

Brown Handler Writer's Residency

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library

2024 - 2025



Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (Friends) is pleased to announce this year's application process for the 2024-2025 Brown Handler Residency. Created by Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler in 2018, this residency nurtures the creative expression of diverse SF-based writers. The Brown-Handler Residency provides writers with free and accessible studio space in San Francisco to produce their creative work and connects writers with the San Francisco Public Library while producing and sharing their work in the community.

Reflecting the Library's mission as a democratic, public, and accessible institution, we are committed to supporting writers from a wide spectrum of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and genre.

Eligibility and Requirements

Residencies will be offered to five San Francisco-based writers for one year, open to:

- Fiction writers
- Nonfiction writers
- Children's writers and illustrators
- Poets
- Playwrights/screenwriters

Emerging and established writers may apply, but special consideration will be given to those who need space and support most.

There is no cash award offered for the residency.

There is no requirement to publish a work at the end of the residency, but candidates must be working on a personally significant project.

Residents will be required to participate in at least two Library events and programs.

The Space

The writing space is located at the office of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at 1630 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 (between Carolina & Wisconsin). It is a rich, supportive environment with Friends staff working during regular business hours. The large writing space is in the front of the office, with a vast window overlooking Jackson Park. The back portion of the building is full of stacks filled with thousands of donated books sold to support the Library.

It is important that residents can work well in an office community of this arrangement. The office will not be perfectly quiet nor without exciting bustle. Residents will have 24-hour access to the space, though, seven days a week — plenty of quiet time without staff around.

Benefits

Free space in which to create

- 24-hour access to Friends' writing salon conveniently located near Potrero Hill
- Storage, printers, copier, kitchen, bathrooms, free access to the internet, and a Friends' email address for business use, if desired

Relationship with the San Francisco Public Library

- As the Library is a public place, it cannot designate a permanent space for a writer. However, residents can be paired with neighborhood library branches in relationships of support and exchange. Residents often have relationships with a library "host branch," and Friends' staff will help facilitate the relationship to ensure a quality experience as a "special author" at select branches.
- Opportunities are available for residents to participate in library programs and activities that promote their work and public engagement with writing. (i.e. toddler and children's reading circles; teen book clubs; branch literary and cultural events; and special readings/activities designed by you and the Library staff)

Promotion

- Marketing and social media exposure through Friends' Communications Department and the Public Relations Department of the Library
- Readings at books sales and events coordinated by SFPL or Friends

Timeline

Application deadline: Sunday, February 4, 2024

Start of residency: March 2024

End of residency: February 2025

How to Apply

Residents may apply via online form or email. Instructions below. Materials required include: CV, a short writing sample, two professional references, and brief responses to a list of questions. The application is designed to query your current writing pursuits and the challenges/opportunities this residency can address.

Via online form

- Apply easily through our online form [here](#). For any questions, please email Vicky Lam at residency@friendssfpl.org.

Via email

- Please submit your CV, a short writing sample, two professional references, and brief responses to the questions below. Please limit responses to all questions to a maximum of two pages. Submit your application via email to residency@friendssfpl.org.
1. Please describe your current writing project(s). Why is it important to you?
 2. How would you identify yourself within our community?
 3. Please describe how the residency can address current challenges you are experiencing in advancing your work. This includes specific references to economic challenges and access to adequate space in which to work.
 4. How do you feel about working in a space as described above? Can you give an example in which you worked in a community setting similar to this one?
 5. What do you value about the Library?
 6. Are you willing to participate in Library programs and events periodically? If so, what excites you about this opportunity?
 7. Please tell us about any additional accommodations that you may need.
 8. Aside from brief trips, will you be in San Francisco regularly for the duration of the residency?