Call for Poems!
Sidewalk Poetry

The Healthy By Design Coalition is seeking poetry submissions to be imprinted into sidewalks around the South Side triangle neighborhood.

- $100 honorarium for use of selected poems
- Applicant will submit poetry samples (see application for more details)
- Poems will be reviewed by a selection committee of South Side neighborhood residents
- Selected poems will be printed onto a stamp, which is then applied directly to the sidewalk cement by a professional installer
- Sidewalk stamps are limited to 300 characters with spaces. Poems longer than 300 characters may be submitted for excerpt selection.

Deadline: Saturday, April 4th, 2020

To request more information or to download an application, please visit: www.hbdyc.org/healthy-neighborhood-project

This project is an initiative of the Healthy By Design Coalition. Funding is made possible through a grant from the Kresge Foundation. This sidewalk poetry initiative is modified from the Public Art St. Paul sidewalk poetry program.
Application and Project Information

Eligibility and Selection Process – Poems will be accepted from anyone with a connection to the South Side neighborhood. Whether you live, work, play, learn, or grew up on the South Side – we want to see your poems! A review committee comprised of mostly South Side residents will review the applications and make final selections.

Selection Criteria

- This project’s theme is the South Side – The Bright Side of the Tracks. Poetry submissions that celebrate this theme will be considered for selection.
- Submissions that include advertising or logos will not be considered.
- Preference will be given to applicants that live, work, play, learn, or grew up on the South Side.

Location - Poems will be displayed on sidewalks throughout the South Side triangle of Billings. If selected for exhibition, location of individual poems will be at the sole discretion of the City.

Duration – Poems will be replaced as needed to address safety concerns, in accordance with city maintenance standards.

Honorarium – Applicants whose poems are selected for sidewalk stamps will receive a $100 honorarium.

Submission Guidelines - Poems can be can be submitted in digital or handwritten form. Submissions may be conceptual poems, but should convey enough detail, and alignment with the theme, for the selection committee. Please see application for instructions on submitting your poem. Following the selection process, all concept poems will be returned to the poet. Each poet may submit up to three (3) poems as part of their application. However, due to the limited number of sidewalk poetry opportunities, only one poem per poet will be selected.

Fabrication - If selected, poets may be asked to work with the selection committee and stamp fabricator in designing the final stamp. By submitting works, poets agree to grant permission to alter and/or crop work as needed. Following fabrication, all poetry will be returned to poets.

Warranty - Applicants verify that submitted poetry is their own work and does not violate another’s copyright. If a poem includes written depictions of partially or entirely recognizable people, the poet may be asked to provide written permission from the individuals referenced if the poem is selected for stamping.

Recognition – Selected poets will be recognized by credit on their work, and on the project webpage located on the Healthy By Design Coalition website, www.hbdyc.org.
Interested, but don’t know where to start?
Tips from former Montana poet laureate Tami Haaland

Let yourself experiment when you work with these prompts. A first draft is just that—a draft. Try to use words that sound amazing—pitch and catch, chain link and scratch. These words play with the “ch” sound, for instance, and they cause us to think of specific actions or scenes.

Lively language works well in poems. The same is true of sensory detail—the way light glints off a spider web or the sound coming from the train tracks, or fingers on the keys of a piano. Specific detail can bring a poem to life.

Below are several prompts, but you may find something else to write about. The idea is to let the words flow and see what happens.

1. Find a casual photograph of you and your friends or family. Invent a story about the image and the memory it may have for you. Include sensory detail. What were people saying? Were there any scents in the air? What sounds did you hear? What colors were present in this scene?

2. Take a walk on the South Side. Who do you meet? What do you see? What do you hear? What textures do you notice—for example, gravel or sidewalk or snow under your feet? What do you notice on the horizon?

3. What is your favorite place? It might be a specific tree in a park or your kitchen table or the back yard at night. It could be a public place like a coffee shop or a church. Again, what details do you notice? Use these details to express the emotion you feel in this place.

4. Pay attention to the birds and other creatures you find. Write your observations using specific sounds and sights.

5. Are you interested in sports or do you watch your children play sports? Focus on one of their games, the plays they make, how they react during and after the game.

Write a tribute to a neighbor or someone you know well. You might consider a historical figure who played an important role in your neighborhood.
South Side Sidewalk Poetry - Application
Deadline: April 4th, 2020

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Applicant Name (first and last): If organizing a group project, please include the name of the primary or lead applicant:

_____________________________________________________________

Street address: _______________________________________________________________

City: _________________________ State: _____________ Zip Code: ________________

Primary Phone: _____________________ Secondary phone: ___________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________

Website (if applicable): ______________

Names of other poets, if submitting as a group project: ____________________________________________

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

☐ This completed application form.

☐ Poet statement, including the following information:
  o The inspiration for your poem, specifically how you have chosen to interpret the theme, the South Side – the Bright Side of the Tracks into your work. If your design incorporates historical, structural, or other significant neighborhood elements, please describe those in detail.
  o Why you would like your poem displayed on the South Side (no longer than 1 page in length)

☐ Poem submission in digital or copied format.

Please send only one copy of the poem submission and do not send originals. If you have questions, please call Hannah Groves at 247.3394.

Mail your submission packet to: Healthy by Design Coalition
South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program
Attn: Hannah Groves
123 S. 27th St., Billings, MT 59101

or digital copies can be emailed to: info@hbdyc.org with the subject title “Sidewalk Poetry Submission”

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

• Submit through email, an attached copy of the poem selection labeled with the poet’s name and date of submission.
• A maximum of 3 poems per person or group may be submitted.
• Files are to be saved and submitted in PDF format (.pdf).
• If submitting paper copy of the poem, make sure that the poem is printed, either from a computer or legibly written, for selection committee review.

*Please note that poetry submissions may be used as an example of your work and style. The selection committee may decide to work with you to develop the exact poem that will be used. Poem excerpts are also acceptable. To be considered for this project applications must be received by April 4th, 2020 at 123 S. 27th St. Special priority consideration will be given to South Side residents and organizations.
SOUTH SIDE SIDEWALK POETRY PROGRAM

I, __________________________ have applied to have my name, information and artistic materials made part of the South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program. I understand that these materials will be used by the Healthy by Design Coalition (HBD) in fulfilling HBD’s responsibilities as established in The South Side Healthy Neighborhood Plan, and that among those responsibilities are:

☐ Selection of poetry for placement in (or on) certain public sidewalks, buildings, structures and outdoor improvements; and conducting of public forums as part of the selection process.

I further understand and, in consideration of the opportunity to be included in the South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program, agree to the following:

☐ From time to time, samples of my work may be shown at public forums related to the South Side Healthy Neighborhood Project;

☐ From time to time, members of the Healthy by Design Coalition may discuss my work and artistic capabilities in forums that are open to the general public and in Sidewalk Poetry community meetings;

☐ Open, honest, frank discussions of art and poetry – including, at times, discussion of my work and myself – are necessary and fundamental to the selection process.

☐ Participants in these public forums and other discussions must be free to express opinions and judgments without fear.

☐ I hereby release the Healthy By Design Coalition, City of Billings, and the City of Billings, and their affiliated partner organizations, officers, employees, agents and consultants, as well as any participant in any public forum conducted as part of the South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program, from any and all liability to me or my legal representatives for any statement, comment, opinion or judgment (expressed or implied), regardless of when or how made, concerning my artwork or artistic capabilities, and I waive any and all claims for any such liability, in perpetuity, for myself and my legal representatives.

☐ In no event will I undertake, seek or authorize any type of legal recourse against the Healthy By Design Coalition, any of its affiliated partner organizations, officers, employees, agents or consultants, or against any participant in any public forum conducted as part of the South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program, for any statement, comment, opinion or judgment expressed or implied concerning my artwork or artistic capabilities.

☐ If any other person seeks legal recourse against the Healthy by Design Coalition, any of its affiliated partner organizations, officers, employees, agents or consultants, or against any participant in any public forum conducted as part of the South Side Sidewalk Poetry Program, for any such statement, comment, opinion or judgment expressed or implied concerning my artwork or artistic capabilities, I will defend and hold harmless the Healthy by Design Coalition, its partner organizations, officers, employees, agents and consultants, as well as participants in any public forum conducted as part of the South Side Healthy Neighborhood Plan from any and all suits, claims, damages, losses and expenses, including attorneys’ fees, caused by, growing out of, or incidental to such statement, comment, opinion or judgment.

Application Date: ____________________________

Printed Applicant Name: ____________________________ Applicant Signature: ____________________________

If Applicant is under 18 years of age:

Adult/Guardian Name: ____________________________ Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________