

Poet Laureate's City Poems Project 2022-2024: Poems & Poetry Videos about Place

Here is a selection of poetry videos made by local post-secondary student teams based on poems by local poets about various historical, cultural and ecological sites on the unceded traditional territory that we now know as Vancouver for the [Vancouver Poet Laureate's City Poems Project 2022-2024](#). Some of the poems have been interpreted in different ways, which provides students a chance to discuss which version they prefer and why. Links to both the poetry video and the text of the poems are included so that the poem can be read in advance to enhance appreciation of the videos, as well as to allow students to explore the interrelationship between the words, images and sound. Students can be encouraged to make place-based poetry videos of their own as a school project! To see the full range of City Poems poetry videos, please see the VPL's YouTube Playlist for [2023 \(33 poetry videos\)](#) and [2024 \(9 poetry videos\)](#).

1. Musqueam Territory



Know Who You Are and Know Where You Come From (Version One)

Based on a prose poem/lyric prose by Musqueam weaver and artist, Debra Sparrow. Includes scenes with Debra Sparrow.

[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)



Know Who You Are and Know Where You Come From (Version Two with animated sequences)

Based on a prose poem/lyric prose by Musqueam weaver and artist, Debra Sparrow. Includes live action with animated sections.

[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)

2. Japanese Canadian Internment (Vancouver)



What do I remember of the evacuation (Version One)

Based on a poem by Joy Kogawa. Mostly set at Historic Joy Kogawa House and Hastings Park.

[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)



What do I remember of the evacuation (Version Two)

An artistic interpretation of a short excerpt of a poem by Joy Kogawa. In Japanese with English subtitles.

[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)

3. Chinese Canadian History and Chinatown (Vancouver)



Contrasts (Animated Version)

Based on a poem by Donna Seto about the gentrification of Chinatown.

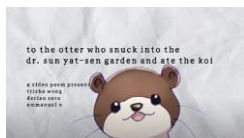
[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)



Contrasts (Live Action Version)

2 girls have different experiences traversing Chinatown. A live-action interpretation of Donna Seto's poem.

[Link to video](#)
[Link to poem](#)



To the Otter Who Snuck into the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden and Ate the Koi

Based on a poem by Kelsey Andrews, a homeless narrator recalls how two otters infiltrated the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



Found

Based on James Wang's poem about the unknown Chinese workers buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)

4. South Asian Canadian History (Vancouver)

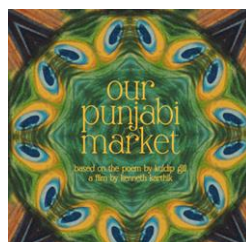


Welcome

Based on a short poem by Sadhu Binning about the Komagata Maru incident in 1914 where South Asian migrants from India were turned away after a 3 month stand-off. (English and Punjabi)

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



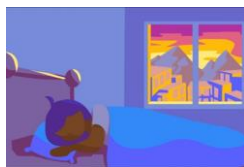
Our Punjabi Market

Based on a poem by Kuldip Gill about the Punjabi Market at 49th and Main in East Vancouver.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)

5. Black History: Hogan's Alley Neighbourhood (Vancouver)



This was meant to be for Nora (Version One: animated)

An award-winning animated poetry video based on a poem by Junie Desil.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



This was meant to be for Nora (Version Two)

Based on a poem by Junie Desil with scenes of local sites.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)

6. Other poetry videos based on sites of ecological or historical significance in Vancouver



Take a St. And

Based on a poem by Rita Wong about Vancouver's lost streams and specifically the St. George Greenway in East Vancouver.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



Gravity, Gravitass

Based on a poem by Gary Geddes about the infamous and deadly 1958 collapse of the Second Narrows Bridge/ Ironworkers Bridge during construction. Includes archival footage.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



Postcard from English Bay (Version One)

Narrated by the poet, this video uses collage to integrate this surreal poem's references to disparate elements of local history.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)



Postcard from English Bay (Version Two)

Zany seagulls are the central motif in an edgy and sardonic interpretation of this surrealist poem.

[Link to video](#)

[Link to poem](#)