



AWP Small Press Publisher Award Submission Guidelines

AWP is pleased to announce the AWP Small Press Publisher Award, an annual award for nonprofit presses and literary journals. AWP recognizes that nonprofit presses and literary journals fill an important need by publishing creative works and introducing new authors to the reading public.

The AWP Small Press Publisher Award recognizes the hard work, creativity, and innovation of presses and journals and honors those organizations that have contributed to the literary landscape through consistently excellent work.

The award includes a \$2,000 honorarium from AWP and a complimentary exhibit booth, including two complimentary conference registrations, at AWP's Annual Conference & Bookfair in the year following the recipient's recognition. In even years, the award will be given to a journal, and in odd years, the award will be given to a press.

Criteria for the AWP Small Press Publisher Award

The AWP Small Press Publisher Award is for presses or journals that have consistently demonstrated excellence in the following categories: quality and discernment in curatorship of published work, quality of content, quality of editing, and skill and innovation in design. Nominees will be committed to nurturing the talents of their published authors, supporting their literary communities, and actively engaging in consistent and effective public engagement and outreach.

Eligibility Requirements

The AWP Small Press Publisher Award will be given to a press or journal that has made significant contributions to contemporary literature.

- The nominee will be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.
- The nominee will have participated in at least three previous AWP bookfairs, which may include the bookfair held in the year they are nominated.
- The nominee will have been in operation for five years or more at the time of its nomination.
- The winner must travel to the AWP conference to receive the award.

Guidelines for Letters of Nomination

Letters of nomination should include an explanation of how the nonprofit press or literary journal fulfills the criteria above and a detailed explanation of how the nominated organization has contributed to the literary landscape, demonstrated consistent excellence in the criteria above, and demonstrated commitment to nurturing authors.

Letters should be no longer than two single-spaced pages. Letters should include the name, return address, and signature of the nominating person as well as contact information for a representative of the organization nominated who can accept the award on behalf of the organization. All nominations should be in PDF format and submitted through [AWP's Submittable portal](#). Postal submissions will not be considered. An employee of an organization may not nominate his or her own organization for the award.

Inquiries

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All nomination letters must be received between September 1 and midnight EST on October 27, 2023. A small committee of individual judges will select the finalists and determine the award winner. The recipient will be announced at the AWP Conference & Bookfair. The winner will receive a complimentary booth at the bookfair following the year the award was presented. Booths are not transferrable; winners who choose not to exhibit at the following year's bookfair will forfeit their complimentary exhibit space. Previous recipients of the award may not be nominated and will not be considered. Nominations will be considered for three years, including the year the nomination is submitted.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Judges will recuse themselves from ranking a nominee for the following reasons:

- When any organizations for which they serve on the board of directors or for which they serve as a consultant, faculty, or employee are nominated
- When their book publisher or any publisher where their work is currently under consideration is nominated
- When any organizations for which they have received a fellowship, residency, financial or professional assistance, or any organization for which they are currently under consideration to receive a fellowship, residency, or financial or professional assistance, is nominated

AWP reserves the right to reevaluate nominations that receive a recusal.