

2024 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

FAQ's



*Letras
Boricuas*



Mellon
Foundation

About

What is the Letras Boricuas 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.

How long will this initiative run?

Letras Boricuas has been extended for three additional years: 2024, 2025, and 2026. Twenty writers will be selected annually.

Eligibility

Am I eligible to apply?

The Letras Boricuas fellowships are an opportunity exclusive to writers. To be eligible for consideration for this fellowship, writers must:

- be 21 years or older at the time of application;
- work in one or more of the following literary genres or categories: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Spoken Word, Children’s Literature in Spanish, and Playwriting.
- be current residents of Puerto Rico or the United States;
- self-identify as Puerto Rican; present original work created by the person applying; and
- submit evidence of your publication history for the genre under which you are applying per the application guidelines.

What publications are not eligible?

The following publications will **not** be considered as demonstrating eligibility:

- 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.

Can publishers, organizations or institutions apply?

No. Only individual writers can apply. Applications submitted by publishers, organizations or institutions will not be considered.

I am currently enrolled in an academic institution; can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply. Individuals enrolled in an academic institution are eligible to apply.

Am I eligible if I have already received funds from another fellowship program?

Yes, you are eligible. We do not disqualify anyone based on other sources of funding.

Application & Selection

Before I apply, am I guaranteed to receive funds?

No. The Letras Boricuas fellowship will only select a total of 20 writers annually. Thus, not every applicant will be funded.

How can I apply?

Once you have confirmed that you meet all eligibility requirements and read through the guidelines, you can apply here letrasboricuas.org via the Submittable platform. If you have used Submittable before and have an existing account, you will need to enter your login credentials. If it is your first time using Submittable, you will need to create a new account, which is free of cost. This is a quick and simple process.

If you have any technical issues using Submittable, such as questions related to password retrieval, confirming receipt of applications, or revising submitted applications, please contact support@submittable.com.

For any other inquiries about the application process, or for assistance, please contact letrasboricuas@flamboyanartsfund.org

In the application, must the “evidence of literary publication or literary performance” and the “work sample” be of the genre under which it is applying?

Yes. Each applicant can apply in one literary genre. Materials presented for “evidence of literary publication or literary performance” and the “work sample” must represent the genre in which you are applying.

What should “evidence of literary publication” or “literary performance” include?

The application has specific requirements for each genre. The evidence of publication consists of basic information about the work and a link or attached documents. For more specifications, please refer to: [2024 Letras Boricuas Fellowship Information and General Guidelines for Submission](#). It is recommended to closely review all required materials listed in the guidelines.

What should the “work sample” include?

The specifications for the work sample are also included here: [2024 Letras Boricuas Fellowship Information and General Guidelines for Submission](#). Please verify that the work sample meets all the requirements, so that it is eligible

Is the “work sample” anonymous?

Yes, 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. The work sample must be a document in PDF format. 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

How will fellows be selected?

Applications will be screened by the Flamboyant Arts Fund for eligibility. Decisions regarding eligibility made by the Flamboyant Arts Fund are final. Eligible applications will be reviewed by a **Nominations Committee** that will forward semi-finalists to a **Selections Committee** that will recommend possible Fellowship recipients to the Flamboyant Arts Fund’s Board of Advisors for final approval. Members of the Nominations and Selections Committees are selected by The Flamboyant Arts Fund and The Mellon Foundation. Nominations Committee members will serve anonymously. Selection Committee members will be named when the Fellowship recipients are announced.

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.

Will the application be open continuously for the duration of the Fellowship?

No. 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 of this year. New dates for the next cycle of Letras Boricuas will be announced in 2025.

What is the Letras Boricuas 2024 calendar?

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

When will I be notified?

All applicants will be notified of the Fellowship results by email by October 2024. If you are selected for funding, we will follow up with the information required to disburse the grant and for the public announcement.

How will I be notified of the status of my application?

All applicants will be notified through their Submittable account. A message will be sent to the email address associated with this account. In addition, applicants may log into their accounts to check on the status. You can also contact us for questions you may have during the application process. All inquiries should be addressed to letrasboricuas@flamboyanartsfund.org

If I am not selected for a fellowship, will I still be notified?

Yes, the Flamboyan Arts Fund will respond to all applicants, whether they are selected for funding or not.

Is the application only online via Submittable?

Yes. The application is only online through Submittable. However, if an applicant does not have the equipment or connection necessary to apply online, Flamboyan Arts Fund staff can assist them in the process. You can email us at letrasboricuas@flamboyanartsfund.org

If I start an online application via Submittable, can I save it and submit it later?

Yes, simply choose the “save” option. We highly recommend that you draft your responses in a separate word processing program and paste it into the application. Please save a copy of your application in the event that you choose to re-apply the following year.

Should my application be submitted in Spanish or English?

Applications will be accepted in Spanish, English, or both languages. The choice of language will not have any bearing on the final selection.

Can I send you additional materials to add to my application?

No. We cannot respond to any additional materials sent to us outside of the Submittable system. Only responses included in the application will be considered. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet specifications will result in disqualification. Late applications will not be accepted, without exception.

Can I apply more than once?

Once you submit your application, you must wait to receive the email with the results. If you are not selected this year, you can apply again next year.

If I do not receive the fellowship in the first cycle, do I have to submit another application in the second cycle?

Yes. You will need to reapply.

Why are you collecting demographic data from applicants? Who has access to this data?

We are committed to equity and inclusion and view data as an essential tool to be accountable for this commitment. This information is being collected for internal tracking purposes. As an applicant, your data will be viewed by Flamboyant Arts Fund staff and the committee members who will be engaged during the review process.

What security measures are in place for the information I am providing in this application?

Submittable, the application platform operates with above-industry-standard security certificates and features for data collection and storage.

Disbursement of Funds

If I'm awarded a fellowship, will my name be made public?

Yes. Fellows selected in the 2024 cycle will be announced in October 2024. The information will be shared in a public announcement and on the Flamboyant Foundation's and the Mellon Foundation's websites. Selection Committee members will also be named when the Fellowship recipients are announced.

If I receive a fellowship, will there be reporting requirements?

No. There will be no reporting necessary. The fellowship award funds are unrestricted, and therefore may be used as writers see fit.

Collaborating Partners

Who is involved in the Letras Boricuas Fellowship?

The Letras Boricuas Fellowship is a collaboration between the Mellon Foundation and the Flamboyant Arts Fund.

About the Mellon Foundation

The Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive.

About Flamboyant Foundation

Guided by the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to live a fulfilling life, the Flamboyant Foundation works to ensure every child in the US and Puerto Rico receives an outstanding education. In D.C., Flamboyant is accelerating student learning by helping educators and school systems transform their relationships with families. In Puerto Rico, Flamboyant is ensuring students are reading in Spanish on grade level by third grade while building a thriving philanthropic and nonprofit sector, which includes arts and cultural organizations. <http://www.flamboyantfoundation.org>.

About Flamboyant Arts Fund

The Flamboyant Arts Fund is a partnership between Flamboyant Foundation, Lin-Manuel Miranda, his family, and the Broadway musical HAMILTON to preserve, amplify, and sustain the arts in Puerto Rico. When Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017, many artists and arts organizations like museums, theaters, arts education programs, and music venues were at risk of cutting back services or closing. The fund supports all facets of the arts community including music, theater, visual arts, dance, literature, and youth arts education to ensure that the arts and culture continue to flourish during the rebuilding of Puerto Rico. <http://www.flamboyantfoundation.org/flamboyantartsfund>



www.letrasboricuas.org