

# 2026 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

## Information and General Guidelines for Submission



relationship supporting ex  
to Rivan poets,  
elists, memoirists,  
d writers of creative nonf

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# 2026 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

[www.letrasboricuas.org](http://www.letrasboricuas.org)

**In 2026, Letras Boricuas will select 24 writers for \$25,000 individual creative-writing fellowships**

Established in 2021 as a collaborative effort between the Mellon Foundation and the Flamboyan Foundation's Arts Fund, the **Letras Boricuas Fellowship** will award 24 individual grants of \$25,000 to literary writers with deep and sustained ties to Puerto Rico and its diaspora, whose literary works reflect that connection. The fellowship's call for 2026 will open on Monday, April 13, and close on Friday, May 22. These fellowships support writers working within the following literary genres: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Spoken Word, and Playwriting.

In addition to providing unrestricted funds to support writers, Letras Boricuas seeks to encourage literary practice, connect writers, and expose writers' works to a wider audience, supporting the creative development of works that celebrate Puerto Rican lives and cultures. Applications will be accepted in Spanish, English, a combination of both languages or in a bilingual manner. We welcome work where English and Spanish coexist, intersect, or speak to each other in whatever way it serves the writing.

**Guidelines:** Please read the following guidelines closely, as our application requirements have changed from previous years. Learn more information about Letras Boricuas on [www.letrasboricuas.org](http://www.letrasboricuas.org)

## **Fellowship Timeline:**

Monday, April 13, 2026, 10 a.m. (AST): Application Portal Opens

Friday, May 22, 2026, 5 p.m. (AST): Application Portal Closes

June - November, 2026: Adjudication

December 2026: New Letras Boricuas Cohort is Announced

**Eligibility:** To be eligible 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. Have deep and sustained ties to Puerto Rico and its diaspora, whose literary works reflect that connection.
3. Must be a current resident of Puerto Rico or reside in the United States.
4. Must present original work.
5. Must have or create an account at [www.submittable.com](http://www.submittable.com)
6. Must complete and submit a complete application on time by Friday, May 22, 2026. The application portal closes at 5 p.m. (AST).
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 Flamboyant Foundation and the Mellon Foundation are not eligible. Immediate family members and/or people living in their household cannot apply either.

**Selection Process:** The new Letras Boricuas cohort will be chosen through a selection process by committee members, which consists of former Letras Boricuas fellows, established writers, editors, scholars, and community practitioners, reflecting a broad spectrum of literary experience and perspectives.

Eligible applications will be reviewed based on literary merit, which may include 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. Financial status will not be taken into consideration.

Please closely review all required materials listed in the guidelines. The application has specific requirements for each genre; each applicant may only apply in one literary genre. Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with specifications will be disqualified. 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:

- academic writing (dissertation, thesis, critical essays, research, textbook chapters, etc.)
- non-literary journalism (articles, traditional 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)
- co-authored or co-published works (however, applicants may include one co-authored or co-published work to establish eligibility in the selected genre)
- any other works that are not considered literary

**Decisions regarding eligibility are final.** Due to the high number of submissions, we are not able to provide individual feedback on any application.

*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](mailto: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**
  - d. **Spoken Word**
  - e. **Playwriting**
4. Selection of language in which you will complete the application: Spanish, English, or a combination of both languages. In a bilingual manner, we welcome work where English and Spanish coexist, intersect, or speak to each other in whatever way it serves the writing.
5. *Evidence of literary publication or literary performance following the guidelines of the selected genre. Please refer to pages 10 to 12 in this document.*
6. *Upload work sample of the literary genre selected, per the specifications. Please refer to pages 13 to 15 in this document.*
7. Short Work Sample Description (optional)
8. Writer's Statement (required)

# Guidelines for presenting evidence of publication or performance in 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

These genres require one of the following options as evidence of publication. Only one co-authored or co-published work may be submitted to establish eligibility for (d) and (e).

- a. one published book (including reprinted) in 2015 or later, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

*\*Please provide 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 2026 or 2027, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

*\* Please upload a copy of the agreement signed by the literary press, with the title of the book, your name, the name of the press, and the estimated date of publication. An official letter from the publisher, including the information required, can also be provided.*

- c. one book published in 2015 or later, by your own literary press, if it publishes other literary writers' books**

*\* Please provide the book title, year published or reprinted, publisher's name, and a link to the cover and credit page of the book. In addition, a link to the publisher's catalog must be included.*

- d. two different works: one book self-published in 2015 or later; and one work published in an edited print or online literary journal or anthology during or after 2015**

*\* For self-publication, please provide 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, please provide 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 2015**

*\*Please include the following information for each publication (3): 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**

This category requires the following evidence of performance.

- a. **Three different Spoken Word poetry works presented in curated or organized public events, during or after 2015.**

*\*Please include the following information for each work (3): 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**

This category requires one of the following options as evidence of performance or publication. Only one co-authored or co-published work may be submitted to establish eligibility for (b), (f), and (g).

- 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 2015**

*\* Please include the following information: title, year, and place of the presentation.*

*\* Additionally, in a shared folder, **please 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 requested.*

- 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 2015**

*\*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, **please include two of the following options as evidence** of the public 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. Please note that additional materials may be requested.*

- c. one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play published or reprinted in 2015 or later, by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

*\*Please 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 2026 or 2027 by an independent, commercial, or university literary press**

*\*Please 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. An official letter from the publisher, including the information required, can also be provided.*

- e. one original (no adaptation) full-length play or short play that is published in 2015 or later by your own press, if it publishes other playwrights**

*\*Please provide 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 2015 or later**

*\*Please provide 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 2015**

*\*Please provide 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 2015**

*\*For each scene or excerpt (3), please provide the following information: 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.*

# Work Sample Guidelines for Selected Genre

The work sample must be submitted in PDF format. In order to ensure an anonymous review process, **work samples cannot contain your name or any other detail that could reveal your identity.** Please be sure to remove any such information from all the pages in the work sample. Scanned pages from books or magazines, or complete scanned work will not be accepted. For the Spoken Word category, the only accepted format is audio. Please upload any of these formats: .mp3, .m4a, .wav, .wma

Below are the specifications for each literary genre. To ensure eligibility, please verify that the sample meets all the requirements:

## 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. Please do not use your name as the file name. 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. Please do not use your name as the file name. 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. Please do not use your name as the file name. Use the following example:  
**(Title)\_Worksample.pdf**

### IV. Spoken Word

- a. Acceptable audio file formats: .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. Please do not use your name as the file name. 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 up to two short plays (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 a title at the beginning.
- 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 or the two short pieces. Please do not use your name as the file name. Use the following example: (Title)\_Worksample.pdf

To contact us with questions or  
request additional information,  
please email us:  
[letrasboricuas@flamboyanfunds.org](mailto:letrasboricuas@flamboyanfunds.org)





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