

Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Residency Friends of the San Francisco Public Library 2025 – 2026

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (Friends) is pleased to announce this year's application for the 2025-2026 Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Residency. Created by Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler in 2018, this residency supports the creative expression of diverse San Francisco-based writers, offering time, space, and a connection to the public through the Library. **The Residency offers five San Francisco writers a free, year-long studio space, a connection to the SF Public Library system, and opportunities to engage the public through literary programming.**



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

Both emerging and established writers are welcome to apply. Priority will be given to applicants who can most benefit from access to space, support, and connection.

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 of the building houses thousands of donated books, sold to support the Library's programs and services.

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

Dedicated, free space to focus on your creative work

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, April 6, 2025 at 11:59 PM

Start of residency: May 2025

End of residency: April 2026

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 Karsyn Kapur 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 keep your responses to the questions below within a maximum of two pages total. 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 your 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?

