

What books are eligible?

- English-language, first-edition, non-fiction books available to the public.
- Subject matter must significantly relate to Toronto's shared past and peoples' lived experience.
- New editions of previously published books are ineligible; however, books featuring work previously published in other formats (e.g., newspaper or digital articles) will be considered.
- Self-published books are ineligible.
- Books containing AI-generated text either in part or in whole are ineligible.
- The book must have been published **between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025**.

How will nominations be evaluated?

The independent jury considers the following criteria:

- **Relationship to Toronto:** Does the book's themes, settings, and/or subject matter relate significantly to Toronto's archaeological, built, cultural, or natural heritage?
- **Scholarship:** Does the book contribute to historical knowledge about Toronto? This may be demonstrated either through original academic research and reliance on a diversity of sources or by the strength of a book's premise, plot, character and setting (such as in first-person nonfiction narratives), particularly from unique and overlooked points of view.
- **Education:** Does the book engage the public and provide a framework for understanding history and/or issues around heritage in Toronto?
- **Production Value:** Does the book exhibit high quality in design, editing, illustration, and layout that effectively contributes to achieving excellence in scholarship and education as outlined above?

What do I need to submit?

Nomination packages must be submitted via an online nomination form available on the Heritage Toronto website. Please note that submission of an online form does not guarantee that the project will be accepted as a nominee for the 2026 Awards.

Nominees will be notified in August 2026 that they have been accepted as nominees for this year's program. Nomination forms must include the following materials:

- **Summary of the Book (Max. 500 words):** Describe the book and why it is deserving of recognition according to the eligibility standards and jury criteria outlined above. Please note how Toronto plays a significant role in the book's theme, setting, or subjects.
- **Supporting Documents:** Include materials such as formal book reviews or promotional material. (Optional, maximum 4 additional pages).
- **Designated Representative:** Please provide contact details for one person who will represent the book during the Heritage Toronto Awards event to accept the award, should the project win.
- **Social Media:** Please provide any relevant social media accounts connected to the project. These may be tagged by Heritage Toronto in promotion of the 2026 Awards.
- **Images:** Attach or provide a link to a high resolution (300 dpi) cover image and any image(s) from the publication that could be used to promote the project. If submitting multiple images, please identify 1-2 images for public dissemination and promotion, with all rights cleared for such purposes. Images **must include** credit line information for all media submitted (e.g., name of photographer, graphic designers, etc.).
- **Book Copies:** Six (6) print copies or a digital version via hyperlink or attachment. The nominator is encouraged to submit the package online and mail or courier the books to the address below:

Heritage Toronto – Book Jury
105 The Esplanade
Toronto, Ontario, M5E 2A2

Questions?

Please contact Melissa Cortez, Programs Coordinator (Melissa.Cortez3@toronto.ca)

DEADLINE:

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:59 pm EDT

We look forward to receiving your nomination application!