



D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

29th Annual Larry Neal Writers' Competition
DC Emancipation Day: Celebrating Today's Freedoms
Program Guidelines
Teens and Youth May Apply
Deadline: February 27th at 11:59 PM

About the Larry Neal Writers' Competition:

The Larry Neal Writers' Competition commemorates the artistic legacy and vision of Larry Neal, the renowned author, academic and former Executive Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA). Cash awards are given for artistic excellence to adult, teen and youth writers that reside in the District of Columbia. Awards will be presented at the 29th Annual Larry Neal Writers' Awards Ceremony on May 7, 2012, in partnership with the PEN/Faulkner Foundation.

About DC Emancipation Day: Celebrating Today's Freedoms:

This year, DCCA is joining in the District of Columbia's special tribute to the 150th Anniversary of the Compensated Emancipation Act through a city-wide celebration of DC Emancipation Day on April 16, 2012. In honor of the freedoms gained in 1862, DCCA is conducting an additional creative writing category for teen and youth writers. This category encourages students to be creative and persuasive while connecting their unique personal experiences with influential historical events in the District of Columbia.

DC Emancipation Day: Celebrating Today's Freedoms

Imagine you are a time traveler. President Abraham Lincoln has invited you back to 1862 to celebrate the emancipation of the District of Columbia's slaves. Prepare a speech to share with the audience about the freedoms you enjoy today and what freedoms we are still working to achieve in our community.

Finalists for the DC Emancipation Day: Celebrating Today's Freedoms will present their speeches during a DC Emancipation Day celebration on April 16th. This program is conducted in partnership with the Ford's Theatre Society's Education Department.

For additional resources on the Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862 and DC Emancipation Day, please see below the listing below, or visit the dccarts.dc.gov website for links and materials.

Eligibility requirements:

The DC Emancipation Day category is open to youth and teen writers between 4th and 12th grade. Youth and teen writers may also submit an additional writing sample in the general Larry Neal Writers' Competition categories.

All entries must adhere to the following guidelines:

- One unpublished speech, not to exceed 500 words, double-spaced
- The author's name **MAY NOT** appear anywhere on the writing sample;
- The writing sample must include a title, as well as the Division and Category (see below);
- Typed writing sample, in Times New Roman, Arial or similarly readable font;
- One inch margins on all sides of document and 12 point font;
- **Entries that do not meet the eligibility rules may be automatically disqualified.**

Submission Instructions and Deadlines:

All submissions must be uploaded through the Zoom Grants system accessed through the DCCAH website at <http://dcarts.dc.gov/DC/DCARTS/Events/Annual+Programming/Annual+Programming#3>. **No hand-delivered applications will be accepted.** The deadline for all applications is Wednesday, February 27 by 11:59 PM. We expect that there will be a high volume of applications, so please plan to submit before the deadline.

To ease the application process, Zoom Grants provides a step-by-step tutorial on how to submit your application [here](#). You can also download the PDF tutorial [here](#). DCCAH staff is also available to provide technical assistance upon request.

All applicants will be notified of their status in mid-April by the email provided on their entry form.

Evaluation:

Distinguished writing professionals will judge each submission according to its artistic excellence in its age group. DCCAH uses a blind judging format, and each submission is assigned a unique identification number so that judges do not know the identity of the winner prior to the awards ceremony. DCCAH staff evaluates applications for eligibility, but do not judge writing samples. The evaluation processes takes into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public consistent with the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act, as amended in 1990.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Presentation (formatting, spelling, grammar, punctuation, neatness)
- Structure (well-developed, has a logical flow and effective sequencing)
- Technique (linguistic diversity, literary devices, audience engagement)
- Creativity (imaginative writing, drawing from sources and prior knowledge of content)

Awards:

One teen and one youth winner will earn a \$150 cash prize. Teen and Youth finalists may also present their speech at a DC Emancipation Day celebration event, in partnership with Ford's Theatre Society.

Honorable Mention certificates will be awarded in each category as warranted. No cash award is associated with an Honorable Mention. Please note that for any category, the judges reserve the right to deem that there were no meritorious submissions and can choose not to make an award.

Additional Resources:

Contact Information:

For more information on the Larry Neal Writers' Competition and awards ceremony, please visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov/DC/DCARTS/Events/Annual+Programming/Annual+Programming#3> or contact Carlyn Madden, Arts Education Manager, at carlyn.madden@dc.gov or 202-724-5613.

Documents available through the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia

Enslavement to Emancipation Documentary

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day>

DC Emancipation Day Proclamation by Mayor Fenty for 2010

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/DC+Emancipation+Day+Proclamation+by+Mayor+Fenty+for+2010>

Original DC Emancipation Act

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/Original+DC+Emancipation+Act>

Original DC Emancipation Act Sample of Petition for Owner compensation

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/Original+DC+Emancipation+Act+Sample+of+Petition+for+Owner+Compensation>

Original DC Emancipation Act List of Owners Who Filed Petitions

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/Original+DC+Emancipation+Act+List+of+Owners+Who+Filed+Petitions>

Original DC Emancipation Act Final Report of the Commission for the Emancipation of Slaves

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/Original+DC+Emancipation+Act+Final+Report+of+the+Commission+for+the+Emancipation+of+Slaves>

Original DC Emancipation Act Final Disposition Report- US House of Representatives

<http://octo.dc.gov/DC/OS/Programs/DC+Emancipation+Day/Original+DC+Emancipation+Act+Final+Disposition+Report+-+US+House+of+Representatives>

Documents available through the National Archives

Supplemental Act of July 12, 1862

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/dc_emancipation_act/images/supplemental_act_01.jpg

Documents available through the Library of Congress

Image From *Harper's Weekly*, May 12, 1866 of African Americans celebrating emancipation in the District of Columbia

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/odyssey/archive/04/0411001v.jpg>

Address by Hon. Frederick Douglass, delivered in the Congregational Church, Washington, D.C., April 16, 1883 : on the twenty-first anniversary of emancipation in the District of Columbia

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/murraybib:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28lcrbmrp+t0a04%29%29>

Slave Code of the District of Columbia (1740-1860)

Slave Code for the District of Columbia (1860)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/stpres02.html>

Documents available through the “Doc South” project at the University Library of the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill

Charles Ball Fifty Years in Chains, or, The Life of an American Slave.
New York: H. Dayton; Indianapolis, Ind.: Asher & Co., 1859
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/ball/ball.html>

Documents available in the Freedmen and Southern Society Project

Letter from Maryland Slave to President Lincoln, (8/25/1864)
<http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/adavis.htm>

Documents available through the “History Matters” program at George Mason University

Elizabeth Keckley, Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House. New York: G.W. Carleton & Co., 1868, 43–55

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6224/>