

The New Mexico Writer

*A publication of New Mexico Writers
Supporting and connecting the literary community*

December 2025

New Mexico Writers 2026 Grant Program Opens December 1

New Mexico and Navajo writers seeking financial support and recognition for their work may apply for the annual grants offered by New Mexico Writers (NMW). The grants provide funding for new writing as well as works in progress.



Applications are accepted in the following genres: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, playwriting, and screenwriting. Grants are typically between \$500 and \$2,000 and are intended to support a variety of writer's needs, including attendance at a writing-related workshop, conference, or mentorship program; research-related travel costs; time away from work to focus on a writing project; and more.

There are three grant categories:

- **New Mexico Writers Annual Grant**: The NMW signature grant supports writing, research, publishing, and other activities pertaining to the creation of new works or works in progress.
- **Douglas Preston Travel Grant**: This annual \$1,000 grant, funded by best-selling author and Santa Fe resident Douglas Preston, specifically supports an author's travel needs in the service of a writing project.
- **Preston Young Writers Grant**: Supported by author Douglas Preston and his wife Christine, this grant of varying amounts is intended to assist an aspiring young writer between the ages of 18 and 25 obtain professional experience, networking, and training.

Since the program's inception in 2019, New Mexico Writers has awarded more than \$70,000 to 63 writers of all ages, and at all stages of their writing endeavors, from across New Mexico and the greater Navajo Nation. To learn about our past grantees and their unique projects, visit the NMW website [here](#).

Applications are due via email submission no later than **Friday, March 6, 2026**.

Grants will be awarded at the 2026 NMW annual dinner, where grantees will be honored as special guests on **April 30, 2026**, at La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe.

For more information about the grant program, or to apply, visit the NMW website [here](#).

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A New Mexico First in Bringing Native Heritage to Life for Blind and Low-Vision Youth Readers



Albuquerque author and 2019 NMW Grantee Laurel Goodluck has broken new ground with the New Mexico State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP). Goodluck personally collaborated on the narration of four of her picture books, not just reading the text for the audiobook, but helping craft culturally informed descriptions of the illustrations so blind and low-vision youth readers can fully experience the stories. Until now, these descriptions have been produced by the narrators or library staff; this marks the first time an author has contributed original image narration for New Mexico LBDP.

Goodluck's newly recorded titles, *Fierce Aunties!*, *Rock Your Mocs*, *Too Much*, and *Yáadilá! Good Grief!*, will be added to the National Library Service's audio collection. As an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations, and an Alaska Native Citizen of the Tsimshian Tribe, Goodluck's work expands access to Native stories for families everywhere and helps pave the way for more inclusive work from New Mexican writers. Learn more about LBDP [here](#).

New Mexico Bookstores Celebrate NM Book Awards Winners

Local bookstores across New Mexico are shining a light on their local literary talent. In November, both Avalon Books in Silver City and Books on the Bosque in Albuquerque held readings and book signings to celebrate 2025 winners in the New Mexico Book Awards.



Avalon Books hosted a reading and signing with winning authors Linda Brewer, Sharman Apt Russell, and Marty Eberhardt. An attendee at the event asked what it means to win this award. The authors shared how wonderful it is to receive recognition after all the work done in solitude and to know that they've connected with readers. The Silver City authors commented on how the diverse talents of their small community achieved statewide recognition—the winners included a murder mystery, a nature book, a cookbook, and a photography book.

Books on the Bosque welcomed Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, Korie Leigh PhD, Laurel Goodluck, and Khadijah VanBrakle for readings from their winning books in the children's, early reader, middle grade, and young adult genres. Attendees were graced by two young contributing authors, Aspen Keith (age 17) and Ella Sanchez

(age 9), and the cover artist, Melanie Rodriguez (age 18), for New Mexico Youth Arts Ambassadors' winning book *The Cuentistas: Our Stories*. Ana Romero-Sanchez of Cuentistas Press said, "It may seem a small event to us, but for these young student authors and artists, it can be life-changing."

In addition to the author event, Books on the Bosque put finalist books on display in the bookstore. The director of the NM Book Awards, Lisa McCoy, emphasized the importance of these local celebrations, saying "Authors have expressed excitement and appreciation for having their books showcased in their towns and in their favorite bookstores." UNM Press celebrated their winners and finalists with a book cover display on their website blog.

NM Writers is planning more publicity events around the state for the 2025 honorees. Look for details on events coming next year in future issues of *The New Mexico Writer*.



The WINNER and FINALIST stickers are another way authors and publishers are celebrating. McCoy heard from authors who are visiting local bookstores to attach stickers to their winner or finalist books for readers to discover. "Winners and finalists will be pleased to know the stickers—not already picked up in person—were mailed in November," said McCoy. Additional rolls of stickers are now available for purchase on the NMW website.

New Mexico Writers Grantee News



2025 NMW Grantee **Marie Parks** celebrated the release of *Undeniable*, the second book in *The Grigori Cycle* series, co-written by Jes Honard and published by Not a Pipe Publishing.



2025 NMW Grantee **Danielle Shandiin Emerson**'s multimedia piece *Haadi Shitsili (Where are you, Little Brother?)* was published in Split Lip Magazine. See it [here](#).



2020 NMW Grantee **Emily Withnall** launched a new season of the award-winning Encounter Culture podcast. Listen [here](#).

Briefly Noted



A release party was held for ***Women of Consequences: Word Comrades***, an anthology of collected works of 19 authors from T or C, published by Agile Meteor Press, at Truth or Consequences Contemporary.

Chiara Crisafulli celebrated the recent publication of her poem, *4-tongue-poem* on Voicemail Poems.

New Stage Players' 2025 Comedy Play Festival in Waterbury, VT produced **Bill Triplett**'s short play, *In & Out*; his other short play, *Coyote with Anvil on Tighrope*, received a public reading at the 2025 Midwest Dramatists Conference in Olathe, KS; and his full-length play, *True Will*, earned a staged reading at Vortex Theater in Albuquerque.

Pasatiempo shared a list of books by Indigenous authors in celebration of Native American Heritage Day and National Native American Heritage Month. Discover the list [here](#).

Susan Metallo, author of *Reasons to Hate Me*, served as the featured Storyteller in *Albuquerque the Magazine*'s latest issue.



Black Cat Coffee and Books in Truth or Consequences hosted **Amy M Bennett** for a book signing.

Saleema Ishq appeared on the November episode of The Best of Book Marketing Podcast titled *How to Market a Thriller*.

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) revealed the winners of the 2026 NCTE Children's Book Awards, recognizing outstanding literary works for children that set a standard for excellence in the field. **Vaunda Micheaux Nelson**'s *Radiant*—also a winner in the 2025 NM Book Awards—was selected for the 2026 Notable Children's Verse Novels List. The press release is [here](#).

Andrea L. Rodgers, Santa Fe-based author and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, received the 2025 Caldecott Medal awarded by the American Library Association for *Chooch Helped*.

Send Us Your News!

Having a book or article published? Doing a reading? Offering a workshop? Let us know, so we can share your news with other writers. We're particularly interested to hear from New Mexico and greater Navajo Nation writers. [Drop us a line](#).

Upcoming Events

December 3 at 10 a.m. [Barnes & Noble](#) (Las Cruces)

Join **Stevan Pearce** for a book signing of the recently released *You Had a Good Home, But You Left...*

December 4 at 6 p.m. [Ouray Community Center](#) (Ouray, CO)

Join New Mexico author **Bree Rosenblum, PhD** for a book talk and activities from her award-winning book *And: The Tiny Word That Can Radically Transform Your Life*.

December 6 at 10 a.m. [Bernalillo Community Museum](#) (Bernalillo)

Join authors who contributed to *Unbreaking the Circle: Stories of Service*, the SouthWest Writers 2025 military anthology, for a reading.

December 6 at 10 a.m. [ABQ Collective](#) (Albuquerque)

Join Albuquerque authors **Ella Schaefer** and **Saleema Ishq**, among other local creatives, for a holiday market.

December 6 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Janet Roseman** for a signing and reading of *The Eternal Bond: Daughters Honor Their Mothers on the Other Side*.

December 6 at 3 p.m. [Sky Cinemas](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Julia Goldberg** of Source NM in conversation with six local authors, including NMW's previous Board Chair **Carmella Padilla** and 2020 NMW Grantee **Emily Withnall**, for the New Mexico Press Women's Salon Series. Reserve a free spot [here](#).

December 8 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **V.B. Price** for a reading and signing from his new edition of *Innocence Regained: The Christmas Poems 2025-1969*.

December 8 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Reynolds Holding** in conversation with Judge Martha Vázquez to celebrate the release of *Better Judgment: How Three Judges Are Bringing Justice Back to the Courts*

December 9 at 6:30 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Elisabeth Reed** for a reading from her book *The Last Assignment*. Reed will be interviewed by Emmy Award-winning journalist, playwright, and producer **Marilyn Preston**.

December 11 at 6:30 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join six storytellers for a holiday-themed night presented in collaboration with the Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library.

December 11 at 12 p.m. [Quill & Quest](#) (Farmington)

Join **Matthew Alexander** for a launch party to celebrate the release of his debut novel, *Blood Moon Rising*.

December 12 at 4 p.m. [Santa Fe Public Library](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Nancy King** for a book signing and reading from *The Cracked Pot's Gift: Stores to Challenge & Comfort*.

December 13 at 3 p.m. [Santa Fe Public Library](#) (Santa Fe)

Join author **Daniel Gibson** and photographer **Kitty Leaken** for a slideshow presentation around their new book, *MAH-WAAN (WELCOME): The Story of Hotel Santa Fe & Picuris Pueblo*.

December 13 at 4 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join Albuquerque author **Dita Dow**, among other local creatives, for a Yuletide on the Westside holiday night market.

December 14 at 10:30 a.m. [Chatter Sunday](#) (Albuquerque)

V.B. Price will read from *Innocence Regained: The Christmas Poems 2025-1969*. Tickets may be purchased [here](#).

December 20 at 10:30 a.m. [Chatter North](#) (Santa Fe)

V.B. Price will read from *Innocence Regained: The Christmas Poems 2025-1969*. Tickets may be purchased [here](#).

December 20 at 11 a.m. [Black Cat Books](#) (Truth or Consequences)

Join **Dita Dow** for a reading and signing of her book, *Sins in Black*.

More Opportunities for Writers

Please note, there may be fees associated with these opportunities.



NEW MEXICO
PRESS WOMEN



Zia Book Award

The 2026 Zia Book Award will honor women authors of children's books who have significant ties to New Mexico. Submissions to New Mexico Press Women can be made through **January 29, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

The Hidden Tools of Great Writing: Literary Devices in Action

An online workshop hosted by New Mexico Book Association will take place on **December 10**. Join author Rebecca Reynolds for an interactive workshop on transforming writing through literary devices. Register [here](#).

Prompt Nights at SOMOS

Carrie Nassif and Christine Reed are hosting Prompt Nights every second Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome, and generative writing prompts will be provided. The next Prompt Night is **December 11**. Learn more [here](#).

Social Media Marketing for Authors (Who Would Rather Be Writing)

At the SouthWest Writers meeting in person and via Zoom on **December 13**, Saleema Ishq will offer a presentation on using social media marketing as a tool for connecting with readers. Learn more [here](#).

Flying Solo: Launching a Freelance Writing Business

A workshop hosted by SouthWest Writers will take place in person and via Zoom on **December 13**. Ruth Thaler-Carter will offer tips on starting, managing, and expanding a freelance writing venture. Register [here](#).

Anna Rabinowitz Award

The Poetry Society of America has opened submissions for their Anna Rabinowitz Award with a prize of \$1,000. Work can be submitted through **December 15**. Learn more [here](#).

Fine Arts Work Center Writing Fellowship

The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown has opened applications for their seven-month Writing Fellowship. Applications are due **December 15**. Learn more [here](#).

Open Mic at SOMOS

WILLA Literary Award

The WILLA Literary Award, named in honor of Willa Cather, recognizes women's and girls' stories set in the North American West. Submissions to Women Writing the West are open through **February 1, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

The Danahy Fiction Prize

The *Tampa Review* is open for submissions for The Danahy Fiction Prize with a \$1,000 award. They are accepting short, unpublished fiction through **December 31**. Learn more [here](#).

WOW! Creative Nonfiction Essay Contest

Women On Writing is accepting submissions for its quarterly creative nonfiction essay contest through **January 31, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

Story Unlikely Short Story Contest

Story Unlikely is accepting submissions to its annual short story contest through **January 31, 2026**. Learn more and submit [here](#).

NMPW New Mexico Professional Communication Contest

The 2026 New Mexico Press Women Communication Contest is open for submissions through **February 18, 2026**. The state contest is the first tier in the National Federation of Press Women's contest. Entries are submitted through the National Federation of Press Women's Communications Contest portal. Learn more [here](#).

Trickster Literary Journal Submissions

Trickster, a publication by Northern New Mexico College, is accepting submissions through **March 27, 2026**. Submitted poems, prose, and pieces of artwork should align with this year's theme: metamorphosis. Learn more [here](#).

Romance Writers of America

The Romance Writers of America is open for workshop proposals for their 2026 conference, which will be held in Albuquerque **July 15-18, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

Green Fire Times Submissions

Green Fire Times, a platform for regional, community-based voices,

Carrie Nassif is hosting Spoken Word every third Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome to share poetry, prose, storytelling, a capella. The next Prompt Night is **December 18**. Learn more [here](#).

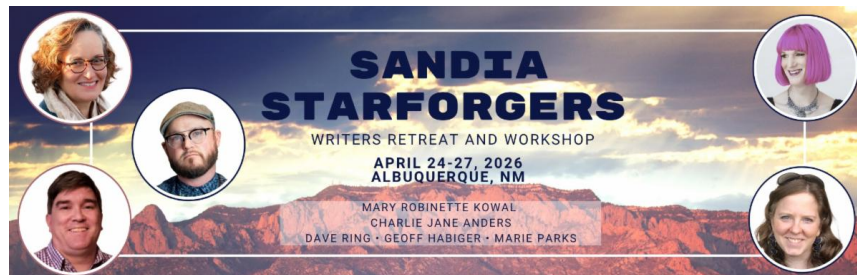
The ReWriting Room: A Hybrid Monthly Writers & Wellness Circle

Join Dr. LaNysha Adams for a new monthly hybrid experience online and at the Santa Fe Community College that blends writing, reflection, and well-being. The next event is on **December 19**. Learn more [here](#).

invites submissions of articles about New Mexico and the Southwest. Learn more and submit articles [here](#).

Grey Zones Submissions

Grey Zones accepts submissions on a rolling basis related to the guiding principles of Unlearning, Vigilant Engagement, and X-ing Boundaries. Learn more [here](#).



The third annual **Sandia Starforgers Writers Retreat and Workshop** for science-fiction, fantasy, and horror writers is taking place **April 24 to 27, 2026**, in Albuquerque. Instructors at this event include:

- Charlie Jane Anders: Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Award–winning author
- Mary Robinette Kowal: Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Award–winning author and audiobook narrator
- dave ring: Ignyte and World Fantasy Award–nominated publisher of Neon Hemlock Press (joining virtually)
- Alexandria Valentine: Editor-in-Chief of *Harriet's House* (joining virtually)
- Darling Heart: writer, editor, creative, and communications professional (joining virtually)
- Geoff Habiger: founder of Artemesia Publishing and NM-AZ Book Awards–winning author
- Marie Parks: NM-AZ Book Awards–winning author and Futurescapes Most Promising New Author nominee

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

In Others' Words

“It’s our responsibility to make this art so that the world can see us outside of this box that they’ve created.”

—Ramona Emerson

Have a favorite quote about writing you’d like to share? [Send it to us!](#)



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