

McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, \$25,000 | 2012 Loft Award in Poetry and Spoken Word Poetry

The Loft Literary Center is pleased to announce the 2012 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers. This program is made possible by the generous support of the McKnight Foundation. The McKnight Foundation also funds artist fellowship programs in ceramic arts, choreography and dance, music composition, music performance, playwriting and theater arts, screenwriting, and visual arts.

The Fellowship Program

The Loft Literary Center administers the McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, which provide Minnesota writers of demonstrated ability with an opportunity to work on their writing for a concentrated period of time.

Five fellowships are awarded. One award in Children's Literature alternates annually between writers for children under the age of eight and writing for older readers. Four fellowships alternate annually between writers of poetry/spoken word poetry and writers of creative prose.

The program does not accept work in the form of plays, screenplays, journalism, self-help, or academic, educational, or business writing.

Winners will be paid in equal monthly installments. All fellowship winners will be honored at a reception with the judges. Winners will present their work in a public event to be arranged with Loft staff.

Judging

A prominent writer living outside of Minnesota serves as the judge. There are no screening judges. All manuscripts are judged anonymously. The judge will not know the identity of the applicants and the applicants will not know the identity of the judge until the winners are announced.

Deadline

Friday, October 21, 2011 by 5 p.m. ***This is not a postmark deadline!*** All entries must be received in the Loft offices by this date. Late entries will not be accepted.

Address entries to McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, Loft Awards in Poetry, The Loft Literary Center, Open Book Suite 200, 1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Winners will be announced in April 2012. Payments will begin in May 2012. All applicants will be notified by e-mail by April 30, 2012. There is no need to send a self-addressed stamped envelope for results.

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Eligibility

General Requirements

Applicants must have been legal residents of Minnesota for the 12 months prior to the application deadline and must currently reside in Minnesota.

Applicants may apply for only one McKnight Artist Fellowship per year. You may not apply for the Award in Poetry and Spoken Word and also apply for any other McKnight Fellowship, including the Award in Children's Literature.

Recipients of 2009, 2010 and 2011 McKnight Fellowships *in any discipline* are not eligible.

Loft and McKnight Foundation staff and board members are not eligible.

If you have questions about your eligibility for the McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers, please call or e-mail Jerod Santek, program director, at 612-215-2586 or jsantek@loft.org.

Additional Requirements for the Loft Awards in Poetry/Spoken Word Poetry

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, applicants must have:

- published at least 12 original poems in no fewer than three literary journals or magazines that regularly feature poetry as part of their format. (Work published in an online journal that has an editorial process is eligible.) **OR**
- published a book-length collection of poetry **OR**
- produced a full-length spoken word CD **OR**
- written and performed spoken word/performance work, in contracted arrangements, for a minimum of three years.

Note: Work that is scheduled for publication/production between the contest deadline and April 2012 may be included. In those cases, a letter from the press, editor, producer, community organizer, or curator stating the date of publication, release, or performance is required.

Ineligible work:

- Student-only publications and vanity press books
- Work published on personal home pages or on-line sites that do not have an editorial process

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- Work in a genre outside the category in which you are applying. (e.g., published prose may not be used to meet the publication requirements for the Award in Poetry and Spoken Word)
- Work that has previously won a McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers. If you are a previous winner, you must submit a manuscript different from the one for which you received the earlier award
- Translations

Submission Guidelines—Awards in Poetry and Spoken Word

- Applicants must submit two copies of at least 15 but no more than 18 pages of a typed (not smaller than 12 pt.) manuscript. Do not put more than one poem or one column of poetry per page.
- Pages must be consecutively numbered and stapled.
- Spoken word and performance artists must submit printed work. In order to maintain anonymity, CDs and videotapes cannot be accepted.
- All manuscripts must be anonymous. If your name appears as part of the manuscript text, omit it, use a pseudonym, or blacken it out so it is illegible.
- Applicants should include a brief biographical statement. Do not attach the biographical statement to your manuscript. The biographical statement is used for publicity purposes only when the winners are announced. Biographical statements are not seen by the judges.
- Applicants must submit a completed cover sheet, which is included in these guidelines (photocopies are acceptable).
- Applicants must submit proof of each publication necessary to meet eligibility. For books, submit photocopies of the title and copyright pages. For journals, submit photocopies of either the cover or title page of the journal as well as the table of contents page and the pages on which your work appears. *Do not submit a resume instead of the photocopied proofs.*

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AWARD IN POETRY/SPOKEN WORD POETRY COVER SHEET

CHECK LIST

Have you enclosed:

- ___ two copies of an anonymous manuscript;
- ___ a biographical statement;
- ___ the required proof(s) of publication;
- ___ a completed cover sheet?

Retain copies of your work. Entries submitted to the competition will not be returned.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Day phone:

Evening phone:

E-mail address:

List the title or first line of the *first piece* of your manuscript:

Signature

I hereby affirm that I have read the application guidelines and that I fully meet the eligibility requirements of the 2012 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers. The work submitted for the competition is of my own creation.

Signature

Date