77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 26-299 **Meeting Date**: 9/3/2026

TITLE:	**SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT POEM REVIEW AT SHALIMAR PARK**
DEPARTMENT:	**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
PRESENTED BY:	**MONIQUE VILLASENOR, RECREATION MANAGER**
CONTACT INFORMATION:	**MONIQUE VILLASENOR, RECREATION MANAGER, (714) 754-5009**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission receive and file poems selected by an external review panel for the Sidewalk Poetry Project at Shalimar Park (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The sidewalk poetry project brings poetry to parks by imprinting poems into concrete walkways, and addresses the following two (2) goals as outlined in the Arts and Culture Master Plan, Attachment 2:

Goal #2: Expand public art throughout the City

Goal #3: Professionalize and elevate the status of arts and culture in city government, Objective 3.1.4: to appoint an Artist Laureate (Poet Laureate)

The City's inaugural Poet Laureate, Danielle Hanson has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the literary arts in Costa Mesa. The sidewalk poetry project is part of these efforts.

The Parks and Community Services Department has two (2) ongoing park renovations occurring in 2026, as part of the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) list; Ketchum-Libolt Park and Shalimar Park. Both park projects, include the additional community inclusion component by administering a call for poems application for Costa Mesa constituents to participate in. Qualified poems were reviewed and selected from the pool of applicants by a review panel. Number of poems, placement and themes will vary by park.

ANALYSIS:

A review panel comprised of Poet Laureate, Danielle Hanson, Mayor Pro Tem Chavez, Parks and Community Services commissioner Garcia Arcos, convened to select poems to be imprinted into newly cemented sidewalks for Shalimar Park. A call for poems was administered from July 1 until July 27, 2026 to solicit poems from the community and those aged 10-18.

The park is currently undergoing renovations and will include four (4) new poems. An outside vendor will create heavy vinyl molds/imprints of the selected poems, to be pressed into the sidewalk as part of the renovation in the next couple of months.

FISCAL REVIEW

There are currently no costs associated with this process.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission receive and file poems selected by an external review panel for the Sidewalk Poetry Project at Shalimar Park (Attachment 1).