

2024 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

Information and General Guidelines for Submission



relationship supporting each other
to Rivan poets,
elists, memoirists,
and writers of creative nonfiction.

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2024 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

www.letrasboricuas.org

Letras Boricuas will be selecting 20 writers for a \$25,000 individual fellowship

The **Letras Boricuas Fellowship** is an opportunity sponsored by the **Mellon Foundation** and the **Flamboyant Arts Fund** that awards individual grants of \$25,000 to literary writers who identify as Puerto Ricans. The first two cohorts of Letras Boricuas were selected in 2021 and 2022. The fellowship has been extended for three additional years: 2024, 2025, and 2026. Twenty writers will be selected annually. The fellowship supports writers working within one of the following literary genres: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Spoken Word, Children’s Literature in Spanish, and Playwriting.

In addition to providing unrestricted funds to support writers in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. diaspora, Letras Boricuas seeks to encourage literary practice, connect writers, expose writers’ works to a wider audience, and support the creative development of works that celebrate Puerto Rican lives and cultures. The fellowship program aims for each group of grantees to include writers from different literary genres. Applications will be accepted in Spanish, English, or both languages.

For the Children’s Literature category, submissions must be for works intended for readers in kindergarten through third grades, and only applications in Spanish will be accepted. Children’s Literature applicants must have previously published work in Spanish. Please refer to the Spanish guidelines (*Guías Generales de la solicitud*) for more information.

Guidelines: Please read the following guidelines closely, as our application requirements may have changed from previous years and aspects of the program have been adjusted for 2024. Learn more information about *Letras Boricuas* on www.letrasboricuas.org

Fellowship Timeline: The online application will be available from March 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (AST), until April 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (AST), 2024. Fellows will be announced in October 2024.

March 15 to April 30, 2024: Online Application Period

April 30, 2024, 5:00 p.m.: Application Period Ends

May 1 to September 30, 2024: Evaluation and Selection Period

October 2024: New *Letras Boricua* Cohort Announcement

Eligibility: To determine eligibility and be considered for this fellowship, the applicant must meet and adhere to the following criteria:

1. Must be 21 years of age or older at time of application
2. Self-identify as Puerto Rican
3. Must be a current resident of Puerto Rico or reside in the United States (50 states)
4. Must present original work
5. Must have or create an account at www.submittable.com
6. Must complete and submit the application on time by Tuesday April 30, 2024, 5:00 p.m. (AST/PR time)
7. Former Letras Boricuas Fellows are not eligible to reapply for an additional fellowship.
8. Writers of multiple genres must select one eligible genre in which to complete the application.
9. Applications from publishers, organizations, or institutions will not be considered.
10. Employees or contractors of the Flamboyán Foundation and the Mellon Foundation are not eligible. Immediate family or people living in their household cannot apply either.

Selection Process: The 2024 Letras Boricuas cohort, made up of twenty writers, will be chosen through a two-step nomination and selection process by Committee members. The Selection Committee, appointed by the Mellon Foundation and the Flamboyán Fund for the Arts, consists of experienced writers, literary experts, and former *Letras Boricuas* Fellows.

Eligible applications will be reviewed based on literary merit, the latter of which may include work samples that display some or all of the following characteristics: originality, imagination, creativity, a strong point of view, a unique voice, facility with language, technical skill, and craft, memorability. Financial status will not be taken into consideration.

It is recommended to closely review all required materials listed in the guidelines. The application has specific requirements for each genre; each applicant can apply in one literary genre. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet specifications will result in disqualification. Late applications will not be accepted, without exception.

Non-Eligibles: The following publications will **NOT** be considered as demonstrating eligibility or as valid work samples:

- co-authored or co-published works
- academic writing (dissertation, thesis, critical essays, research, textbook chapters, etc.)
- journalism (articles, reporting, pieces of criticism including book or other reviews, opinion pieces, etc.)
- biographies
- graphic novels
- wordless books
- cookbooks
- song lyrics
- screenplays or television scripts
- opera theater plays (*libretto*)
- any other works that are not considered literary.

Decisions by the Flamboyant staff regarding eligibility are final.

Letras Boricuas does not discriminate based upon age, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, race, religion, creed, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, status as a veteran, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.

Contact and Links

To contact us with questions or request additional information, please email:

letasboricuas@flamboyanartsfund.org

Application can be accessed [here](#)

FAQ can be accessed [here](#)

You can view the offline application [here](#)

General Application Guidelines

The application includes the following sections:

1. Basic Contact Information
2. CV (2-pages maximum. PDF format)
3. Selection of **one** of the following literary genres:
 - a. **Fiction** (includes novels, short stories, chapter books, young adult fiction, and related forms)
 - b. **Creative Nonfiction** (includes memoirs, personal essays, and related literary forms)
 - c. **Poetry** (written) or **Spoken Word**
 - d. **Playwriting**
4. Selection of language in which you will complete the application. Spanish, English, or both languages.
5. Evidence of literary publication or literary performance following the guidelines of the selected genre. *Please refer to pages 4 to 7 in this document.*
6. Upload work sample of the literary genre selected, per the specifications. *Please refer to pages 8 to 11 in this document.*
7. Work sample description
8. Brief personal statement
9. Artistic statement
10. Optional Survey

Guidelines to present evidence of literary publication or literary performance of selected genre

The evidence of publication provides basic information about the work and a link or attached documents. Below are the specifications for each literary genre.

I. Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and Poetry (written)

For these genres it is required to demonstrate **one** of the following options as evidence of publication.

- a. a published book (including reprinted) in 2014 or later, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

**It is required to present the book title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name, and a link to the cover and credit page of the book.*

- b. a book that is currently under contract or agreement to be published in 2024 or 2025, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

** It is required to upload a copy of the agreement signed by the literary press, with the title of the book, your name, name of the press, and estimated date of publication.*

- c. a published book in 2014 or later, by your own literary press, if it publishes other literary writers' books**

** It is required to present the book title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name, and a link to the cover and credit page of the book. Letras Boricuas may request the publisher's catalog.*

- d. two different works: one book self-published in 2014 or later; and one work published in an edited print or online literary journal or anthology during or after 2014**

** For the self-publication it is required to present the book title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name (if available), and a link to the cover and credit page of the book.*

** For the journal or anthology publication it is required to present the work title, year and month, number or edition, pages, journal or anthology's name; a link to the cover of the printed journal or anthology, of the credit and index page, and of the publication, or add the URL of the page with the digital publication*

- e. **three different works published in edited print or online literary journals or anthologies during or after 2014**

**It is required to present the following information for each publication,*

for a total of three: work title, year and month, number or edition, pages, journal or anthology's name; and a link to the cover of the printed journal or anthology, of the credit and index page, and of the publication, or add the URL of the page with the digital publication.

II. Spoken Word

For this category is required to present evidence of performance

- a. **three different *Spoken Word* poetry works presented in curated or organized public events, during or after 2014.**

**It is required to present the following information for each work, for a total of three: work title, performance year, place or location of the performance; and upload the URL of a filmed performance, a radio transmission recording, or a podcast.*

III. Playwriting

For this category it is required to demonstrate one of the following options as evidence of performance or publication.

- a. **one original (no adaptation) full-length play of your authorship and presented in a public performance, as a developmental or staged reading; self-production; or produced by a university, a company, or an organization, during or after 2014**

** It is required to present the following information: title, year, place of the presentation*

** **Additionally**, in a shared folder, it is required to **include two of the following options** as evidence of the presentation-performance: the event's invitation; event's publicity; 3-5 photos; 2-3-minute video clip; 1 article or review; hand program; technical plan or technical description. (Some additional materials may be required.)*

- b. **two original (no adaptation) short plays of your authorship and presented in a public performance, as a developmental or staged reading; self-production; or produced by a university, company, or organization, during or after 2014**

**For each short play (2), you will be required to present the following information: title, year, and place of presentation*

****Additionally**, in a shared folder, it is required to **include two of the following options** as evidence the public presentation-performance: invitation; publicity; 3-5 photo stills; 2-3-minute video clip; 1 article or review; hand program; technical plan or technical description. (Some additional materials may be required.)*

- c. one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play published or reprinted in 2014 or later, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

**It is required to present the title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name, and a link to the cover and credit page of the book.*

- d. one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play that is currently under contract or agreement to be published in 2024 or 2025 by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

**It is required to upload a copy of the agreement signed by the literary press, with the title of the book, your name, name of the press, and estimated date of publication.*

- e. one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play that is published in 2014 or later by your own press, if it publishes other playwrights**

**It is required to present the title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name, and a link to the cover and credit page of the book.*

- f. two different works:**

- one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play self-published in 2014 or later

**It is required to present the book title, publisher's name, year published or reprinted, and link to the cover of the printed journal or anthology, of the credit and index page, and of the publication, or add the URL of the page with the digital publication.*

- and one scene or excerpt published in an edited print or online literary journal or anthology during or after 2014

**It is required to present the work title, year and month, number or edition, pages, journal or anthology's name; and a link to the cover of the printed journal or anthology, of the credit and index page, and of the publication, or add the URL of the page with the digital publication.*

- g. three different scenes or excerpts of a play published in edited print or online literary journals or anthologies during or after 2014**

**For each scene or excerpt (3), it is required to present the following information: work title, year and month, number or edition, pages, journal or anthology's name, and link to the cover of the printed journal or anthology, of the credit and index page, and of the publication, or add the URL of the page with the digital publication.*

Work Sample Guidelines for Selected Genre

The work sample must be a document in PDF format. **The work sample's submission is anonymous.** It is important that your name or any detail that could reveal your identity does not appear on any of the pages in the work sample. Scanned pages from books or magazines, or the complete scanned work are not accepted. For the Spoken Word category, the accepted audio formats are: .mp3, .m4a, .wav, .wma

Below are the specifications for each literary genre. Please verify that the sample meets all the requirements, so that the work sample is eligible:

I. Fiction

- a. Acceptable file format: .pdf
- b. The work sample can be **a whole piece, an excerpt, or a compilation of pieces (previously published, not published or a combination of the two) up to a maximum of 20 pages.** Each piece should include a title.
- c. Transcribe the work sample into a Word Document, with **12-point font, double spaced.** The sample should not exceed the limit of **20 pages.**
- d. **Please ensure the work sample does not include your name or any other identifying information on any page.**
- e. **Convert** the Word Document **into a PDF** to upload it to the application portal.
- f. Save the PDF with a file name that includes the title of one of the pieces. Use the following example: **(Title)_Worksample.pdf**

II. Creative Nonfiction

- a. Acceptable file format: .pdf
- b. The work sample can be **a whole piece, an excerpt, or a compilation of pieces (previously published, not published or a combination of the two) up to a maximum of 20 pages.** Each piece should include a title.
- c. Transcribe the work sample into a Word Document, with **12-point font, double spaced.** The sample should not exceed the limit of **20 pages.**
- d. **Please ensure the work sample does not include your name or any other identifying information on any page.**
- e. **Convert** the Word Document **into a PDF** to upload it to the application portal.
- f. Save the PDF with a file name that includes the title of one of the pieces. Use the following example: **(Title)_Worksample.pdf**

III. Poetry (written)

- a. Acceptable file format: .pdf
- b. The work sample can be **one long poem (a whole piece or an excerpt) or a compilation of a maximum of 10 poems (previously published, not published, or a combination of the two) up to 15 pages maximum**. Each poem should include a title.
- c. Transcribe the work sample into a Word Document, with **12-point font, single spaced**. The sample should not exceed the limit of **15 pages**.
- d. **Please ensure the work sample does not include your name or any other identifying information on any page.**
- e. **Convert** the Word Document **into a PDF** to upload it to the application portal.
- f. Save the PDF with a file name that includes the title of one of the pieces. Use the following example: **(Title)_Worksample.pdf**

IV. Spoken Word

- a. Acceptable audio file format: .mp3, .m4a, .wav, .wma
- b. Upload **three (3) AUDIO-ONLY files**
- c. Video files are not accepted
- d. **Each audio must be up to a maximum of two (2) minutes in length**
- e. Each recording should start with the poem's title.
- f. **Please ensure the work sample does not include your name or any other identifying information**
- g. Save each file with the title of the poem. Use the following example:
(Title)_WorkSample1
(Title)_WorkSample2
(Title)_WorkSample3
- h. Upload each audio to the application

V. Playwriting

- a. Acceptable file format: .pdf
- b. The work sample can be a full-length play or various short plays or excerpts **(previously performed, not yet performed, or a combination of the two) up to a maximum of 20 pages.**
- c. The work sample **should contain the character list** and **at least one of the following**: monologue or dialogue, character types, stage description-guidelines-directions, or acts-scenes.
- d. Each piece should include at the beginning a title.
- e. Transcribe the work sample into a Word Document, **12-point font, double spaced.** The sample should not exceed the limit of **20 pages.**
- f. **Please ensure the work sample does not include your name or any other identifying information on any page.**
- g. **Convert** the Word Document **into a PDF** to upload it to the application portal.
- h. Save the PDF with a file name that includes the title of one of the pieces. Use the following example: **(Title)_Worksample.pdf**

To contact us with questions or
request additional information,
please email us:
letrasboricuas@flamboyanfunds.org





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