GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS
2027

The Arts and Letters Awards Program was established in 1952 to encourage the creation of new works of art by residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. Open to both professional and non-professional artists, each year this program recognizes excellence through the awarding of monetary prizes and the opportunity for winners to participate in an annual exhibition at The Rooms. Original creative works in literature, music, and visual art are eligible.

Entries must be submitted in digital format. See General Guidelines, Digital Delivery Guidelines, and Section Guidelines below.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Deadline: Entries must be received no later than **midnight, Friday November 20, 2026.**

- You must be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador for a minimum of 12 consecutive months at the time of entry (proof of residency may be requested).

- Divisions
    - Senior Division - Age 21 years & over by November 20, 2026
    - Junior Division (two levels)
        - Ages 10-15 years by November 20, 2026
        - Ages 16-20 years by November 20, 2026

- Each entry must be accompanied by an application form confirming the work:
    - was completed within the last 12 months
    - is the result of individual effort (group creations are not eligible)
    - has not won any public competition
    - will not be published, exhibited, or otherwise publicly presented, including on any social media platforms, before April 23, 2027
    - has not previously been submitted to the Arts and Letters Awards Program
    - is original—see below
    - does not include appropriated cultural components - see Cultural Appropriation in Art.

- Original Work
    - Any visual art entry that is a copy of an artwork (or part of an artwork) created by another person, even with the creator's permission or when the work is in the public domain, will not be considered original artwork and will be disqualified. This includes recreating the original work in a different medium.
    - Any literary entry that plagiarizes another work will be disqualified. Plagiarism is the word-for-word duplication of a section of someone else's work. The Arts and Letters Awards Program carries out random plagiarism checks each year.
    - Any music entry must be an original composition by the applicant. Music entries that are a performance of a composition (or includes part of a composition) created by another person, even with the creator's permission or when the work is in the public domain, will not be considered original and will be disqualified.
    - While an artist may submit works in multiple categories, single works may not be submitted in multiple categories. An example of this would include literary works translated and submitted to both English and French Literary will not be eligible. Another example of this would be lyrics from a musical work are not eligible to be submitted under both the literary and music categories.

- Your name must not appear anywhere on the work.

- Adjudication
    - All prizes are at the discretion of adjudicators.
    - A brief written adjudication of each entry will be provided if requested.
    - Do not submit additional comments/explanations/statements. These will not be forwarded to the adjudicators.

- Exhibition of winning entries in all sections, and selected entries in the Visual Arts sections, is scheduled for **April 23 - June 2027**, at The Rooms. Creators of selected entries agree to make their work available April 23 -June 2027.

- All possible care is taken of entries selected for exhibition; however, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is not responsible for uncollected artwork, or loss or damage by accident, theft, fire or otherwise. Government assumes no responsibility for the safe transportation or insurance of any entry selected for exhibition.

- The copyright remains the property of the entrant.

DIGITAL DELIVERY GUIDELINES

- Submit application forms and creative works as separate attachments. Do not paste the form or work into the body of the email.

- Submissions will be accepted by email as PDF, JPEG, MP3, and MP4 files. For large visual art or audio files, you may want to consider submitting your entry by WeTransfer.

Entries submitted through any other means (Dropbox, Google docs, zip drives) will not be accepted.

- Application forms:
  - The Application Form is available as a fillable PDF or Word document. Please remember to save your PDF before emailing.

- Emails and attachments:
  - Indicate the section and division in your email subject line; for example: "Visual, Senior; Music, Junior 16-20"
  - Title each attachment; for example: "Application form, Poetry, Music, Visual"
  - When submitting to more than one category, provide a separate form and email for each work.

SECTION GUIDELINES

Winners in the 2026 Senior Division are not permitted to enter work in the same section for 2027. Special note for Literary: because the Senior Literary Section includes four genres (Poetry, Short Fiction, Nonfiction and Dramatic Script), a 2026 winner **is** permitted to enter a different genre in the Literary Section for 2027 (e.g., a winner in Poetry in 2026 is not permitted to enter in Poetry for 2027, but may enter in Short Fiction, Nonfiction or Dramatic Script). This rule does **NOT** apply to the Junior Division.

Junior and senior visual arts exhibitors who were not winners in 2026 are permitted to enter the 2027 awards program. However, 2026 exhibitors are only eligible to be exhibited in 2027 if they are a winning entry under the 2027 awards program.

Literary

- To enter, email your work in PDF format to artsandletters@gov.nl.ca

- Entries must be double-spaced (poetry may be single-spaced).

- Ensure your name, and any other identifying information, does **NOT** appear on the work.

- Senior: only one entry is permitted in any **ONE** of the following:
  - Poetry
  - Short Fiction (maximum length: 5,000 words)
  - Nonfiction (maximum length: 5,000 words)
  - Dramatic Script (radio, television, film or stage)

- Junior: only one entry is permitted in **EITHER** of the following:
  - Poetry
  - Prose (maximum length: 5,000 words)

- A completed application form must be emailed with your entry.

French Literary

- To enter, email your work in PDF format to artsandletters@gov.nl.ca.
- Entries must be double-spaced (poetry may be single-spaced).
- Ensure your name, and any other identifying information, does **NOT** appear on the work.
- Only one entry permitted per person.
- This section is open to any literary genre. Maximum length: 5,000 words.
- A completed application form must accompany your entry.

Music

- To enter, email your work in MP3 format to artsandletters@gov.nl.ca.
- For larger audio files, you may want to consider submitting your entry by WeTransfer. Entries submitted through any other means (Dropbox, Google docs, zip drives) will not be accepted.
- Full scores must accompany your entry for classical works and are recommended for other works. If your work includes lyrics, a copy of the lyrics must be emailed together with your entry.
- Entries released on commercial recordings, published or publicly performed prior to April 23, 2027, are not eligible.
- While the entry can be performed and recorded by a group, group creations are not eligible.
- Only one entry is permitted per person.
- This section is open to all musical genres.
- A completed application form must accompany your entry and include the duration of the work, recording techniques where appropriate, and instrumentation.

Visual Arts

- **It is strongly recommended that before submitting to this section, you review** How to Photograph Your Artwork.
- Email your image(s) to artsandletters@gov.nl.ca.

- For larger image files, you may want to consider submitting your entry by WeTransfer. Entries submitted through any other means (Dropbox, Google docs, zip drives) will not be accepted.

- You may also mail your images(s) on a clearly labelled USB flash drive to the address below. Please note, these will not be returned.

- Number of images: For two-dimensional works, submit one image of the full work. It is also recommended that you submit one or two details of your work. For three-dimensional works, submit three images, including views of the work from different angles and/or a detail.

- If your signature is visible on the work, it must be covered before photographing the work.

- Only one entry is permitted per person.

- This section is open to artwork in any medium, including but not limited to: painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, collage, mixed media, stained glass, fibre arts, digitally produced images, unique bookworks, sculpture in all media (including wood, metal, paper-mâché, glass, clay, stone), and combinations or assemblages of any of the above.

- A completed application form must accompany your entry and include the medium and dimensions of your work.

Mailing address:
Arts and Letters Awards Program
Culture Division
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

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For questions about submitting and general questions about the program, please call 709-729-7446 or email artsandletters@gov.nl.ca