

From: "Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council - DL](#)"

Date: 9/5/2025 11:00:35 AM

Subject: Vancouver Book Award Update

Dear Mayor and Council,

This email provides an update on planned changes to the event related to the City's Vancouver Book Award (VBA):

- The VBA is awarded annually, recognizing a winner and shortlist of books that reflect Vancouver's unique character, rich diversity and culture, history and residents. The VBA was created in 1989 by Council with funds from the Publishing Reserve.
- The VBA and shortlist are determined by an independent selection committee representing the diversity of Vancouver's literary community. The process is facilitated by City staff within Arts, Culture and Community Services.
- The VBA has typically been awarded at the Vancouver Book Award event, held as part of the Vancouver Writers Fest in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Writers Fest.
- In 2025, the award will instead be presented as part of the City's Awards of Excellence event on October 15, 2025. The Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding achievements made by individuals and organizations, in 7 categories of achievement. The Awards of Excellence, Heritage Awards, and Vancouver Book Award will all be presented at a consolidated celebration event held at the Roundhouse.
- This change enables the City to profile the winner to a broader audience, responds to current financial constraints, and aligns with prior council direction to explore consolidation of the City's awards programs (in the amended motion related to RTS 16484).
- A news release will be issued in advance of the Awards of Excellence event, announcing the VBA winner and recognizing the shortlist.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and she will ensure a response through the weekly Q&As

Thank you,

Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.