

EMERGE—SURFACE—BE: 2023–24 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR EMERGING POETS

APPLICATION DEADLINE — Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 11:59PM
Selected 2023–24 Fellows will be notified in October

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Emerge–Surface–Be is a natural extension of The Poetry Project’s program offerings. It formalizes the distinct yet unspoken pedagogical aspect of The Poetry Project’s programs while providing a unique opportunity to support, develop, and present emerging NYC based poets of promise.

We are pleased this year to have support for five mentor/fellow pairings, and to be able to support writers working in a broader range of modes — including poetry, but also crossing into nonfiction, criticism, and performance. Mentors **Andrea Abi-Karam, Kimberly Alidio, Alan Felsenthal, Erica Hunt,** and **Cedar Sigo** will each select an emerging poet to work with. Over the course of nine months, Fellows will be given the opportunity to work one-on-one with their Mentor to develop their craft; explore publication and performance opportunities; and reflect on the professional and community-based dimensions of a writing life. Meetings between Fellows and Mentors can take place both in-person and virtually. Ideal Fellows will have a project they are working on or want to embark upon, and feel that they would benefit from guidance and support. Each Fellow will receive an award of \$2,500. In adherence with US tax requirements, ESB Fellows will be issued an IRS 1099 Form.

In addition to working with their Mentors, Fellows will have access to all Poetry Project events (free workshops, free readings, free publications) and be included in the Annual New Year’s Day Marathon Reading. Fellows will also read within The Poetry Project’s Monday or Friday Night Reading Series as a culminating event, with introductions made by their Mentors. Poetry Project staff and Mentors will work with each Fellow to find other unique opportunities for deepening, sharing, and connecting their poetry to specific goals the Fellows might have. Through the program, Fellows will be invited to attend various gatherings with Poetry Project staff and other 2023–24 Fellows and Mentors.

The most important criteria will be the demonstration of potential, as well as unique vision and voice, in the applicant’s work sample. While applicants who have achieved some measure of local, regional, or national professional recognition will have these merits taken into account, we equally welcome—and encourage—applications from individuals who may have not yet had highly visible or public opportunities to share their work.

Our definition of “emerging” ranges from writers who are just beginning to share their work publicly; to writers who have local and perhaps regional recognition; and up to writers who are approaching national exposure, though not yet national recognition. **As a top limit, an emerging writer has published no more than one full-length perfect bound book and no more than three chapbooks (not including self-published work in chapbook form)**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- New York City resident at the time of application and have lived in NYC at least one year prior to the application deadline (**please note: due to funding guidelines from the grant providers of the ESB Fellowship, we are unfortunately unable to accept submissions from applicants who do not meet this eligibility requirement**)
- Eighteen years of age and older;
- *Individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree-granting writing programs are not eligible.* However, individuals who enroll in degree-granting writing programs or take classes after the time of application submission are eligible for Fellowships providing they maintain an active, professional practice of creating and presenting work to the public.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Project description, including project goals and long-term artistic goals;
- Work Sample:
 - Seven to ten (7–10) page sample of project manuscript **OR**
 - Seven to ten (7–10) pages of prior work;
- Creative resume and bio;
- Optional video clip or mp3 of applicant reading

The Poetry Project is a poet-run, nonprofit arts organization committed to countering institutional barriers through expanded access to poetry. We welcome applications from all candidates regardless of educational background and encourage applicants of all experiences, education backgrounds, system-involvement backgrounds, races, ethnicities, gender and sexual identities, documentation statuses, and disability statuses to apply.

Please email esbfellowship@poetryproject.org with questions.

MENTOR BIOS:

Andrea Abi-Karam is a trans, arab-american poet-performer cyborg. They are the author of *EXTRATRANSMISSION* (Kelsey Street Press, 2019) and with Kay Gabriel, they co-edited *We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics* (Nightboat Books, 2020). Their second book, *Villainy* (Nightboat Books, Sept 2021) reimagines militant collectivity in the wake of the Ghost Ship Fire and the Muslim Ban. They are currently working on a poet's novel.

Kimberly Alidio (she/they) is the author of *Teeter* (Nightboat Books), *why letter ellipses* (selva oscura press), *: once teeth bones coral :* (Belladonna* Collaborative), and *after projects the resound* (Black Radish Books). Her writing has been nominated for the United States Artists Fellowship and awarded the Nightboat Poetry Prize. She lives on Munsee-Mohican lands along the Mahicannituck River, otherwise known as New York's Upper Hudson Valley.

Alan Felsenthal is the author of *Lowly* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2017). His writing has appeared in *BOMB*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Harper's*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. He runs a small press called *The Song Cave* with Ben Estes. They co-edited *A Dark Dreambox of Another Kind: The Poems of Alfred Starr Hamilton* (The Song Cave, 2013). He teaches poetry at N.Y.U. Tandon School of Engineering.

Erica Hunt is a poet and essayist. She is the author of *Jump the Clock: New and Selected Poems* published by Nightboat Books and five collections of poetry — *Local History*, *Arcade*, *Piece Logic*, *Time Flies Right Before the Eyes*, and *VERONICA: A Suite in X Parts*. Her poems and non-fiction have appeared in *BOMB*, *Boundary 2*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Conjunctions*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Poetics Journal*, *Tripwire*, *FENCE*, *Hambone*, and *In the American Tree*, among other publications. Essays on poetics, feminism, and politics have been collected in *Moving Borders: Three Decades of Innovative Writing by Women*, *A-LINE*, and *The Politics of Poetic Form, The World*, and other anthologies. With poet and scholar Dawn Lundy Martin, Hunt is co-editor of the anthology *Letters to the Future, Black Women/Radical Writing* in 2018 from Kore Press. She has received awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Fund for Poetry, the Blue Mountain Center, and the Djerassi Foundation, and is a past fellow of Duke University/the University of Capetown Program in Public Policy. She is a recipient of of the 2023-2024 Joseph Brodsky fellowship from the American Academy of Rome.

Cedar Sigo is a poet and member of the Suquamish Tribe. His books include *Guard the Mysteries* (lectures) and most recently *All This Time* (poems) both from Wave Books. He lives in Lofall, Washington.

Cedar Sigo is a poet and member of the Suquamish Tribe. His books include *Guard the Mysteries* (lectures) and most recently *All This Time* (poems) both from Wave Books. He lives in Lofall, Washington.

Cedar Sigo is a poet and member of the Suquamish Tribe. His books include *Guard the Mysteries* (lectures) and most recently *All This Time* (poems) both from Wave Books. He lives in Lofall, Washington.