

A Foundation For Women Artists Writers

Written by Nalo Hopkinson ID1656
Monday, 11 July 2005 22:58 -

A Room Of Her Own Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the vision of writer Virginia Woolf by bridging the often fatal gap between a woman's economic reality and her artistic creation.

The foundation was formed in 2000 to provide innovative and practical arts patronage to women.

Through our generous grant program and unique retreat experiences, A Room of Her Own Foundation works to educate the community about the work of female artists and writers.

The foundation provides practical help to award recipients in the form of professional guidance. We are committed to bringing important female voices, and the important creative work of women, into the spotlight.

The foundation provides annual Gift of Freedom grants of up to \$50,000 to women with creative vision. It is the largest grant of its kind in the United States.

A Room of Her Own Foundation's unique approach recognizes and supports diverse artistic expressions of the written arts (fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry) as well as the visual arts (painting, sculpture and photography).

To be selected for the Gift of Freedom, women applicants not only must demonstrate their talent, but also their motivation. We are looking for women who have solid creative goals and a specific project to accomplish during the two-year term of the grant. We are also interested in helping women who have a track record of commitment to their art and who are also making a substantial effort to be self-sufficient.

We also give our award based, in part, on the potential future impact of the artist's or writer's work on the broader community. We support women with a social, as well as an artistic, vision.

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The award recipients have a 'moral' contract to complete their project and give back to A Room of Her Own Foundation and mentor other Gift of Freedom recipients.

The successful applicant will have a well articulated creative project concept and a clear plan for how it may accomplished.

The next award cycle will be in fall of 2006, and will be for fiction.

During the period that a recipient is receiving a grant, the recipient is required to report and interact with a mentor on an ongoing basis. A written report setting forth the use of the funds and the progress of the recipients in her chosen field is required quarterly. At the end of the grant term a final written report is required to be submitted to AROHO.

In the final report, the recipient is required to account for the funds granted to her and provide an account of her artistic progress while receiving the grant.

Additionally, at the end of the grant period, each recipient is required to provide AROHO with documentation regarding the artist's work for the period. The form of submission to AROHO varies with the artist's chosen field.

In addition to the financial aspects of the Gift of Freedom Award, recipients are assigned an individual as a mentor, for advice and dialogue. Recipients also have access to members of AROHO's Advisory Council. Once a recipient has progressed in her art, she will be expected to mentor other AROHO recipients.

AROHO hopes to create educational programs which will instruct the public about the needs and contributions of women artists, including visits to schools and other educational opportunities in the broader community.

GUIDELINES

Each woman interested in receiving financial assistance from AROHO is required to fill out an application form. Application materials are available on this website closer to grant application cycle.

Check back in spring of 2006. The application process for a Gift of Freedom Award includes essays on the applicant's artistic life, an example of the applicant's artistic expression, and questions involving educational, and employment history, as well as community service. Complete disclosure of an applicant's data and assets is required.

The awarding panel deciding the recipients of the Gift of Freedom Awards will be composed of members of AROHO's http://www.aroomofherown.org/get2know_directors.html Board of Directors, Advisory Council and volunteers from a wide variety of back - grounds, with expertise in the arts, business, theology and psychology. These volunteers are selected by AROHO's Board of Directors based upon their expertise and interest in women in the arts. Each award is given based upon merits of the application presented to the awarding panel.

Grants are awarded to deserving women on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis.

The Foundation reserves the right to not grant a Gift of Freedom Award for any award cycle, if it is determined, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Foundation's Selection Panel, that there is not an acceptable application among those submitted to the Foundation for the award cycle.

SFWA Grants Committee: <http://www.sfw.org>

"support for writers" list serve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/supportforwriters/>

A Foundation For Women Artists & Writers - <http://www.aroomofherown.org/giftfreedom.html>

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