



Associates of the Boston Public Library Children's Writer-in-Residence Program 2015-2016

Objectives

The Children's Writer-in-Residence program, funded by the Associates of the Boston Public Library, is intended to:

- Provide an emerging children's writer with the financial support and office space needed to complete one literary work for children or young adults. (The literary work can be fiction, non-fiction, a script, or poetry.)
- Encourage the imagination of young readers, and in so doing draw attention to the importance of authors and the essential role they perform in nurturing developing minds and furthering our culture.
- Promote the awareness of the Boston Public Library and its resources, by establishing a living link between Library and the community.

Criteria for Eligibility

- U.S. Citizenship
- English fluency
- Active engagement as a writer, whether full or part-time, as an avocation or profession
- Submission of an application, proposal, and writing sample by the required deadline (April 30, 2015)
- No more than three previously published books (It is not a requirement to have published work)
- Proposed works that are already under contract with a publisher are not eligible
- Only one proposal may be submitted per person
- Joint applications (from more than one author planning to collaborate) are not eligible
- There are no age, gender or educational requirements
- There is no residency requirement, but you should be able to spend at least 19 hours per week at the Boston Public Library's Central Library in Copley Square, if selected

Benefits of Residency

- A total stipend of \$20,000 paid in monthly installments over a nine-month period
- Access to and use of the Boston Public Library's special and circulating collections
- Use of a private office, Internet access and a copying machine
- A forum for the presentation/promotion of your finished literary work
- Opportunities to establish connections with writers, publishers, artists and the community at large through participation in / attendance at Library readings, lectures and other events

Terms of Residency

- Must work in-residence at the Boston Public Library's Central Library in Copley Square, for a minimum of nineteen (19) hours per week from September 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016
- Participation in a public reception towards the beginning of the residency, on a mutually agreed upon date
- Completion and public presentation of a submission-ready manuscript at the end of the residency, on a mutually agreed upon date
- Possible participation in Boston Public Library programs such as writing workshops and/or presentations to Boston-area students, as mutually agreed upon
- Acknowledgement of the Associates of the Boston Public Library in all work created during the residency, using mutually agreed upon language

Application Process

To apply for the residency please submit a completed **application** (see attached), postmarked by **April 30, 2015**. Additional paper may be attached if necessary. This must be accompanied by a **proposal** (not to exceed five typewritten, double-spaced standard pages) describing the work to be undertaken during the residency. Proposals may explain the reason why a story or topic was chosen; include a more detailed synopsis; or supply additional background information about the proposed work. Please also attach a **writing sample** directly related to the proposed work (not to exceed fifteen double-spaced standard pages).

This is a blind competition. Therefore, please include two copies of the proposal and writing sample: one set should include your name at the top of every page, while the second set must contain NO identifying biographical information. Please DO NOT staple the proposal and the writing sample lacking biographical information (it will be photocopied for the judges).

If the application includes illustrations (optional), please include two copies of each reproduction, one of which should not have any biographical information. Illustrations may not exceed 11x17 inches, and will not be returned.

All materials must be typewritten on standard weight 8½ x 11 white paper. The applicant's name must appear at the top of every page (with the exception of the proposal and writing sample with no identifying biographical information.)

For written confirmation that application materials have been received by the Associates office, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope with your application.

Basic questions about the application will be answered via email by Associates staff (associates@bpl.org); please do not call. No questions regarding how to present your work will be considered. Inquiries concerning applications under review will not be answered. Once they have been submitted, applications may not be altered by either candidates or Associates staff. No materials will be returned. Submissions via email or fax will not be accepted.

Submission

All application materials should be mailed to the following address. (Faxed, e-mailed and hand delivered applications will NOT be accepted.)

Children's Writer-in-Residence Program
Associates of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Selection Process

Applications are evaluated by a panel of judges, which includes a rotating group of authors, librarians, booksellers, publishers, editors, book designers, teachers, and/or citizens representing different areas of the world of children's literature. Associates staff do not vote in this process. The judges do not know the candidates' names or any background information. The blind judging process is focused solely on the quality of the applicant's writing. The candidate selected to be the 2015-2016 Children's Writer-in-Residence will be notified in July 2015.

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** Postmarked by **April 30, 2015**. (Late applications will NOT be considered.)
- Notification: July 2015
- Residency Period: September 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016

**Associates of the Boston Public Library
Children's Writer-in-Residence Competition
2015-2016 Application Form**

1. Name

Title (check one): Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Middle: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Home E-mail: _____

2. Occupation (we will not contact your employer)

Position/Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Work E-mail: _____

3. Title of Proposed Project: _____

4. Synopsis of Proposed Project (Max 250 words):

5. If/when your book is published, what would the back of the book say to draw in readers? (Max 150 words):

6. Attach two copies of your proposal (a description of the project, not to exceed 5 typewritten, double-spaced 8½ x 11 pages) AND writing sample (not to exceed 15 typewritten, double-spaced 8½ x 11 pages)

7. Professional Experience (list chronologically; please include all book publications):

8. Educational Experience (list degrees and dates conferred):

9. References: Please list three people who can provide letters of recommendations in the event that they are requested by the Associates of the Boston Public Library. The references should be able to speak to your work as a writer rather than assessing your character. Please include the references' contact details (mailing address, email address, phone number, employer and title.)

10. Are you a US citizen and eligible to work in the United States? Yes No

11. How did you learn about this program? (Check all that apply)

- Associates of the Boston Public Library's Website Facebook Twitter
Boston Public Library's Website Facebook Twitter
 Boston Globe article
 Craig's List
 GrubStreet
 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
 From an alumni of this program. If so, who? _____
 I've applied before. If so, when? _____
 Other: _____

12. Application Checklist

- Completed, signed and dated application form
 Detailed proposal (two copies: one including personal identifying information, the other without identification)
 Writing sample (two copies: one including personal identifying information, the other without identification)
 Stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope for notification of receipt of the application (optional)

13. Confirmation

All information included in this application is true, to the best of my knowledge. I am the sole author of the proposal and writing sample submitted for evaluation. If chosen to be the Children's Writer-in-Residence at the Boston Public Library, I agree to fulfill the obligations specified by the Associates of the Boston Public Library, as part of this position.

Signature _____ Date _____

All application materials should be MAILED to:

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Associates of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

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Materials will NOT be returned.**