THE McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS FOR WRITERS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I apply for both the Award in Children’s Literature and the Award in Creative Prose? Or can I apply for the Fellowship for Writers and the Fellowship in Ceramics?

No. The McKnight Fellowship is one program. Any applicant may submit for only one of the McKnight Artist Fellowships in any given year. For instance, you cannot apply for a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Writers and a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Screenwriting in the same year.

2. May work that is pending publication be counted towards eligibility?

Yes, if the work will appear in print—either in book form or in a journal—before April 1, 2019 you may include it to meet the publication requirements. You must submit a letter or email from the editor or publisher acknowledging that your work will be published by April 1, 2019.

3. Does the manuscript submitted to the competition need to be unpublished?

No. But if you are a previous McKnight Fellow in Writing, you may not submit the same manuscript for consideration.

4. What is the purpose of the biographical statement? Do the judges see this?

The judges do not see your biographical statement. We ask for this simply so we have the information when the winners are announced. Because of tight publicity deadlines, we have found it difficult to get this information from winners in a timely manner, so we ask for it at the time of application. No one but the program administrator will see your bio. Include in your statement anything you would want to share about yourself publicly should you be chosen a winner of the fellowship.

5. Why do you require publications or proven that they’ve been a featured writer?

The McKnight Artist Fellowships for Writers provide Minnesota writers of demonstrated ability with an opportunity to work on their craft for a concentrated period of time. The intent of this program is to recognize and support midcareer artists living and working in Minnesota who demonstrate a sustained level of accomplishment, commitment, and artistic excellence. In the field of writing, we have a fairly broad definition of accomplishment, but nonetheless every applicant must demonstrate that accomplishment.
6. **What about work published in anthologies—does that count towards the publication requirement?**

Yes, work published in an anthology may be used to meet the eligibility requirements for publication. **However,** a piece may only be used once to meet the requirement. If, for example, you published a short story in a literary journal and it later appeared in an anthology of short fiction, that story can only be counted as one publication.

7. **Do I need to submit a plan of how I would use the fellowship?**

No, there is no proposal or plan needed. The money is intended to allow artists to focus on their craft. We recognize that each writer will have different needs. Some may use the money for a work-release from a college or university. Some may upgrade their computers. Some may be able to turn down freelance work in order to write.

8. **When are winners announced?**

**Most likely,** winners will be announced in early April 2019. However, judges frequently ask for more time to make their decisions, so please be patient if the winners are not announced on April 1. Winners will be notified by phone; all other applicants will receive emails informing them of the results after the winners have been notified. If you will have a different phone number or email in April of 2019, please email your updated information to the program director at bphi@loft.org

9. **I don’t have a computer. Can Loft staff upload my application for me?**

It is beyond the Loft’s capacity to help upload applications. We suggest that you plan ahead and ask a friend to help, or book time at your local library to use a computer. We also suggest that all applicants plan ahead and familiarize themselves with Submittable and the application process before the due date.