

Vines Art Festival 2026 Artist Applications

what does the spirit of the setting sun say

We're asking about transformation this year. Like the reflection of the sunset over water. Like the place where the Fraser meets saltwater.

We are seeking work for the next Vines Art Festival, on xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Sḵw̱xwú7mesh and Tsleil-Waututh land in August 2026, when the days stretch long but you can feel them starting to shorten. When heat can feel heavy and strange before a storm rolls in from the Salish Sea. When dusk does something to the light that makes the familiar look coded, layered, like there's something underneath you're meant to notice.

We want work that recognizes everything is alive and looking back at you. The stone, the storm, the river, the light at that particular angle. Work that understands you're never making something alone, we are always collaborating. The weather has opinions, the hour of day is a participant.

This festival is for creatives, striving to survive in relation to one another and to the supernatural. Together finding the answer to: what does the spirit of the setting sun say?

Guidelines

- We encourage applicants to propose, create and submit works that revolve around the theme of “what does the spirit of the setting sun say”.
- We invite artists of all disciplines interested in creating outdoor performances to apply. We are also looking for visual artists to create work that can be temporarily installed in parks.
- Collaboration is encouraged. Make sure that your collaborators have consented and agreed to work with you.
- Interactive art that allows audience participation is supported!
- We love experimental work and both durational and shorter pieces are accepted
*Staged pieces are from 10 – 25 minutes and durational pieces are 30 min – 2 hrs and are works that audiences can come and go to or pass by.

- Although we have access to sound equipment and some necessary technology, Vines is a low tech festival hosted on public space. Most events take place in the light. Things like projections are not within our capability. If you're curious about if your piece's tech needs can be fulfilled, don't hesitate to check in!
- Rooted in Indigenous knowledge, queer-hearted, and neurodiverse-minded, Vines welcomes all to apply
- Keep in mind that your work should speak from your own experiences. If you or your collaborators are not a part of a cultural group, please don't submit a piece about that cultural group. Nothing about us without us!

Submissions in ASL

We invite d/Deaf and hard of hearing artists who are most comfortable in ASL to submit your application in video form in ASL answering the application questions. Please submit your video through a Youtube or Vimeo link sent to info@vinesartfestival.com. If you have questions about the application and festival that cannot be communicated by email, let us know that we need to arrange a phone call via relay service or on zoom with an ASL interpreter. Please include your name, email, phone number, mailing address, and english pronouns in the body of the email.

Alternative Application Process

We are accepting video applications (max 15 mins) through a Youtube or Vimeo link sent to info@vinesartfestival.com from any artist for whom it is challenging to submit a written application. You do not have to worry about editing or being visible in the video, just make sure that we can understand your voice and ideas, and please enable auto captioning. Please include your name, email, phone number, mailing address, and pronouns in the body of the email.

Accessibility

We will discuss accessibility with artists early in the curation process to meet the needs of blind, d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent audience members and artists. To do so we will work collaboratively with you to identify how to best curate the festival to support diverse access needs, including your own. Keep in mind throughout your application that for works including spoken word, music and theatre, you will need to provide a transcript one week before your performance **at the latest** to allow for ASL interpreters' preparation.

APPLICATION DUE:

February 9, 2026 at 11:59 PM PST

RESULTS RELEASED:

March 2026

PAYMENT:

Honorarium, project dependent. If you have questions about fee email info@vinesartfestival.com

DATES OF FESTIVAL:

August 5-15, 2026

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS:

Trout Lake Park (South end), Dude Chilling Park, Stanley Park, Oppenheimer Park, Pandora Park, Creekside Park, Grandview Park, Sunset Beach.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

*Required, send in body of email

- **Name***
- **Pronouns**
- **Email***
- **Phone number**
- **City***
- **Socials:**
 - Website/Instagram/Facebook/Twitter/etc:
- **Links to footage of work or past works**

Youtube/Vimeo and photos

- **Artistic Discipline(s)**
- **Collaborator(s)**
- **Is your performance/artwork:**

- Stationary
- Roaming through the park
- Workshop
- Interactive installation
- Other

- **Is your performance/artwork:**
- A new work
- Previously performed work

- **Concept of proposed work**

Please mention the relationship to environmental justice and social justice. If the work has been presented in the past list locations. Why do you want to present your work at Vines?

- **Estimated length of piece**

If this is an art piece please put N/A

- **Estimated number of performers**

- **Type of space requested**

Do you need an open field, a tree, a specific site in Vancouver etc.

- **Are there any specific technical needs?**

Please Note: Vines is a low tech festival

- **Brief bio**

- **Accessibility**

1) If you are a blind, d/Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent artist, what are specific ways we can support you in the creation of your piece, during our communication, and/or during your festival performance? In the past we have booked ASL interpretation, provided colour coded tags to indicate comfort level with social interaction, and we have worked with a live descriptor for blind folks

2) If you have worked with mixed ability artist groups or audiences and know how you want to make your piece accessible, please let us know (in the past a performance group has provided their own audio description of a dance piece for blind and visually impaired audiences).

- **Anything else you'd like to add?**