

2024 Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Writer/Scholar/Researcher Residency

Purpose The Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Writing Residency celebrates the legacy of the late Columbus artist and writer and provides a U.S.-based African American writer, scholar or researcher with a residency in the late artist's newly renovated Columbus, Ohio home studio. Residents will have the gift of uninterrupted time to work on projects of their choice in a setting that was the heart of Aminah's creative process for more than forty years.

Description

The Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) offers a U.S.-based African American writer, scholar, or researcher the gift of time and space to work on a writing or research project of their choice during a 90-day residency. We welcome expressions of interest from writers of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry and from scholars and researchers who focus on African American art and culture in all periods and media. Work should be deeply rooted in any of the following: storytelling, cultural traditions and heritage; the centrality of African American women in art; race, racism and social activism in the arts; research about art related to the previous themes. In exchange for a residency, writers agree to complete a community engagement project in consultation with the Columbus Museum of Art. This might take the form of public writing workshops, readings, and/or lectures. The Resident will live in the artist's recently renovated home studio. Preference will be given to writers, scholars, and researchers interested in topics like those central to the work of MacArthur fellow Robinson, such as the documentation of African American culture and history or centrality of African American women to sustaining community. Residents whose projects relate to Robinson's life and work will have access to her art, archives, and library.

Award Details

In 2024, the residency will include a \$15,000 unrestricted cash award and the honor of living and working in Aminah's home. Lodging and studio access is provided as part of the residency. Mutually agreed upon community engagement facilitated by CMA is required and residents will have many opportunities to interact with the vibrant Columbus arts community and make public presentations. The resident will have access to local writers and scholars. Because Columbus does not have a robust transportation system, it is preferred that the participant bring a car to Columbus, if possible.

(The Greater Columbus Arts Council manages applications for the residency.)

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants to the Aminah Writers' Residency must:

- Identify as African American
- Be a permanent resident of the United States
- Be a professional or pre-professional or emerging writer, scholar or researcher (age 18 and older)
 - o Definition: individuals who devote a significant portion of their time to the creation of written work for submission to a publication; or as a stand-alone publication; or in submission for a graduate degree. Individuals working in a creative industry primarily producing commercial work are not eligible. Collaborative applications are NOT accepted. Each writer must apply individually.

- Produce work in any of the following media: fiction; non-fiction; poetry; drama; research for publication. The applicant must be the sole author of works.
- Produce works deeply rooted in any of the following: storytelling, cultural traditions and heritage; the centrality of African American women in art; race, racism and social activism in the arts; research about art related to the previous themes. The applicant must be the sole author of works.
- Are NOT enrolled as degree-seeking undergraduate students.

NOTE: Residents of Central Ohio are eligible to apply; however, recipients of the local Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Fellowship, are not eligible. Likewise, recipients of either an Aminah Robinson Art Residency or Aminah Robinson WSR Residency are prohibited from applying for any future Aminah Robinson programs.

To access the GoArts online application system, visit: gcac.smartsimple.com. If you have any technical questions, contact grants@gcac.org

What is the application fee? The application fee is \$15 and payable via debit/credit card in the application, under the “Certification and Payment” tab. You will not be able to submit the application until you have completed the payment.

How often can I apply?

An applicant may be selected for the Aminah Writer/Scholar/Researcher Residency only once. If an applicant is not selected, they may apply again the following year.

Timeline – subject to change

Application Opens - October 1, 2023

Application Due – November 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Notification – By December 8, 2023

Residency Begins – May 1, 2024

Residency Ends – July 30, 2024

Application questions:

- Why are you interested in the Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Writer’s Residency?
- How does your work align with Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson’s life, art, and/or writing? Why should you be selected for this residency?
- How will being in the home studio of the artist affect your writing?
- Describe the project you plan to work on or begin.

What are the required Supplemental Materials (uploads)?

All support materials must be uploaded digitally to the GoArts system.

- Writer’s bio or resume (PDF only)
- Writing Samples (up to three works, maximum of 20 pages total). Applicants may submit published or works in progress.
- List of publications, if applicable.

To access the GoArts online application system, visit: gcac.smartsimple.com. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Deidre Hamlar at deidre.hamlar@cmaohio.org.

AFTER SUBMITTING – NEXT STEPS

Review, evaluation and selection

Aminah Writer’s Residency applications are reviewed by a selection jury that will include representatives from the Shepard or Poindexter neighborhoods where Aminah lived, the Columbus Museum of Art and esteemed writers from across the country. Selection jury will review the applicant’s excellence and proficiency, innovation and creativity, use of storytelling, and connection to cultural traditions and heritage. The selection jury will also consider the applicant’s connection to the aesthetic and spirit of Aminah Robinson.

Following a consensus selection from the residency selection jury, applicants will be notified by email of the determination.

AFTER YOU ARE AWARDED

To accept the award, you will receive a contract by email to review, sign and return via email. No changes in the terms or residency timeline without prior written approval from Columbus Museum of Art.

Residency Expectations

Recipient of the Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Residency should be actively writing or researching during their 90 days and is required to participate in at least one community engagement opportunity facilitated by Columbus Museum of Art and/or a public presentation.

Publicity/Donor Acknowledgement

Once you are awarded, say “Thanks!” in a public way. The Columbus Museum of Art requires that all artists receiving funding demonstrate the public value of the arts by making others aware of awards received and acknowledging public funders.

Payment will be distributed as follows: Residents will receive 50% of the award upon receipt of the signed grant agreement and balance of the award following the artist’s arrival in Columbus.

Final Reports are used to collect feedback on your experience and are due 30 days after the completion of the fellowship term. To complete this Final Report, login to your GoArts account, scroll down to “Requires Attention” and click on the “Reports” tab.

AMINAH BRENDA LYNN ROBINSON RESIDENCIES

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where is Aminah's home located?

The Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson home is located in a lovely pocket neighborhood on the near eastside of Columbus, Ohio, a short ten-minute drive from downtown Columbus.

Will I need a car while in residence?

It is preferred that the participant bring a car to Columbus, if possible. Columbus does not have a robust public transportation system and Aminah's neighborhood home is a distance from bus transportation. However, we know this can be an issue for families or those without a vehicle. If this is the case, we will discuss options and might also recommend participants plan for extra expenditures related to car share fees, bus passes, etc.

May I bring my bicycle?

Columbus is a burgeoning cycling community, but it still relies on automobiles. There are many bike trails and a few dedicated bike lanes (mostly downtown and campus areas) but riders should take extreme caution on roadways. We would only recommend bicycle as a primary mode of transportation for experienced daily bike commuters.

May I bring my family/friend to stay with me in the house during my residency?

No. Though we know that it may be difficult to be away from home and family, this residency is intended for you to engage in creative practices without the usual daily distractions or responsibilities. You are welcome to have visitors, but we ask that no guests stay more than five days.

May I bring my pet to stay with me in the house during my residency?

No. Because we consider Aminah's house to be a sacred space, we do not allow any pets inside the home or studio. This helps to sustain the integrity of these historical spaces.

What is the house policy on smoking?

Because we consider Aminah's house to be a sacred space, we do not permit smoking inside the home or studio. However, we do allow smoking outside on the porches, lawn or driveway as long as proper disposal practices are followed.