



Eastern Oregon Writers-in-Residence Application Guidelines

Back in 1997, Fishtrap inaugurated a Writer-in-Residence (WIR) program here in Wallowa County. Rather than pushing the writer through a short, grueling, and *intensive* experience, we sought an *extensive* experience – one that would benefit the community, students, and writer in equal measures.

The model we came up with brings an outside writer into the community for eight or nine weeks, places that writer in schools for an average of eight hours each week, connects the writer with the community through evening or weekend workshops and readings, and gives the writer opportunities to explore the local landscape and culture, and to work on his or her own projects. The writer receives a modest but reasonable stipend, and the community provides housing.

The model worked so well here that we introduced it to three other communities in 2007, naming the expanded program Eastern Oregon Writers-in-Residence (EOWIR). Communities that got up and running with EOWIR in 2007 are: Chiloquin, located north of Klamath Falls in Klamath County; Harney County, including Burns, Hines, Frenchglen, and other small communities; and the neighboring towns of Fossil and Condon in Wheeler and Gilliam Counties. In 2010, we received funding in partnership with the Oregon Writing Project at Eastern Oregon University to expand into Grant and Union Counties. Grant County (Long Creek, Monument, John Day, etc.) hosted its first Writer-in-Residence this past winter. And we just completed a pilot project in Union County in May of 2011. Fishtrap continues to support three of these programs—in addition to Wallowa County's—by helping to recruit writers and providing some financial assistance.

Inherent in this success has been the willingness of these rural communities to find housing and welcome the writers into their homes and schools. However, without remarkable writers and teachers, the programs also would not have flourished. Fishtrap's Eastern Oregon Writers-in-Residence program has been lucky to find excellent candidates, ranging from poets to historical fiction authors, to fill these residencies.

Currently, we are seeking applications for writing residencies in Grant County and Union County. These two programs offer writers the opportunity to join small, tight communities in the midst of vast landscapes for eight to nine weeks in winter. In addition, the residencies provide an excellent time to work on existing projects or to start a new project, while interacting with students for whom there are few if any alternatives for artistic representation. Students from the EOWIR programs have had their lives changed by the ability to freely express themselves in a comfortable, grade-free environment. Previous WIR's range from emerging writers to published authors, certified teachers to first-time educators. All WIR's are dedicated to community outreach and diplomacy, the craft of writing, and creating safe spaces for young writers to explore and express themselves. For more information on these programs, please visit <http://fishtrap.org/wir.shtml>.

To apply for a residency, please send:

- A brief statement of interest or cover letter (400 words or less). Please include a few thoughts about how you feel a residency in eastern Oregon can make a difference for students, the community, and your writing.
- A writing sample not more than 2,500 words (prose) or up to 8 pages of poetry.
- A copy of your resume or CV (include any teaching experience as well as publication / award and fellowship history). Additional explanations or letters of reference for teaching experiences are welcome.
- Preferences, if you have any, on which of the residencies you feel most drawn to. Please explain why you think this particular locale and community would be a good fit for you.

Send all materials via email in .doc or .pdf format to Ben Hayes, Fishtrap Program Coordinator, ben@fishtrap.org.

Application deadline is August 31st, 2011, decisions will be made with local committees by mid-October.

Thanks for your time, and we hope to see your application for EOWIR soon,

-Ben Hayes

Program Coordinator
Fishtrap, Inc.
ben@fishtrap.org
541-426-3623
PO Box 38, Enterprise, Oregon, 97828