

Brown Handler Writer's Residency **At Friends of the San Francisco Public Library**



Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the San Francisco Public Library announce the third round of the **Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Writer's Residency**. Made possible by the generosity of Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler, the residency is designed to nurture the careers of diverse writers, engage writers in projects with the Library; and support writers economically by providing access to free studio space at the Friends' office.

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. In addition, we are committed to helping those who cannot afford to rent their own studio space or do not have adequate space in their homes or workplace for writing.

Eligibility and Requirements

Residencies will be offered to five writers for a period of 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 economic support.

Residents are required to take part in select literary events and programs at the Library for which residents are paid honorariums.

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

The Studio Space

The writing studio is located at Friends' Donation Center in Potrero Hill, at 1630 17th Street. Residents will have 24-hour access to the space, seven days a week. The Donation Center is a warehouse that serves as Friends' administrative office and the processing center for our book program. From 8:00am to 5:00pm, staff and volunteers are around and meeting with each other while book donors are dropping off books on the lower level. The studio is located on the upper level on the street front well away from the book processing and volunteer areas, partitioned off with a view of Jackson Park out the windows.

During COVID. For the near future, the Donation Center has limited the number of staff and volunteers allowed in the building. Only five Friends' staff are working, along with up to four volunteers, at any time. All other staff are still working from home. To maintain safety and our ability to remain open, we are enforcing the strict guidelines of the San Francisco Health Officer. These include, wearing masks at all times, answering health screening questions upon entry, maintaining required social distance, and not allowing consumption of food on the premises. However, as Jackson Park is usually sunny and warm, eating outside is always a good option.

After COVID. When it is safe for all staff to come back to work, we will be installing partitioned office spaces adjacent to the writing studio for the seven returning staff. The entire upper section that includes the studio will then be sectioned off from the book and volunteer operations providing the staff, like the Residents, productive workspace. (However, being in warehouse of donated books is always distracting; we cannot guarantee you any protection from your urge to explore!)

As Residents will have 24-hour access to the space, seven days a week there will be plenty of time without others around.

Benefits

Free space in which to create

- 24-hour access to Friends writer's studio.
- Storage, printers, copier, kitchen, bathrooms, free access to internet and Friends' email for business use, if desired

Relationship with the San Francisco Public Library

- Each Resident will have a special relationship with a Library "host branch," and a Librarian to work to coordinate at least two activities during the year.
- These opportunities are designed to help promote Residents' creative works and public engagement with the literary life at the Library. Examples of past activities include toddler and children's readings, teen writing workshops, and readings at literary events.

Promotion

- Marketing and social media exposure through Friends' Communications Department and the Public Relations Department of the Library
- Books sales of any published work through Friends' Book Program

How to apply

Please apply by email only addressing all correspondence to residency@friendssfpl.org. Please submit your CV, a short writing sample and two professional references along with brief responses to the questions below. The application is designed to query both your current writing pursuits as well as challenges and opportunities the residency can address. (Please limit responses to all questions to a maximum of two pages.)

Timeline

Application deadline: October 30th, 2020

Start of residency: December 1st, 2020

End of residency: June 30th, 2021

Questions for Applicants

1. Please describe your current writing project(s). Why it is 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?
5. What do you value about the Library?
6. Are you willing to take part 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.