Title: Demystifying the Application: Fellowships, Residencies and Grants

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 12:10 - 1:25 pm
Signature Room, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

Event Description

Have you ever applied for a fellowship, residency or grant and wondered if your application has what it takes to be a top contender? This is a rare chance to hear from a diverse group of authors who've served on selection committees for state and national grants as well as fellowships and residencies. You will gain a better understanding of what judges are looking for, what goes into the selection process and how you might identify which fellowships, residencies and grants are the best fit.

Event category: Artistic and Professional Development

Event organizer and moderator: Julayne Lee is the author of Not My White Savior, which has been taught in university Freshman Lit and Race & Ethnicity courses. She has spoken on adoption in the US & Korea & hosts writing workshops for adoptees & foster alum. She has been a judge for national fellowships & residencies.@julayneelle

Event participants:

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo is the author of Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge (Sundress Publications) and is a former Steinbeck Fellow and Poets & Writers California Writers Exchange winner. She is the creator of the quarterly reading series Hitched and a co-founder of Women Who Submit.
Angela Franklin is a retired management analyst who is also a poet, essayist, and grant writer from Los Angeles, California. She has an MFA in creative nonfiction from Antioch University Los Angeles, and was a recent evaluator for the California Arts Council's annual grant program for two cycles.

Janice Lobo Sapigao (she/her) is a poet from San José, CA. She is the author of two books of poetry, *microchips for millions* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc., 2016) and *like a solid to a shadow* (Nightboat Books, 2022). She was the 2020-2021 Santa Clara County Poet Laureate.


Welcome to **Demystifying the Application: Fellowships, Residencies and Grants**. A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (identify moderator), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
- Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
- Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
- Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
- Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.
Participant Opening Remarks, Initial Thoughts or Readings

Julayne Lee

I’m Julayne Lee and will be moderating. I’m the author of Not My White Savior and was a judge for the PEN Emerging Voices Fellowship (2018) and the Pond Farm Artist in Residence (2021) which is in Guerneville, CA. To get started, each of the panelists will provide their opening remarks with further background information on their experience. I’ll then ask a series of questions and finally we’ll have 15 minutes for Q & A.

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo

I am a former Steinbeck fellow with San Jose State’s Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies. I also was the poetry winner of the Poets & Writers California Writers Exchange contest, the first “Poet in the Parks,” a residency in partnership with Gettysburg National Arts Foundation, National Parks Arts Foundation, and the Poetry Foundation, and I’ve received residencies with Hedgebrook and Ragdale. As an organizer, I’ve written grants that have received funding from Center for Cultural Innovation (aka CCI Arts), the California Arts Council, and the Eastside Arts Initiative.

I’ve been a reader/juror for Hedgebrook, the California Arts Council, Creative Capital, and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Angela Franklin

Hello Everyone,

My former 28 1/2-year employment history involved working in positions as a public information officer and community relations manager for LAX. I
also served as a management analyst for the second largest utility company in the US. I have reviewed many requests for proposals, requests for information, and requests for qualifications from companies seeking to bid on special projects and services for the City of Los Angeles.

I have sat on panels where I reviewed application packages for grants relating to environmental projects. In the last three years, I served twice as a panelist for the California Arts Council, where I reviewed over 100 applications for grant funding from community organizations.

I am here today to take away some of the fear and mystery out of the grant submission process. My goal is to provide a few tips that will get you started. I hope that you will come away empowered and encouraged to begin researching and developing your own strategies for submitting strong applications that will get your special writing or other art-related projects funded. Here is what I know.

**Janice Lobo Sapigao**
- Youth poetry contest - Santa Clara County Library District
- Youth poetry contest - major publisher
- San Diego City College Community College District Creative Writing contest
- Santa Clara County YPL
- Academy of American Poets / Emergency Lit Funding
- Thoughts on community
- Thoughts on being an applicant

**Amanda Galvan Huynh**

I have applied for many fellowships and scholarships. I’ve been fortunate to attend: MacDowell, Storyknife, Vermont Studio Center, Sewanee Writers’ Conference, Sundress Academy for the Arts, New York Summer Writers
Institute, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Community of Writers at Squaw Valley, Monson Arts, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sapporo Tenjin-yama Residency and others.

Struggles and things I learned as an applicant. I am currently just starting to venture into grant writing. I received my first small grant in Fall 2022.

I am currently judging for two so I cannot disclose which ones those are specifically; however, I can talk about the similarities between the two which is the work sample. Experience being on the other side of the application process.

Advice: Research (Artist Communities Alliance/TransArtists Website); look for a fit versus name; do not pass up emerging residencies. Form a group to workshop artist statements/proposals. Strong work sample.

Moderator Questions
1. What fellowships, residencies and grants have you received and how many times did you apply? Which were you rejected from (never received)?
2. How did you become a judge or end up on a selection committee? Were these paid positions and how much time did you have to commit?
3. As a judge, what were some of the distinguishing characteristics of the applications and the awardees as well as those that were rejected?
4. What advice do you have for the application process (dos and don’ts)? Advice for dealing with rejection as well as acceptance?
5. What are your thoughts on submission fees?
6. Any final thoughts?