



Astraea LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE
Funding Change and Strengthening Communities Around the World

LESBIAN WRITERS FUND 2009

APPLICATION GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

NEW DEADLINE: Received in Astraea's offices by Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 6pmEDT

ABOUT ASTRAEA

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice works for social, racial and economic justice in the U.S. and internationally. Our grantmaking and philanthropic advocacy programs help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights. Underlying Astraea's mission is an enduring commitment to feminism, progressive social change and an end to all forms of exploitation and discrimination. The Foundation supports programs that strive to eliminate oppression based on race, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic exploitation, physical and mental ability, anti-Semitism, colonialism, imperialism, and other such factors. Astraea is dedicated to the belief that only through action can we build a world of peace and justice for lesbians, and for society as a whole.

ABOUT ASTRAEA'S LESBIAN WRITERS FUND

Astraea's Lesbian Writers Fund was established in 1990 with the generous support of its founding donor, Joan Drury. The purpose of the fund is to support the work of emerging lesbian writers, and to acknowledge the contributions of established lesbian writers to our movement and culture.

First place awardees and two runners-up in the poetry and fiction categories will receive cash awards (\$10,000 for awardees; \$1,500 for runners-up). Thanks to Skip's Sappho Fund, at least one grant will be awarded to a lesbian writer who is based west of the Mississippi.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA for the Lesbian Writers Fund

To be eligible for an award from the Lesbian Writers Fund, you must satisfy all of the following:

- ✓ You are a lesbian-identified writer of poetry and/or fiction
- ✓ Your submission is a poetry or fiction sample in English (non-fiction, screenplays, or plays are not eligible)
- ✓ Your submitted work includes some lesbian content (e.g. lesbian desire, identity, and/or perspective)
- ✓ You have published **at least one** piece of your writing (in any genre) in a newspaper, magazine, journal, anthology, or professional web publication (not including a personal or self-produced homepage).
- ✓ You have **not published** more than one book, including a chapbook, in any subject or genre with a publisher. *If a second book has been accepted by a publisher, but has not been published yet, you are not eligible to apply.* Self-published books or anthologies you have edited *do not count* towards the one-book maximum.
- ✓ If awarded, you agree to be acknowledged publicly as a lesbian writer and agree to have your work publicized as Astraea sees fit. This may include an announcement or profile in our website and newsletter.
- ✓ All previous finalists, except for first place winners, are eligible to apply. Past judges are not eligible to apply.
- ✓ You reside in the United States or U.S. Territories.
- ✓ Current staff and Board members of the Astraea Foundation are ineligible to apply.

Submission Instructions

Applicants may only submit in one category per year. Categories are poetry and fiction.

ID number

The judging is blind and applicants remain anonymous to judges until after selection. Therefore ALL parts of your submission must include your identification number in the upper right hand corner. If you do not have an identification number, please visit http://www.astraeafoundation.org/grants/grant-applications-and-deadlines/#writers_fund to download an application cover sheet with an assigned ID number. If unable to access our website, please call the Astraea office (212-529-8021 ext. 44) or email (grants@astraeafoundation.org) to request an ID number prior to submitting your application. Type or print clearly this same number on every page of your submission, including all three copies of your anonymous biographical statement, project outline and writing sample. *If you receive more than one identification number, please choose only one.*

Your submission must include:

- ✓ **A completed LWF 2009 Cover Sheet application form.** Only one copy is needed.
- ✓ **Three identical packets.** Each copy should be stapled, and each page should be labeled with your ID# and the page number. *No binders or folders.* Each should contain the following:
 - An anonymous one-paragraph biographical statement (see Anonymous Bio Instructions)
 - A writing sample (see Writing Sample Instructions below)
- ✓ **\$5 check or money order,** with your ID number written clearly in the memo section

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Writing Sample Instructions

Applicants must submit a sample of poetry **or** fiction. Non-fiction, screenplays, and plays are not eligible. Each of the three copies of your submission must be complete, according to the instructions below. Manuscripts will not be returned. Only clear, readable submissions will be reviewed. Your entire submission must be in either fiction or poetry. Combined submissions, or submissions in another genre (such as non-fiction, screenplay, or play), will not be reviewed.

Fiction Submissions

Select up to 20 pages from a novel or a collection of short stories that you wish the judges to read. While there is no minimum page limit, we recommend that you submit at least 10 pages, so that the judges gain a deeper understanding of your work.

Your submission must include some lesbian content (lesbian desire, identity and/or perspective). If you are submitting more than one story, it is not necessary that each piece include lesbian content.

Manuscripts must be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, double spaced, font no greater than 12-point, and have one inch margins. All pages must be sequentially numbered at the **bottom** of each page. Submissions must be in English.

Books, magazines, and photocopies of books or magazines will not be reviewed.

Project Outline: This is an optional addition for fiction writers. You may submit a project outline of up to 250 words that describes your selection in the context of the larger work. Place your assigned ID# in the TOP RIGHT of the page, and include one copy with each manuscript.

Poetry Submissions

Select at least 10 and no more than 15 pages of poetry that you wish the panel to read. You may include as many poems as you like, but no less than two poems.

Your submission must include some lesbian content (lesbian desire, identity and/or perspective). It is not necessary that each poem include lesbian content.

Manuscripts must be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, double spaced, font no greater than 12-point, and have one inch margins. All pages must be sequentially numbered at the **bottom** of each page. Submissions must be in English.

Books, magazines, and photocopies of books or magazines will not be reviewed.

Anonymous Biographical Statement (all submissions)

Each of the three submission copies must also include a copy of your anonymous, 1-paragraph biographical statement. The statement should describe your writing accomplishments and future goals as a writer, and may also include listings of your published articles, a published book, your website, or organizational, academic, or artistic affiliation. Do not include your name or contact information in the bio (including your website link).

While personal information is appreciated, we recommend that your bio be mostly about your work as a writer. Please note that if you receive an award, Astraea may use this bio in our publicity materials, including our website and our newsletter.

Submission & Review

Application Deadline

All applications must be complete and received in the office on or before July 15, 2009.

Please do not call the office to confirm that we have received your application. We receive hundreds of applications and are not able to notify applicants of receipt or the status of their application, until official notifications at the end of the process.

Submit one Cover Sheet application form, three copies of your biographical statement, three copies of your writing sample and a \$5.00 check or money order payable to Astraea Foundation and mail to:

**Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Attn: Lesbian Writers Fund
116 E. 16th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003**

Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of lesbian writers who will remain anonymous until after the process has been completed. Each year a new set of judges reviews applications. An independent team of two judges in each genre selects the winners unanimously. The names of applicants will not be known to the judges until the decisions are made and all applicants have been notified by mail.

Manuscripts are reviewed by judges considering the quality of the writing and the applicant's potential growth as a writer.

Announcement of Awards

The selection process is expected to be completed by January 31, 2010. All applicants will be notified of the results by mail, following selection. Please do not call the office.