

WRITE ON, DOOR COUNTY RESIDENCY PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will I find out if I have been awarded a residency?

We hope to notify all applicants of their status by mid-June 2024.

Where are you located and how do I get there?

Write On is located on Wisconsin's northeast peninsula, nestled between the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. We are within a few hours drive of Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago, and about a 6 hour drive from Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The nearest airport is Austin Straubel Airport in Green Bay (GRB). We are about a 90-minute drive north. It is highly recommended that you rent a car as there are very limited options for car service to and from the airport. We are in a rural area and a car is quite helpful, especially if you want to explore the county. There are villages with shops, restaurants, and bars within a short drive of Write On.

What is the difference between a residency and a retreat?

A writer's residency is awarded to an applicant based on the strength of their work sample and plan for the work they hope to accomplish during their stay. Applications are reviewed by Write On's residency board, a 7-person committee comprised of writers who have been residents at Write On. Residencies are available in January, February, April, May, June, July, August, October, and December. There is no fee for the residency program, but writers are responsible for their own transportation and food. In exchange for the residency, we do ask writers to take part in a community engagement project. (Please see Community Engagement Project below.) Residencies can be 1 week to 1 month.

Retreats are available for writers and readers who would like a shorter stay and who may not have a focused project in mind. They may simply want time to read, time to connect with members of their writing group in a relaxed setting, or time to think about their writing in a peaceful environment. Retreats are not reviewed by a committee and are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Retreats can be 3 – 7 nights at the cost of \$175 per night.

What should my work sample include?

Your work sample should showcase your talent as a writer. Plan to submit some of what you consider to be your best work. You may also want to include some pages that relate to the project you hope to focus on while in residence. For instance, if you are working on a novel and it is in its very early stages, you might want to submit a few pages of it along with a short story you have written that you feel is really finished. Your work sample can include published or unpublished work or a combination of the two.

What is the committee looking for when they review the work plan?

The committee is looking for an indication of seriousness about your project and that you will make the most of your time during your residency. We recognize that between the time of application and the time of a residency, much may change. Strong work plans might be on the lines of “I would like to spend focused time on ordering my poetry manuscript and finding its overall narrative arc,” or “I am struggling with the development of my characters and would like time to interact with them in a different setting, alien to both of us.” An example of a work plan unlikely to be approved by the committee is, “I will wander the grounds and wait for the muse to strike.” If this is indeed your work plan, you may be better served by a retreat.

What is the community engagement project? Can you provide examples?

In exchange for the residency, we ask writers to offer some sort of program that engages the community. This could be a writing workshop, an author talk on some aspect of craft, or a public reading. It could be a program designed for a specific demographic: seniors, veterans, school children, etc. The program should be designed for writers and/or readers at any age or stage of experience. The proposal should not be for a project beyond our mission: e.g., environmental clean-up, ushering at one of the local theaters, etc.

I am an arts administrator; am I eligible to apply?

Yes, we welcome applications from arts administrators who may come solo or as a team to spend focused time on developing a new strategic plan, rethinking their organization’s mission statement, writing grants, or imagining new projects for their organizations. We have had editors, program directors, and publishers as former residents.

Do you accept families?

We recognize that not everyone is able to be away from their families for a week or even longer. Our residency program is open to writers who need to travel with children, spouses, or parents for whom they are a caretaker.

May I bring my pet?

Unfortunately, animal companions are not accepted at this time with the exception of service animals.

What is provided at the house?

The house is fully-equipped with Wi-Fi and a wireless printer. Sheets, towels, etc. are all provided. The kitchen includes a stove and double oven, microwave, toaster oven, air fryer, popcorn maker, and toaster, as well as coffee makers. The kitchen is supplied with basic pots and pans, dishware, and pantry staples.

I need a solo residency. Is that possible?

We are sometimes able to award solo residencies. This ability is strengthened as to the applicant's expressed need to be alone. For instance, a songwriter who wants to test out new songs on an electric guitar well into the night is a good candidate for a solo residency. Solo residencies are easier to award in the off-season months. Given academic schedules and other circumstances, we receive many requests for summer residencies. A solo residency June – August is rarely awarded.

For descriptions of the house, please visit our website. If awarded a residency, an information packet about the house and local community will be given to you well in advance of your residency so you may plan appropriately.