

APPLICATION
for the 2019
EDITOR-WRITER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR DIVERSE WRITERS
BY THE WORD

We invite aspiring writers from diverse backgrounds to apply to be matched with an experienced fiction editor. Editor Mentors will provide feedback on a manuscript being prepared for submission to agents and editors for publication.



What is the Program? Four aspiring writers from underrepresented groups (*see explanation below*) will each be paired with an experienced editor who will provide substantive feedback to help raise a strong manuscript to its best position for submission to potential agents and editors. This is an opportunity to learn from the knowledge of experienced acquiring editors. This program is free of cost due to the generosity of our volunteer editors.

Volunteer Editors & Genres:

- Andrea Spooner - Vice President, Editorial Director at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
 - Mentoring in Picture Books
- Alvina Ling - Vice President, Editor-in-Chief at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
 - Mentoring in Middle Grade Fiction
- Nikki Garcia - Associate Editor at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
 - Mentoring in Young Adult Fiction
- Amber Oliver - Assistant Editor at HarperCollins/Harper Perennial
 - Mentoring in Adult Fiction

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted from March 1, 2019 (8:00a US Mountain daylight time) - March 31, 2019 (11:59p US Mountain daylight time).

Eligibility: Aspiring or upcoming writers from underrepresented groups (*see explanation below*) with a completed, unpublished manuscript in the picture book, middle grade, young adult, or adult fiction category may apply. Applicants may apply in only one category.

How to Apply (please read carefully):

- Send applications via email to mentorship@thewordfordiversity.org, with the subject line "Application, [Category–Picture Book, Middle Grade, Young Adult, or Adult Fiction]".
- In the body of your email:
 - Answer the following questions, each in 200 words or less:
 1. Provide a brief career summary, including a notation if you have ever traditionally or self-published a novel-length work.
 2. What are your goals as a writer?

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3. What steps have you taken to grow as a writer to this point?
4. How do you as a writer or how does your work contribute to our search for underrepresented voices?
 - o Include a brief pitch of your completed manuscript (100 words or less), including the title, genre, and total manuscript word count.
 - o Include your contact information, including name, phone number, and email address.
- Attach to your email, in PDF format, the first 10 pages of your completed manuscript. **Remove your name from all pages of your manuscript submission.** Do not attach a full manuscript (unless you are submitting to the picture book category and your manuscript is 10 pages or less). Ensure that your manuscript meets the following requirements:
 - o Standard 12-point font; 1-inch margins; double-spaced
- Our initial selection readers will select three finalists in each category. Finalists will be contacted in late April/early May and asked to provide their full, completed manuscripts. Editor Mentors will make their final selections based on the initial application and the full manuscript submission.

How do we focus our search for underrepresented voices? We promote the inclusive representation of experiences in literature, including a diversity of experiences based on:

racial, cultural, ethnic, or religious identity; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical, cognitive, or emotional disability; socioeconomic adversity; and personal experiences of adversity or injustice.

*We recognize that personal experiences of adversity occur in many forms and we believe that the impact of each must be respected. To guide the use of our resources, we focus on experiences that lack representation in literature, based on our best knowledge and research.

Additional Program Information: Mentors and mentees will determine their contact schedules and frequency based on the needs of both parties. All mentors and mentees will be provided guidelines and resources to help promote productive working relationships. The mentorship relationship does not guarantee publication of any completed work and mentors are not expected to provide any referrals to acquiring agents, editors or others. The program's goal is to support the development of the mentee writer's work.

Questions? Contact mentorship@thewordfordiversity.org

**We look forward to reading your submissions
and good luck to all!**

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