



VANCOUVER  
**HERITAGE**  
FOUNDATION

# **Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize**

## **Program Summary 2026**

**Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize at Vancouver Heritage Foundation**

2026 deadline for applications:

**June 24, 2026**

## **Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize – Program Guidelines 2026**

Robert Lemon is an award-winning architect and writer, as well as one of the founders of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation. Born in southern Ontario, he began his architectural studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, but soon left Canada for stints in Paris and London. Upon graduation, he received the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal in Architecture, as well as the Heritage Canada Student Design Award. In 1979, Lemon moved to Vancouver, where he lived and practiced for over four decades. He has a master's degree in architectural conservation which he started at ICCROM in Rome and completed at the University of York in the UK.

Robert Lemon is a strong advocate for heritage conservation in Vancouver and across Canada. The prize has been established in his name to support the next generation of conservation professionals and enthusiasts.

The goal of the prize is to encourage advanced studies in conservation for the next generation of heritage professionals related to Vancouver. This is in alignment with the education goals of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation (VHF). Principles of conservation are applicable world-wide and making them relevant and visible in Vancouver is a core value of establishing this prize. Successful applicants will show how their project advances the goals of the VHF.

### **Prize Amount:**

\$4,000 CDN

The winner of the prize will be announced on or about July 24, 2026. The award will be made for the 2026/2027 academic year.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Students enrolled in full-time studies at an accredited post-secondary program in heritage conservation and are working on a research thesis or project in the field of conservation.

While applicants need not be Vancouverites, they must show how their studies are relevant and applicable to the goals of the VHF. This may mean demonstrating how examples of international principles could be applied to Vancouver or regional projects in BC that relate to and advance the awareness of conservation practices that are aligned with VHF goals. The relevance to VHF needs to be shown in the final report and public presentation at the completion of the project.

### **Eligible Activities:**

The prize is intended to support costs related to enrollment in a relevant academic program or to support research for a specific thesis or project. The project cannot have commenced prior to the awarding of the prize. The prize can be used to cover the following:

- Tuition costs.
- Travel costs for research trips within Canada or abroad.
- Conferences or workshops directly related to the specific thesis or project research.

## **Assessment**

The Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize Committee is chaired by a Vancouver Heritage Foundation Director and includes Robert Lemon and up to three additional members with related professional experience. The Committee may decide not to award the prize in a given year if none of the applications meets the criteria. All committee decisions are final.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with the stated goal of the prize and the eligibility requirements.
- Uniqueness of research and its alignment with modern heritage practices (e.g.- focus on adaptive reuse, sustainability, or community driven research)
- Financial need of applicant
- Relevance of proposed research to Vancouver or surrounding areas
- Relevance of proposed research to goals of VHF

Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received the award.

## **Required Information**

Applicants will be required to submit the following documentation:

- Contact Information
- Current C.V.
- Proposal (max 3000 characters) that describes the intended use of the funds, any research projects that will be funded with the prize money, and how the funds will further the student's knowledge of heritage conservation theory and practices.
- Funding statement (max 3000 characters) that describes the potential impact of the funds, and a brief description of expected revenues and expenses of the project, including any additional funding sources.
- Two letters of recommendation.
  - One must be from an academic source related to the qualifying program of study.
- Proof of enrollment in a qualifying program of study.

## **Payment Schedule**

The prize funds will be awarded to the successful applicant upon the receipt of a signed agreement.

## **Recipient Responsibilities**

The prize recipient will be required to submit a final report within three months of completing the corresponding academic year (max 1000 words) and may be asked to make a public presentation in collaboration with Vancouver Heritage Foundation on their research topic or travel experience. The format and timing of the presentation will be arranged with the VHF Program Manager.

The prize recipient agrees to have their name, photograph, and information about their research made public for the promotion of the award.