

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

Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library and the San Francisco Public Library announce another year of the **Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Writer's Residency**. Made possible by the generosity of Daniel Handler and Lisa Brown, the residency is designed to provide writers with free, adequate and accessible space in which to produce creative work, and to connect writers with the San Francisco Public Library in the course of producing and sharing their work in the community.



Friends and the San Francisco Public Library have multiple interests in creating this residency: to nurture the creative expression of diverse writers; to engage writers with the Library as partners in creating and sharing work with the community; and to assist writers by providing writing studio space available at no cost 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.

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 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 and passionate project.

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

The Space

The writing space is located at the office of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at 1630 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 (between Carolina & Wisconsin). It is rich, supportive environment with a staff of ten working during regular business hours. Staff is located in the front of the large office space, leaving the back portion designed as a “hive-like” writer’s salon with a large private office and four additional carrels.

It is important that residents are able to work well in an office community of this arrangement. The office will not be perfectly quiet nor without exciting bustle. And we will want to get to know you! Residents will also have 24-hour access to the space, seven days a week — plenty of time without us around.

Benefits

Free space in which to create

- 24 hour access to Friends writers’ salon conveniently located near Potrero Hill
- Storage, printers, copier, kitchen, bathrooms, free access to internet and Friends’ email for business use, if desired

Relationship with the San Francisco Public Library

- Special relationship with a library “host branch”. As the Library is a public place, it cannot designate a permanent space for a writer. However, residents will be paired with neighborhood library branches in relationships of support and exchange. Friends’ staff will help facilitate the relationship to ensure a quality experience as “special author” at select branches.
- Opportunities to participate in library programs and activities that promote your work and public engagement with writing. (i.e. toddler and children’s reading circles; teen book clubs; branch literary 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
- Books sales coordinated by Friends for author readings and events sponsored by SFPL or Friends

How to apply

By email only. Address correspondence to Marie Ciepiela at 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: December 11, 2021

Start of residency: January 2022

End of residency: December 2022

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 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?