



D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

30th Annual Larry Neal Writers' Competition
Program Guidelines
Adults, Teen and Youth Writers May Apply
Deadline: Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 6:00 pm

About this program:

The Larry Neal Writers' Competition commemorates the artistic legacy and vision of Larry Neal, the renowned author, academic and former Executive Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA). This year, monetary awards will be presented for the artistic excellence of adult, teen and youth writers residing in the District of Columbia. Winners will be announced at the Larry Neal Writers' Awards Ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday, May 4, 2013, presented in partnership with the PEN/Faulkner Foundation.

Eligibility requirements:

The competition is open to any District of Columbia adult, teen or youth resident, from 4th grade through adult. Individuals attending a DC college or university may also apply, but will be required to submit a copy of current student identification with their application.

All entries must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All entries must be previously unpublished (including internet publications);
- The author's name **MAY NOT** appear anywhere on the writing sample;
- The writing sample must include a title, as well as the Division and Category (see below);
- Typed writing sample, in Times New Roman, Arial or similarly readable font;
- One inch margins on all sides of document and 12 point font; and
- **Entries that do not meet the eligibility rules may be automatically disqualified.**

Submission Instructions and Deadlines:

All submissions must be uploaded through the Zoom Grants system accessed through the DCCA website at <http://dcarts.dc.gov/DC/DCARTS/Events/Annual+Programming/Annual+Programming#3>. **No hand-delivered applications will be accepted.** The deadline for all applications is Thursday, April 4th at 6:00 PM. We expect that there will be a high volume of applications, so please plan accordingly.

To ease the application process, Zoom Grants provides a step-by-step tutorial on how to submit your application [here](#). You can also download the PDF tutorial [here](#). DCCA staff is also available to provide technical assistance upon request.

DCCA will notify all applicants of their status in late April by the email address provided on their entry form.

Writing Divisions and Categories:Adult (aged 18 and up)**Adults may submit one of the following applications per year.**

- Poetry: one poetry application must contain three unpublished poems (one poem per page). The applicant will be judged on the quality of all three submissions;
- Short Story: One unpublished short story, not to exceed 3,000 words, double-spaced; and
- Dramatic Writing: One unproduced play or screenplay with a two-page summary – both double-spaced. Full entries will be judged on the summary and the first 3,000 words submitted, so an excerpt is fine to include, but not required.

Youth (grades 4 – 8) and Teen (grades 9 – 12) Writing**Teen and Youth may submit one of the following applications per year.**

- Poetry: Two unpublished poems (one poem per page)
- Short Story: One unpublished story, not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced
- Essay: One unpublished essay, not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced

Evaluation:

Distinguished writing professionals will judge each submission according to its artistic excellence in its literary genre. DCCAH uses a blind judging format, and each submission is assigned a unique identification number so that judges do not know the identity of the winner prior to the awards ceremony. DCCAH staff evaluates applications for eligibility, but do not judge writing samples. The evaluation processes takes into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public consistent with the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act, as amended in 1990.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Presentation (formatting, spelling, grammar, punctuation, neatness)
- Structure (well-developed, has a logical flow and effective sequencing)
- Technique (linguistic diversity, literary devices, audience engagement)
- Creativity (imaginative writing, drawing from sources and prior knowledge of content)

Awards:

Each adult winner will receive an award, a \$1,500 cash prize and the opportunity to have their work recited at the awards ceremony.

Each youth and teen winner will receive an award and a \$500 cash prize.

All winners and finalists will also receive invitations to the PEN/Faulkner's Reading Series. The PEN/Faulkner Reading Series brings noted American and international writers to the District of Columbia to present readings in the Elizabethan Theater of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Honorable Mentions may be awarded as warranted, but no monetary award is associated with it. Please note that for any category, the judges reserve the right to deem that there were no meritorious submissions and can choose not to make an award.

Contact Information:

For more information on the Larry Neal Writers' Competition and awards ceremony, please visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov/DC/DCARTS/Events/Annual+Programming/Annual+Programming#3> or contact Carlyn Madden, Arts Education Manager, at carlyn.madden@dc.gov or 202-724-5613.