



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

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April 25, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **JAM Prize - James Alan McPherson Prize for the Novel – announced at #AWP23**

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) is thrilled to announce the creation of an endowment to support and elevate AWP's annual Prize for the Novel in the name of the distinguished writer James Alan McPherson.



James Alan McPherson was the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his short story collection *Elbow Room*. He held degrees from Morris Brown College, Harvard Law School, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, he received many literary prizes and was selected as one of the first MacArthur Fellows, also known as the genius awards. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1995.

McPherson was a faculty member at the esteemed Iowa Writers' Workshop and, over several decades, nurtured many literary careers as a teacher, mentor, and friend. McPherson is an excellent choice to represent AWP's commitment to innovation and excellence in writing and diversity and respect for writers who teach.

AWP asks that you consider a generous gift to the James Alan McPherson Endowment, which will support the annual \$5,500 cash prize for the novel to an emerging writer. It will also honor the many contributions and enduring legacy of James Alan McPherson to the field of creative writing. We are grateful for your support.

All donations are fully tax-deductible and contributions may be made on AWP's website at: <https://awpwriter.kindful.com/?campaign=1205466>



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If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to AWP and mail it to:

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AWP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit association that provides support, advocacy, resources, and community to contemporary writers. Our mission is to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them, while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing.