

# TARRAGON

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

### The Ellen Ross Stuart Award 2026

Tarragon Theatre is honoured to be hosting applications for the Ellen Ross Stuart Award, an opportunity for emerging creators and young-in-craft playwrights.

Tarragon is seeking applicants who are transitioning from post-secondary training to the next phase of their career, and are ready to maximize this opportunity for both creative- and professional-development within the Ontario theatre community.

## WHAT DOES THE AWARD SUPPORT?

The Ellen Ross Stuart Award celebrates the legacy of Ellen 'Nel' Ross Stuart, by empowering young writers to engage actively in their craft, in association with professional theatres. Tarragon Theatre anchors this award as the home base for award-winners, in collaboration with partner companies (previous partners include The Blyth Festival and Hart House Theatre).

Beginning in June 2026, Tarragon Theatre will host **two (2)** successful candidates for a year-long development pathway that aims to:

- deepen their craft as a playwright;
- nurture their skill development as an arts professional;
- and participate in the breadth of new-work creation at Tarragon Theatre

Award-winners receive a **\$10 000.00 cash prize** (through a pay-schedule), **in-kind resources to develop an idea** (dramaturgy, studio time, year-long residency opportunities), and **will have their work showcased for an audience in Tarragon Theatre's 2027 Playreading Week**.

Previous award-winners include **Madeleine Brown, Bessie Cheng, Sophia Fabilli, Shaharah Gaznabbi, April Leung, Sydney Scott, and Chelsea Woolley**.

In addition to the award-winners, **five (5)** awards of **\$750.00** each will be awarded to young writers of promise. These micro-grants will be paid directly to a recommended dramaturg, to help further the writer's work and craft.

**This Award is supported by Ross and Ann Stuart.**

## HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants must be 21-30 years old who have received post-secondary theatre training, or may demonstrate relevant experience.

We are seeking writers with a proven commitment to new play development, who have yet to have their work professionally produced. Successful applicants will be self-motivated, and driven to use the support of the Ellen Ross Stuart Award to open doors to the next phase of their career.

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Your application must include:

- A 1-page cover letter that explores the following:
  - The idea or play you are creating;
  - What questions are you exploring through this play?
  - Describe a timeline (June 2026-June 2027) – set goals and identify how you will achieve them;
  - How might this award, and Tarragon Theatre, align with your artistic goals?

*\*\*\* Please note that you may offer the above in audio or video format (3 mins max)*

- Your CV
  - outline your training, works written, production history
- An artistic sample from the play with which you're applying, OR from a previous work (max 10 pages). Plays of all styles and forms are welcomed.
- Provide a letter of recommendation from a theatre professional who can speak to your work as a writer, and as an artistic collaborator.

## SELECTION PROCESS

To apply, please send **by email** to Jeff Ho, Associate Artistic Director ([jeff@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:jeff@tarragontheatre.com)).

Please use the subject: **Ellen Ross Stuart Award – NAME**. The application deadline is **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 5:00 pm EST**.

Shortlisted artists will be offered follow-up interviews; award pay-schedule, and possible partner companies will be discussed at this time. All artists will be contacted by June 2026.

Tarragon Theatre believes in a richly inclusive working environment and welcomes applications from all qualified candidates. If you need accommodation pertaining to accessibility at any stage of the application process, please let us know.

*For more information, please visit our website: [www.tarragontheatre.com](http://www.tarragontheatre.com)*

## ABOUT ELLEN ROSS STUART

Ellen 'Nel' Ross Stuart was a passionate theatre-maker and theatre-lover. As a writer, her work was developed and showcased in Toronto at Tarragon Theatre, Hart House Theatre, the Paprika Festival, and York University, where she won the President's Prize for Playwriting. This award was established by Ross and Ann Stuart, to honour Nel's legacy and commitment to uplifting and empowering the next generation of writers and creators.

## ABOUT TARRAGON THEATRE

Tarragon Theatre creates, develops and produces new Canadian plays and provides the conditions for that new work to thrive through high-quality development, production and administrative infrastructure. We support the exploration of storytelling and artistic forms that champion the scope of theatrical possibility. Tarragon Theatre trains and supports new generation, emerging and established artists through extensive residencies, flexible play development programs and substantial producing capabilities.