Poets write haiku about downtown, the city at large or nearby countryside. Independent artists create posters based on the haiku of their choice. The city displays the best posters in kiosks along Salina and Warren streets. We reach the larger community by selling poster prints.

**Pictured here:** Posters from 2018.

**Deadline for new haiku:** Sept. 7.

**New posters appear:** April 2019.

**Right top:**
I sold lemonade  
Back when times were innocent  
And not bittersweet

**Right bottom:**
Cold in Syracuse  
I need the blues to warm me  
Summer is for jazz

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**Deadline for new haiku:** Sept. 7.

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**Right top:**
A spring breeze still cold  
All nerves beneath the black oak  
A new leaf unfurls

**Right bottom:**
I sold lemonade  
Back when times were innocent  
And not bittersweet
Dear Writer,

The Syracuse Poster Project invites you to participate in its 18th annual series of poetry posters.

If you’ve submitted poetry before, consider contributing more, honing earlier submissions or sharing this invitation with a friend. If you’re new to the project, think of it as a chance to contribute to the city’s culture.

Each year, we reach out to poets for haiku poems about downtown, the city at large or the nearby countryside. Each haiku stands a chance of becoming an illustrated poster. We also disseminate haiku through new platforms, such as Haiku-of-the-Day on social media and dynamic poetry displays on flat screens.

New for 2019: Join us as we reinvigorate our work by reaching out to artists across the community. Our call for art, formerly limited to a single class of illustration students at Syracuse University, now goes out to skilled artists and designers communitywide. You can help by referring artists to us, or simply by sending more and even better haiku.

You can submit up to three haiku. We’ll select 150 top haiku to pass along for artists’ consideration. An ad hoc committee will then select artists’ best work for a series of up to 16 posters. The posters will be displayed in the downtown poster panels starting in April. Please devote these last weeks of summer to experiencing the culture, pleasures and peculiarities of our city. Syracuse distinguishes itself through multiculturalism. What special perspective do you bring to the mix? How can you convey the depth of your experience in the few words of haiku? Delve into this and send us your best work.

Good haiku wakes us up to a poet’s direct experience. Be direct, honest and original. Look beyond the places and experiences that have already inspired posters. Seek fresh, unpredictable language. Don’t feel obligated to write upbeat, optimistic poems. Embrace authentic experience and raw truth.

If your poem inspires a poster... You’ll be invited to a preliminary social gathering for poets and artists. You’ll see your work illustrated. You’ll get two 11”x17” prints of your poster. The poster with your poem and name on it will appear in the poster panels along Salina and Warren streets, downtown.

You’ll be a special guest at our unveiling celebration for the new posters.

You’ll get additional exposure. Prints of the posters are available for sale, and a set of framed prints goes on rotating loan to exhibit spaces, including the Civic Center and the branch libraries.

Deadline: Submit work by Sept. 7.

Results: We announce selected poets in December.

Have faith: Keep submitting poems! We’re always developing new ways to share your work with the public. For example:

- Dynamic poetry displays. We select haiku from our archives, apply motion to the text and display it on large-format flat screens. To see a prototype, visit our traveling exhibit of framed poster prints on the third floor of the Central Library, 447 S. Salina St., through August. Accompanying the traditional exhibit is a new flat-screen display.

- syracuseposterprojectblog.wordpress.com Poet Rosalyn Carroll blogs about haiku from our archives.

- www.posterproject.org Visit our website to buy posters, read poets’ and artists’ comments, view guidelines for haiku, buy books on haiku, download poetry cards and explore an interactive map of poster places.

- Shop for posters at these stores: The Copy Center, 131 S. Salina St. Eureka Crafts, 210 Walton St. The Art Store, 935 Erie Blvd. E.

Join us: If you believe in Syracuse as a place of culture, help activate it. Join us as a volunteer, intern or board member.

Sincerely,

Jim Emmons
Project Coordinator

10 August 2018

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