



Inner West Writer in Residence Guidelines 2024



1. INTRODUCTION

The *Inner West Writer in Residence* program provides two emerging local writers with a studio space, stipend and professional development opportunities for a 6-month period.

The program is a collaboration between Inner West Council and Writing NSW and is supported by funding from Council. Council has a strong commitment to support artists across all artforms and acknowledges writers have specific needs that can fall through the cracks of other funding and residency programs. Writing NSW is the state's leading provider of services to writers, including courses, workshops, writing groups, information and advice.

The Residency offers two emerging writers:

- Exclusive use of the large writers' studio at Writers NSW for 3 days per week each for 6 months
- A \$3000 stipend for each writer for the 6-month period
- A year-long Writing NSW membership
- A one-hour consultation with a Senior Publisher
- Access to a range of Writing NSW events



AIMS

The program aims to provide emerging writers with opportunities and support, enabling Inner West Council to implement its Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Cultural Strategy and Arts Recovery Plan. Key initiatives met in the CSP include *Creative communities and a strong economy* and *Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated*.

Specific program aims include:

- Provide affordable space and financial support to enable time to focus on writing away from other distractions
- Support writers' skills development and wellbeing through opportunities to write, meet other writers and attend events in a supportive environment
- Facilitate professional development opportunities and career pathways through targeted meetings, information and guidance

2. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible:

- Applicants must be over 18 years of age
- Applicants must live in the [Inner West local government area](#)
- Applicants be an emerging writer*
- Submitted material must be your own original work
- Submitted work must be typed using 1.5x spacing with generous margins. For poems, use single spacing, with double spacing between stanzas
- Fiction of all genres, narrative non-fiction, poetry, plays and film and television scripts are eligible for submission. Instructional books and translations are not eligible
- Applicants may only submit one application.

** You are considered an emerging writer if you have a steady writing practice and some publications/ recognition. You are **not** considered an emerging writer if you have more than one full length fiction or non-fiction works or several long-form pieces published and/ or a regular proportion of your income is from writing*

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

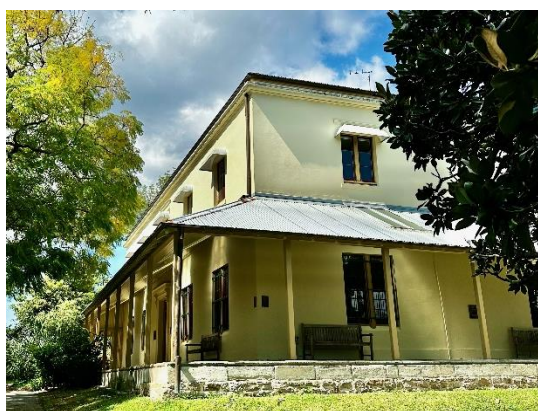
The criteria below will be used to assess each application.

- A) **Artistic merit** 25%
Demonstrated skill in the writer's submitted artist statement and past work
- B) **Residency proposal** 25%
Creative ideas, innovation and quality exhibited in the proposed body of work to be developed during the residency
- C) **Professional development** 25%
Benefits to be gained from the residency and how this contributes to the writer's career and professional development
- D) **Benefits to the Inner West community** 25%
Benefits to the Inner West community, such as proposed methods for sharing insights, learnings and/ or work in progress

4. RESIDENCY STUDIO SPACE



The *Inner West Writer Residency* studio is a large sun-lit space within Writing NSW, which occupies Garry Owen House, a restored Georgian manor. Built in 1840, it is set in the leafy grounds of Callan Park, Lilyfield, and is abuzz with a variety of writers studios, groups, events and organisations.



This Residency opportunity is open to two writers, meaning the studio will be used exclusively by each Writer in Residence on different days of the week (ie. each writer for three days per week. Practicalities such as storage and cleanliness would be shared and negotiated by the two residents. The studio is up flights of stairs and unfortunately is not accessible.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- All applications must be submitted online at:
<https://innerwest.smartygrants.com.au/writerinresidence>
- Applications will be assessed by an expert panel, including a Writing NSW representative, a Council staff member and an industry professional
- Director, Community Services, Inner West Council will endorse the successful applicants based on the recommendations of the panel
- Applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application
- Successful applicants will be offered a funding agreement confirming the conditions of the Residency. The agreement will include a brief description of the project for which funding and resources are being provided, and the agreed commitments of Council and the Writers in Residence

Preparing to apply

You will need the following to apply:

- Proof of address (eg. Drivers Licence)
- Artist statement (max 100 words). This could include writing themes or approaches, education and background as relevant
- Samples of past work (two samples/ excerpts, each sample max 4 A4 pages 1.5x spaced)
- Sample of current work to be developed during the Residency (up to 8 A4 pages 1.5x spaced)
- Proposed ideas about sharing your outcomes/ benefits of the residency with the Inner West community, for example a reading or online sharing. It is not necessary to complete the proposed body of work during the residency
- Proposed days per week that you would like the Residency (maximum three days per week, eg. Monday – Wednesday)

6. TIMELINE

- Applications open Wednesday 1 November 2023
- Applications close Tuesday 21 November 2023, midnight (end of day)
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome by 18 December 2023
- The Residency duration is 22 January 2024 – 31 July 2024.