

2026 Letras Boricuas Fellowship

FAQ's



*Letras
Boricuas*



About

What is the Letras Boricuas Fellowship?

The **Letras Boricuas Fellowship** awards 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 program began in 2021 and has named four cohorts of Letras Boricuas Fellows to date, with 84 writers receiving the award. This year marks the final call for submissions, which will open on Monday, April 13. Twenty-four writers working within the following literary genres will be selected: 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.

The fellowship is funded by the **Mellon Foundation** and the **Flamboyant Arts Fund**.

How long will this initiative run?

The program began in 2021 and has named four cohorts of Letras Boricuas Fellows to date, in which 84 writers have been awarded. This year marks the final call for submissions, which will open on Monday, April 13 at 10:00am (AST) and close on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 5:00pm (AST).

Eligibility

Am I eligible to apply?

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 and Playwriting.
- be current residents of Puerto Rico or the United States;
- have deep and sustained ties to Puerto Rico and its diaspora, whose literary works reflect that connection;
- 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:

- academic writing (dissertation, thesis, critical essays, research, textbook chapters, etc.)
- 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.

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

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 same 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: [2026 Letras Boricuas Fellowship Information and General Guidelines for Submission](#). We recommend closely reviewing all required materials listed in the guidelines.

What should the “work sample” include?

The specifications for the work sample are also included here: [2026 Letras Boricuas Fellowship Information and General Guidelines for Submission](#). Please verify that the work sample meets all the requirements to ensure eligibility.

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 submitted in PDF format. Scanned pages from books or magazines, or 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?

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. 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 Monday, April 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (AST), until Friday May 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (AST). Fellows will be announced in December of this year.

What is the Letras Boricuas 2026 calendar?

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

When will I be notified?

All applicants will be notified of the Fellowship results by email by December 2026. 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 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.

If I am not selected, can I request feedback on my application?

Due to the high number of submissions, we are not able to provide individual feedback on your application.

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, Flamboyant Arts Fund staff can assist them in the process. You can email us at letrasboricuas@flamboyantartsfund.org

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

Yes, simply choose the “save draft” option. We highly recommend that you draft your responses in a separate word processing program and paste them into the application.

Should my application be submitted in Spanish or English?

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.

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?

No, only one application per applicant is accepted.

Disbursement of Funds

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

Yes. Fellows selected in the 2026 cycle will be publicly announced in December 2026. The information will be shared in an official press release 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 Andrew W. 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 and empowerment that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and guided by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

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