit our Haiku Exhibition page here or scroll further in this document.

Artwork will be due on **February 1, 2027**. Each artist will receive a compensation of **$2,000**.

Artwork Specifications:

- **Format:** Landscape
- **Original Artwork Size: 60" x 135" with a 1" bleed**
- **Integration:** The haiku text, along with the poet's name must be clearly incorporated into the design.
- **Medium:** Both digital and traditional methods (e.g., hand-drawn or painted) are accepted. If you opt for traditional methods, please ensure that your final artwork is digitized to meet our submission requirements.

Important: All submitted art must be vectorized.

In order to print artwork, it needs to be in vector format. If you are unable to provide this, please check in with the VCBF team right away so that we can arrange to assist you.

Timeline

2026	
December 1	Selected Artists Announced
Mid December	Informational and Planning Meeting with Artists and VCBF
2027	
February 1	Deadline for Final Draft of Artwork (followed by a week for any logistical edits with the Exhibit Designer)
February - March	Printing and Production
End of March	First Installation at David Lam Park
April	Official Exhibit Opening
April	Exhibition moves to VanDusen Botanical Garden for 2 weeks in time for Sakura Days Japan Fair

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Andrea Arnot, at andrea@vcbf.ca.

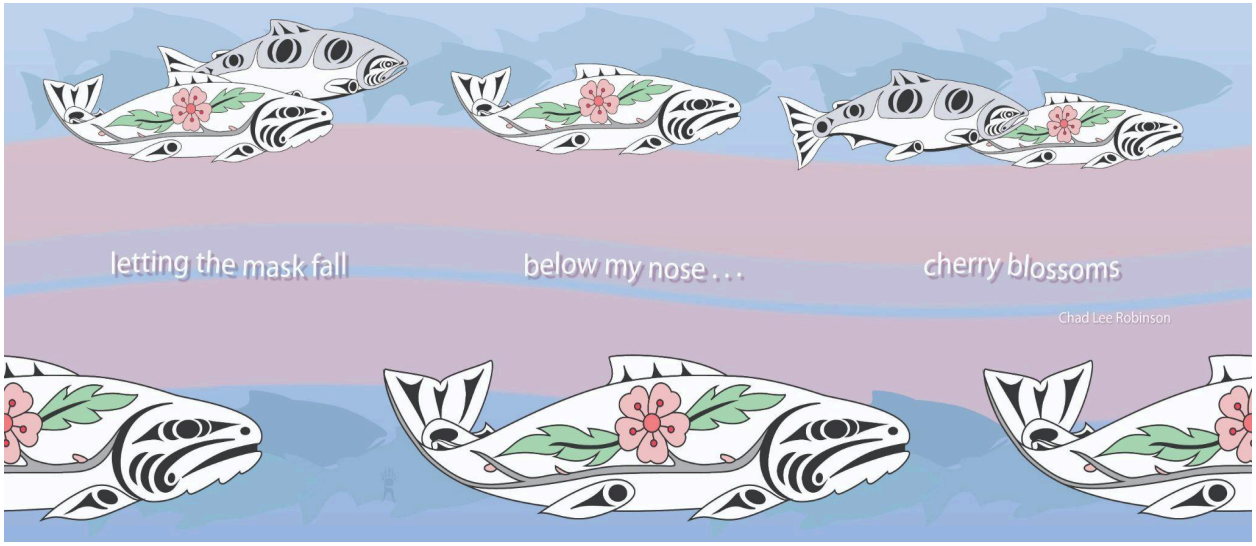




Examples of Artwork from Past Years:



Artwork: Chase Gray | Haiku: elehna de sousa (2022 Haiku Invitational Best British Columbia)



Artwork: Xwalacktun (Rick Harry) | Haiku: Chad Lee Robinson (2021 Haiku Invitational Best United States)



Artwork: Erva Sparrow | Haiku: Susan Constable (2021 Haiku Invitational Best British Columbia)

Cylinder Design Specifications:

