

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE*

Arrondissement Rivière-des-Prairies - Pointe-aux-Trembles

**Rivière-des-Prairies Library
Pointe-aux-Trembles Library**

**Criteria and guidelines
Deadline
Application procedure**

2012-2013

* The term "writer," as it is used in this project, refers to both male and female writers.

The Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM), through its touring program and in association with Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles borough and the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ), is offering a residency for a writer at the Rivière-des-Prairies and Pointe-aux-Trembles Libraries during fall and winter 2012-2013.

1. Objectives of the residency

The Writer-in-Residence program offered at those two Public Libraries is a creative residency that includes a cultural mediation component¹. It was developed in view of the following objectives:

- a) To enable a writer living in Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles borough to come into contact with the public and/or his audience while:
 - creating an artistic project in collaboration with the members of the community where he resides (a cultural mediation project that takes into account the socio-demographic reality of the city, including its linguistic specificity);
 - pursuing his own creative work thanks to remuneration paid during the residency.
- b) To familiarize the general public with the work of a writer, i.e. literary creation, as well as the more mundane aspects of the profession, such as bursaries, research, publishing contracts, etc.
- c) To make a writer available to the population.

Project description

The residency will last six (6) months, from September 2012 to mid-February 2013. The initiators of the project felt that this was the minimal amount of time for the writer to fully inhabit the space and leave his mark, for him to become the “phantom” of the library, so to speak. The writer occupying this residency will make himself available twenty-five (25) hours a week, ten (10) of which must be spent in one or the other library, in a space set up especially for him. Since libraries are open during the week-ends, the writer’s schedule can be extremely flexible and he must ensure at least a periodic presence during those times. The writer who commits to this project will therefore not be able to use all of his time for writing. Nevertheless, he can devote fifteen (15) hours a week to work privately on his own personal projects. The Rivière-des-Prairies and Pointe-aux-Trembles

¹ “A true cultural democratization takes more than the enhancement of the cultural supply; it requires the steady, targeted and concerted development of the demand. This action has a name: cultural mediation. A cultural mediator is a go-between, a guide, a messenger, a human intermediary who calls on a potential public to promote, explain, even help it adapt, the cultural services offered. He helps individuals and groups – marginalized clienteles as well as citizens too taken up by their daily lives – to better identify with and appropriate their cultural institutions. A cultural mediator strives to make everyone feel he is an active participant in our cultural output and collective memory.” Montréal, Cultural Metropolis, A Cultural Development Policy for Ville de Montréal 2005-2015, page 20.

Libraries will therefore also provide him with a private space for those hours; if he prefers, he can also work those hours from home.

While the writer's activities can vary depending on his skills and interests, he cannot renege on the cultural mediation project, which must be developed with and within the community. In fact, the candidates' evaluations will be based mainly on the relevance of their submitted projects. This is an artist's residency where the writer can be inspired by the community, but must also give back. As well, the writer could work on projects with artists from other disciplines, depending on his affinities and the budgets at his disposal.

In addition, the writer could, depending on his skills, interests and abilities, give readings or conferences covering all aspects of his artistic process, for a variety of audiences. In order to accomplish this, he would be able to count on the support and expertise of the library staff and take advantage of opportunities offered by existing public programs, such as story-telling activities for children up to age 7 and book clubs for youths, teens and adults. He could also provide coaching, or literary mentorship, as part of the English and French writing workshops for adults already offered by the library, as well as donating his services by putting pen to paper for the benefit of his fellow citizens.

2. Financial aid provided

The writer will receive a \$15,000 bursary: \$10,000 will be provided by the CAM, via its touring program, and \$5,000 by the Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles borough.

3. Eligibility criteria

A writer wishing to submit his candidacy for this residency must meet the following conditions:

- be a professional writer, have published at least two books with recognized and registered publishers;
- live in the borough of the libraries. Technically, this means that the writer's civic address fall between the following postal codes: H1A H1B H1C H1E.

4. Evaluation criteria for applications

The CAM, in collaboration with an UNEQ representative, as well as representatives from the Rivière-des-Prairies and Pointe-aux-Trembles Libraries – both management and users - will evaluate the submitted applications according to the following criteria:

- the artistic and didactic qualities of the proposed cultural mediation project, as well as its originality;
- its contribution to the community;
- the writer's ability to complete his project.

5. Procedure for submitting an application

A writer wishing to apply to be the Writer-in-Residence at the Rivière-des-Prairies and Pointe-aux-Trembles Libraries must send a summary of his project accompanied by the résumé. He can also include other relevant documents, such as: press kits, major achievements related to their proposed cultural mediation project, reference letters, etc.

6. Deadline

The deadline for submitting an application for the Writer-in-Residence program at the Rivière-des-Prairies and Pointe-aux-Trembles Libraries is January 30, 2012.

Candidates will receive a reply in March 2012.

7. Obligations of the writer

The writer who occupies the residency must submit a short report on his experience. The person responsible on the municipal side will also ask him/her to take part in the project's evaluation process.

8. INFORMATION

To submit your candidacy or to obtain further information, please contact:

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