



Diversity Fellowship in Children’s Literature

The Diversity Fellowship is a 24-month professional development and mentorship program for People of Color and Indigenous authors or illustrators who are actively pursuing publication within the children’s publishing industry.

Each Fellow will receive:

- A robust curriculum specifically intended for professional development, leading Fellows closer to publishing their work.
- A Mentor specifically selected and dedicated to one full year of one-to-one professional coaching to build the Fellow’s knowledge, skills, and aptitude in preparing their manuscript and/or art samples for submission.
- Full travel and tuition costs to attend the five workshops at the Highlights Foundation that make up this Fellowship.
- Opportunities to meet as a cohort for peer review, creative exchange, and community-building.
- Opportunities to meet industry professionals: published authors and illustrators, editors, art directors, and agents.

Program Structure:

Three immersive workshop experiences will be focused on goal-setting, with community-building activities centered around the craft of writing and illustrating for children and young adult audiences, a Mentor panel, industry insight how-to’s, work sessions, and roundtable discussions. These workshops will engage Fellows in enriched dialogue exploring the perspectives of marginalized voices and spend significant time exploring the craft of writing and illustrating as it relates to their own personal work.

Diversity Fellows will also enroll in two additional workshops of their choice from The Highlights Foundation’s 2019-2020 workshop catalog that allow Fellows the opportunity to customize their sessions to meet their specific writing and/or illustrating goals.

Our Mentors:

Mentors will help with goal setting, manuscript feedback, and the development of submission plans, while providing feedback and mentorship throughout the program.



FLOYD COOPER



DEBBI MICHIKO FLORENCE



EMMA OTHEGUY



PAULA CHASE HYMAN



YVONNE WAKIM DENNIS

Special Guests:



LEAH HENDERSON



AN NA



PAT CUMMINGS

Support our mission to increase diverse narratives in children’s literature.

LEARN MORE: <https://www.highlightsfoundation.org/diversity-fellowship>

APPLY HERE: <https://www.highlightsfoundation.org/diversity-fellowship-detail>



Diversity Fellowship: Program Timeline & Structure

Diversity Fellowship Application Window: *March 15 - April 15, 2019*

The application will look at writing and/or illustrating ability, seriousness of purpose, and potential to make a significant impact on children's publishing.

Fellows are Announced: *May 15*

Getting Started: Mentors and Fellows Connect Online: *May 15 - June 15, 2019*

Mentors and Fellows will meet via phone or online and begin discussing Fellows' goals, choice of workshops to attend, and choice of manuscript to submit for review. Fellows will select two Highlights Foundation workshops to attend, from the 2019 and/or 2020 workshop season.

Manuscript Preparation: *June - August 2019*

Fellows will prepare their manuscript, synopsis, and cover letter for written critique by their Mentor.

Manuscript Submission Deadline: *August 15, 2019*

Fellows can submit an entire picture book manuscript or, for longer works, they can submit a synopsis, ten pages and a cover letter. The Mentor will prepare a written manuscript review for in-person meeting during session one.

Session One: Community, Conversation, and Momentum: *September 13 - 15, 2019*

All Fellows and Mentors, plus program facilitator, author Leah Henderson, and special guest author An Na, will meet at the Highlights Foundation Retreat Center. The session will include:

- One-to-one time with Mentors to receive feedback on Fellows' submitted manuscripts
- Fellows will work with Mentors on goal-setting, including workshop selection
- Both Fellows and Mentors will have free writing time
- Sessions on craft, including a Mentor panel

September 2019 - March 2020

Fellows will continue working on their manuscripts and attending chosen workshops.

Session Two: Opportunities for Publication: *March 15 - 17, 2020*

All Fellows and Mentors, plus a program facilitator, industry editor or agent and special guest author & illustrator Pat Cummings, will meet at the Highlights Foundation Retreat Center. The session will include:

- Business-focused sessions on submissions, pitches, and industry insights
- Session with an editor, agent and art director as needed
- Further goal-setting sessions, including submissions planning
- Fellows will receive one-to-one feedback from their Mentor and at least one agent/editor
- Fellows will participate in roundtable critique sessions facilitated by Mentors
- Mentor panel discussing their paths to publication

Future: Recognition and Celebration Event

A reuniting event for fellowship participants to come together, be recognized for their achievements, share in their successes, and build an alumni network.

TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT:

highlightsfoundation.org/diversity-fellowship



How can you support
The Diversity Fellowship in Children's Literature
and help bring diverse voices to children's literature?

We're halfway to raising
\$50,000

The following sponsors have pledged **\$25,000** so far,
and you can join them too!

Highlights for Children, Inc., The Highlights Foundation, Individual Donors

Sponsorship Levels

\$12,000 Funds a Fellow for the entire program

\$5,000 Funds one Fellow for the first year

\$2,500 Supports the Fellowship program

In appreciation of your support and stewardship, ***your name will appear on all materials related to the program.*** In addition, sponsorship will include the opportunity (optional) to

Serve on the scholarship review committee

Review manuscripts from Fellows

Meet & interact with the Fellows at the Highlights Foundation

Host Fellows at your publishing house or organization

Funding for our program will support all workshop tuition, as well as the cost of travel, food, and lodging for the 2019 cohort of Diversity Fellows.

Checks can be made out to the Highlights Foundation with Diversity Fellowship in the memo line. Or visit www.HighlightsFoundation.org/donate.

Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!