COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING
2021-2022 BROCHURE

A look at the programs, grants, and programs available through CatStone Books in the calendar years 2021-2022.
WELCOME TO COMMUNITY

CatStone Books is a nonprofit publishing company dedicated to amplifying diverse voices in speculative fiction. We believe that publishing should empower, and that our responsibility as stewards of stories extends to authors, readers, and staff members. We tailor our community outreach to these groups, focusing on programs that help level the publishing playing field, making it accessible to all.
Thank you for your interest in CatStone Books and the work we are doing.

Every action that we take is guided by our mission to bring diversity to speculative fiction, and to identify, amplify, and cultivate those voices. But it doesn’t stop there. As an industry, we have 400 years of wrongs to right. And that starts by giving back to communities that have been overlooked by our industry for centuries.

That is why we focus on the tasks of identifying emerging talent that may be overlooked by the traditional business models and fostering a passion for fiction in the next generation.

If you believe that diversity isn’t just a fun selling point, but our actual responsibility as gatekeepers of the stories of today, then we would be honored to have you join our cause and be a part of what we are doing here.

Publishers have a responsibility to our authors, to our readers, to our staff, to the entire ecosystem.

Caratone Books is a nonprofit book publishing company with 501(c)(3) status pending. We were founded in 2021 to help address the need for diversity and representation in speculative fiction. We publish fantasy, science fiction, and horror novels, short stories, poetry, and graphic novels.

We believe firmly in the power of various formats to increase accessibility for our readers, and actively pursue innovation in both technology and process control. But our real work starts with the programs and initiatives found here, and our success is measured in impact in our constituent communities.
THE SAMUEL R. DELANY FELLOWSHIP

TO THE EXTENT OUR FICTIONS REPRESENT THE SOCIETY WE LIVE IN, DIVERSITY BECOMES INESCAPABLE.

SAMUEL R. DELANY

PURPOSE & ELIGIBILITY

The Samuel R. Delany Fellowship honors one author per year who is working on a fiction or poetry project that will make a significant impact on the genre.

Often, writers from traditionally marginalized communities have been shut out of the monetary privileges that their straight, white, abled counterparts enjoy.

The Samuel R. Delany Fellowship aims to level that playing field by granting monetary support and industry experience to the author.

In order to apply for the Fellowship, an author must come from a community that has been traditionally marginalized by the publishing industry. This includes but is not limited to authors of color, LGBT+ authors, authors living an immigrant experience, and authors with disabilities.

These authors must also be currently working on a fiction or poetry project.

$10,000 STIPEND

AUTHORS ARE AWARDED A CASH STIPEND IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,000

This stipend can go toward anything the author wants. The money for this stipend is the first money budgeted in our annual budget, as it is our primary service to the community.

MENTORSHIP

AUTHORS CAN CHOOSE TO BE MENTORED BY A WILLING MEMBER OF OUR ADVISORY BOARD.

One of the most important things a writer can receive is mentorship. The wisdom of a colleague who has been down that path before can make all the difference in whether or not the writer is successful.

ADDITIONAL REQS

ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THE AUTHOR MAY HAVE WILL BE FILLED BY CATSTONE BOOKS.

Every writer needs a good laptop, access to the internet, and other basic tools of the trade. Catstone will partner with our corporate sponsors to provide any of these things to which the author does not have access.

PUBLICATION HELP

WHETHER WITH US OR ANOTHER PUBLISHER, WE WILL HELP THE AUTHOR SELL THEIR STORY.

While we always like to take a look at the story that is produced during the fellowship, we do not want to lock our authors into a contract with us. They are free to pursue publishing elsewhere, with our blessing and a stipend for publicity.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

WE AIM TO MAKE OUR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS EASY AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL WHILE ENSURING THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO PICK THE BEST CANDIDATE.

COVER LETTER

The cover letter is an opportunity for the applicant to tell us who they are, why they deserve this opportunity, and how it will impact them and their community. We use this to get a sense of the applicant not as a writer, but as a person.

APPLICATION

The formal application is a two-page form that collects basic identifying information as well as demographic information and at least one letter of recommendation. We use this to identify applicants from diverse backgrounds.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project summary is where an applicant can tell us about the work of fiction or poetry they hope to finish during the fellowship. We look for projects that will have a significant impact on representation in genre fiction.
Pharos was the name of the mythical lighthouse that towered over the port city of Alexandria. Not only was it a beacon to travelers from all over the world to come to the hub of learning and literature, The Library of Alexandria, but multiple Greek sources claim it could focus its light into such a tight beam that it could catch enemy ships on fire, also essentially making it the world’s first laser weapon. Pretty badass if you ask me.

Pharos Magazine will be distributed to any donor who commits to a recurring donation of at least $5 per year. At this level, they will receive a digital copy of the magazine. Donors of more than $50 per year that live in the United States and Canada will receive a print subscription to the magazine. The current issue, along with any back issues, will be available for sale at $5.99 and $12.99 for the digital and print versions respectively. We believe this price point accurately reflects the quality of the fiction within and the worth of the writers, artists, and publishing staff.

Pharos will not only provide exceptional exposure to artists and authors from diverse backgrounds, but it will also feature as a cornerstone of our fundraising campaign, with the only subscription method being a recurring donation.

The Case for Short Fiction

Short fiction has gotten a bad reputation as being hard to sell. Short story collections that turn a profit are few and far between, with the exception of writers who spend a good portion of their careers perfecting the art—think George Saunders. But short fiction is incredibly important to the publishing ecosystem, as it is where many authors cut their teeth on critical craft tools like pacing, dialogue, and the economy of words. There is also an ongoing debate amongst professional fiction zines about why they can only charge $2.99 per copy. Nobody believes that this price point is enough to adequately compensate the writers, artists, editors, designers, and production staff needed to put the magazines together. So we support a pro rate market that sells for a fair price. We believe this will serve not only our authors and illustrators, but the industry at large.

Pharos Magazine will focus on authors from our constituent communities, and will give them the chance to publish their work in a publication that pays among the highest professional rates on the market.

Pharos Magazine will be a top pro rate market for fantasy, sci-fi, and horror stories by diverse authors.

12
Cents Per Word

4
Issues Per Year

10-15
Stories Per Issue

Pharos is a top pro rate market for fantasy, sci-fi, and horror stories by diverse authors.

Amplify Diverse Authors

Pharos Magazine will focus on authors from our constituent communities, and will give them the chance to publish their work in a publication that pays among the highest professional rates on the market.

Amplify Diverse Artists

What fiction magazine would be complete without stunning artwork to adorn its pages? Pharos will actively seek out artists from diverse backgrounds and feature their illustrations at competitive professional rates.
We believe that a publisher has as great a responsibility to underserved readers as they do to underrepresented authors. That’s why we are committed to forging new alliances with other nonprofits, publishers, advocacy groups, and constituents to promote the accessibility of reading materials to blind and visually impaired readers.

We are already working with groups across the nation to identify needs and areas where we can have an immediate impact. From our own library of material to funding and participating in new research and innovation, the team at Wink BC is dedicated to coming up with the most meaningful plan of action possible and executing it to our best ability.

A BOOK CLUB FOR BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED READERS

READING MATERIAL

We will provide readers with our own library of work, in addition to a substantial amount of literature, news media, and magazines from our corporate sponsors and strategic partnerships. We currently envision this material being a mix between Braille and audio formats.

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

We are currently working with developers to create an application that is easily accessible by visually impaired users on mobile devices and computers. The platform will include the ability to order reading material and join an online discussion and suggestion board.

OTHER SOLUTIONS

The team behind Wink BC will also be tasked with coming up with additional solutions for blind and visually impaired readers and writers. From giveaways of Braille keyboards to exploring new partnerships, this team will drive the path forward for this community.
There is a serious problem when it comes to inclusion in major literary awards. The table on the right shows how many authors of color have won major awards since the year 2000. Spoiler alert: It isn't nearly enough. That's why we want to start an awards program, complete with cash prizes and (eventually) an awards banquet. To start with, however, in this time of global pandemic, our awards ceremony will be hosted online. We will feature awards for best novel, best short story, best short story collection, best poetry collection, best anthologies, best authors, lifetime achievement, and more in all three genres we cover—fantasy, science fiction, and horror.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION HAVE LONG BEEN LACKING FROM THE MAJOR AWARDS IN OUR GENRES. WE WANT TO FIX THAT BY RECOGNIZING THE BEST BOOKS TO COME OUT IN EACH GENRE BY AUTHORS FROM OUR CONSTITUENT COMMUNITIES. WE WILL IDENTIFY, JUDGE, AND PROMOTE THE BEST NOVELS, STORIES, POEMS, AND DEBUTS.

Nominations for books published in the previous calendar year will be accepted starting in August. Our awards season will begin in 2022, with a focus on books published during 2021. The awards will be decided by an independent panel of judges.

The table below shows how many authors of color have won each award since 2000. This accounts for individual authors, so authors who have won the same award multiple times only count once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD CATEGORY</th>
<th>Hugo</th>
<th>Nebula</th>
<th>Stoker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Novel</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Novella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Novellaess</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Short Story</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Related Work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Graphic Novel</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Dramatic Presentation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Professional Editor</td>
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<td>Best Professional Artist</td>
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<td>Best Fan Artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Fan Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Game Writing</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best YA/Alg Fiction</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best First Novel</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Anthology</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Poetry Collection</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Achievement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers are accurate to the best of my knowledge.
DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM

DIVERSITY IN LITERATURE IS GOING TO FLOURISH WHEN IT IS ACCEPTED AS A NORMAL PART OF SCHOOLING.

RUDINE SIMS BISHOP

Diversity in fiction is a complex issue that must be fixed on a holistic level. We have to start by creating a passion for literature in the next generation. We have to be showing kids that anyone can become an author, regardless of their skin tone, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status, etc.

Indeed, we should be showing our school-aged kids that bringing a unique voice to the table is a great thing. We believe that building diversity in fiction means fostering that passion from an early age.

Teachers will be able to apply starting in May 2021. The selected teachers will be sent a catalog of frontier titles from our partner publishers, and can select 10 books for their own classroom as well as 50 books for their school library. Along with those books, we will send resources for the schools and libraries to hold events and give out information to students about the books, authors, and diversity in fiction.

We are also partnering with programs and organizations like PEN/ Faulkner to bring our books to classrooms in urban and Title I schools across the country, as well as school districts and teachers to broaden our impact.

School libraries can hold events and set up tables of diverse authors. We provide the books, banners, info sheets, and other resources that they need to succeed hosting those programs.

We are proud to donate our own library of books, as well as those from our partner publishers, to teachers and schools. Building those strategic partnerships is crucial for the benefit of everyone involved. We also strive to partner with HBCUs to identify the talent and markets that are often overlooked by traditional publishing companies.

The issue of teaching multicultural literature in the classroom is an issue of government and curriculums. We do not fight that fight. But we will provide resources for teachers, students, parents, and schools to advocate for that change.

We also are providing as much literature from unique perspectives as possible to schools across the country. Teachers may not be able to singlehandedly change the books taught in American Lit classes, but they can bring books into their classroom and encourage students to read them on their own time.

And for teachers, being able to bring a larger sample of work into the curriculum is a no-brainer. Teaching literature from a Eurocentric standpoint limits the scope of examples that are available. Bringing in the experiences and voices of authors who lived a completely different experience, even in the same country, state, or city as their white counterparts, helps broaden not only the minds but the learning. It would be like teaching music appreciation without jazz or hip-hop. Boring and irrelevant.

Multicultural literature has a proven track record of providing countless benefits to students and teachers in both public and private education.

For multicultural students, the impact is clear. They get to see themselves in the stories and author bios of the books in front of them, an opportunity that they may not have gotten otherwise.

For students in the traditional demographic majority, they are exposed to cultures and ways of life and thinking that are unique. Their horizons are stretched and they are forced to interact with new ideas, often as an outsider for the first time. This can help promote empathy and support for those communities that they are experimenting.

For teachers, being able to bring literature that is critical to students’ understanding of the world. James Baldwin should be taught every bit as much as Thoreau. He is the great American essayist. I don’t see his work enough. I see Langston Hughes—one poem.

I THINK THESE VOICES ARE CRITICAL TO STUDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD. JAMES BALDWIN SHOULD BE TAUGHT EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS THOREAU. HE IS THE GREAT AMERICAN ESSAYIST. I DON’T SEE HIS WORK ENOUGH. I SEE LANGSTON HUGHES—ONE POEM.

CAROL JAGO

The impact of multicultural literature on students and teachers in both public and private education is undeniable. We believe that building diversity in fiction is a critical part of education in the 21st century.
It’s the action, not the fruit of the action, that’s important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there will be any fruit. But that doesn’t mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result.

Volunteer

Individual Opportunities
We will need your help in a multitude of capacities. From reading submissions in the slush pile to organizing author events, to hosting a fundraiser for us, the ways you can give of your time are endless. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you want more information on volunteering.

Share
Promote Our Causes
If you want to tell others about the work we are doing, that is great! We have tons of resources available for you to start sharing the news, promoting our authors, and advocating for the causes that we are passionate about. Visit our website for more info and resources.

Donate

Our Greatest Areas of Need
We need you to fulfill our missions. Whether you give financially, or help us by volunteering your time, you are taking action. We need your support in hosting fundraisers, advocating for our causes, and volunteering at our events. And if you have expertise that may be helpful, consider joining our Board of Directors or Board of Advisors.

Fundraising
Advocacy

The Importance of Advocacy
The issues we are dealing with in our industry and our world are major, systemic problems that have been building for 400 years (or more) so it is hard to imagine the impact any one of us can have on them.

But through advocacy at all levels, we can begin making a change. We would love for you to join us at CatStone Books. But more importantly, we want you to get involved in your own communities.

If you believe in diversity in fiction, buy diverse books. Find authors on social media and help amplify their voices. Share what they’re posting. Go to your local library, bookstore, or school board to ask that they include specific authors or titles. Listen to the stories and perspectives that diverse authors are telling you, even (and especially) when their experiences differ from your own. Educate yourself and your community about the issues and what can be done. And most of all, don’t stay silent.

We believe in the power and importance of unique perspectives and stories. So we believe in you. We believe in the power you have to affect change in your community. Join us in doing that work.
OUR BOARDS

JOIN ONE OF OUR BOARDS TO HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON OUR MISSION. BRING YOUR EXPERIENCE AND PERSPECTIVES.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Board of Advisors meets annually and is tasked with keeping CatStone accountable to our mission, as well as helping us identify areas we can improve our impact and grant professional expertise on certain matters from publishing to publicity. The time commitment here is fairly low.

While there is no fundraising expectation, it is always great for members to assist in our efforts. There is, however, an advocacy expectation. Members of this board will be asked to share news about our organization. Duties include:

• Drafting our mission and inclusion statements
• Picking the Delany Fellowship winner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors meets quarterly and is responsible for the governance of the company. Ideal candidates will be passionate about our cause and experienced in our industry.

We are always looking for candidates both with and without publishing industry experience. The time commitment to this board is moderate, at about 5-10 hours per month.

The Board of Directors will be expected to assist with fundraising, both actively engaging in our events and campaigns, as well as sharing contacts and lists of people who may be interested in donating.

The responsibilities include:

• Picking and evaluating our Executive Director.
• Forming the shortlist for the Delany Fellowship.
• Promoting and fundraising for the organization.
• Understanding the needs of the organization and how to fill them.

I AM HERE TO TELL YOU THAT SOLID CITIZENS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THEIR COMMUNITY, THEIR SCHOOL, AND THEIR WORLD A BETTER PLACE — THOSE WILLING TO RAISE THEIR HAND FOR BOARD SERVICE — ARE AMONG THE SINGLE BIGGEST NEEDS IN OUR SOCIETY.

JOIN US

2021-2022
WWW.CATSTONEBOOKS.COM

GOING BEYOND PASSION

Passion is the foundational character trait of a good board member. But it is not the only one. If you would like to be involved in our board, we do not necessarily need a ton of your time or money.

What we need is your expertise. Are you good at accounting? Have you run your own business? Are you a publishing expert with an eye for acquisitions? Do you have industry connections? Are you a writer, teacher, agent, or advocate already engaged in this work? These are all excellent candidates for our boards. All we ask is that you be willing to share your knowledge.

PASSION

JOAN GARRY

GOING BEYOND PASSION

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