

Literary Arts Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I get a grant to quit my job and write a book?

A: In short, no. That would be fantastic but as a steward of public funds, the Commission has a responsibility to ensure our grants have a public purpose and carry little risk. While such a grant would be invaluable to the individual, its benefit to the greater public is harder to quantify. Also, there would be significant risk of the book not being completed during the grant term or at all. Having said that, the Commission does offer the [Individual Artist Fellowships in Literature](#). These five-thousand dollar awards are given on an annual basis to professional writers in recognition of literary excellence. The Fellowships are very competitive, but you may use the award in any way you like.

Q: What sorts of organizations get Literary Arts grants?

A: Any nonprofit (501c3) organization or entity of government engaging in public literary activities may apply for funding. Libraries, writers' groups, literary journals, universities, and writers' conferences are some common examples.

Q: What sorts of projects are funded under the Literary Arts program?

A: Readings and lectures by authors, workshops and classes, community reads, conferences and children's reading events have all been funded in the program.

Q: What if I have an idea or project that would be great for partnering with the Tennessee Arts Commission?

A: Let's talk about it. The Commission is always looking for new collaborations and partnerships. Contact [Lee Baird](#), Director of Literary Arts

Q: Where can I learn about Tennessee authors and the state's literary history?

A: Here are a few links to try

<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/tennessee/articles/an-introduction-to-tennessee-literature-in-7-writers/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Writers_from_Tennessee

<https://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/tennessee-authors-adult-fiction-poetry-drama-1970s-present-k-r>

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/tennessee/books-in-tennessee/>

<https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/literature/>

<https://bookriot.com/2015/09/20/literary-tourism-memphis-tennessee/>

Q: How can I start or join a book club?

A: Here are some helpful links

<https://bookriot.com/2017/08/09/how-to-start-a-book-club/>

<https://www.oprah.com/oprahsbookclub/how-to-start-your-own-book-club/all>

Here is a website that shows groups in your area, Just edit for your location.

https://www.meetup.com/topics/bookclub/us/tn/nashville/?_cookie-check=r7F5AfNkWS9Nm8A-