

**Seidelman Fund Proposal**

**Getting Published: A Workshop Collaboration with WriteGirl and DREAMing Out Loud**

Anya Johnson

The proposed project is a collaboration with Los Angeles based literary magazine, Exposition Review, and the creative writing mentorship program for teens, Write Girl. Exposition Review, Founded by alumni of the Master of Professional Writing Program at University of Southern California, has a tradition of publishing several Write Girl mentees each year. This year, we wanted to add a structured professional development component to our relationship with this organization.

The first step is a two-hour workshop led by myself, Expo's co-editors, and one other staff member. The interactive presentation will introduce core concepts of preparing work to submit, formatting submissions, bios, and cover letters, as well as dealing with the results. For a week after the workshop, Write Girl members will have an open invitation to submit their work to our annual issue, and at least two mentees will be published.

Workshop attendees will then be invited to a more in-depth workshop (led by me) in which they will receive one-on-one feedback and take turns being in the "editorial seat" for their peers. I worked in events at Skylight Books in Los Feliz from 2016-2019, and will, pending the approval of this grant, approach the events team about renting the space. If there are no dates available, I also have a relationship with The Philosophical Research Society—they have a bookstore and a library that would be appropriate for an event.

If the events in Los Angeles are successful, I would approach DREAMing out loud (based in New York) about a similar workshop in the fall.

Please note that my editorial position at Exposition Review is volunteer based. No one at the journal receives a wage/salary and the publication is sustained by donations and small reading fees (which are waived for participants in this program). It is our goal to foster the growth of young female writers who do not have access to pay-to-play camps, workshops, conferences, or tutoring.

I would love to see our engagement with Write Girl and DREAMing Out Loud grow and help empower the next generation of female writers!

**Flight to Los Angeles (second week of May):** \$300

**Car rental (five days):** \$350

**Per diem (food, gas):** \$50/day, \$200

**Space rental (Skylight Books, pending approval):** \$150

**Accommodation:** I will arrange my own

**TOTAL: \$1,000**

Dear Kimberly Christensen,

I feel very lucky to be in the position I am: half-way through a fantastic MFA program with editorial positions at two literary journals I admire. This is not to say I didn't work extremely hard to get where I am. I have been writing and submitting creative work for over a decade, sweated through two rounds of grad school applications, and volunteered as a reader and editor at Exposition Review for three years and as co-editor of Forecast Journal for two years. In order to finance graduate school and my move from California to New York, I held up to four jobs at a time for several years, doing everything from bartending, to sales, to tutoring.

After landing in New York, I applied for editorial positions at every journal accepting applicants. In December of 2021, I was hired as Assistant Book Editor at [PANK], a journal and press founded by Roxane Gay and M. Bartley Seigel in 2006. The truth is, I am making less money now than I did in retail or restaurants, but I am doing work I love.

My experience is a powerful example because it has been built on dogged persistence and countless rejections. While I am not making much money, I am taking steps to create a career that will sustain me spiritually and (I hope) financially. Along the way, I have picked up a large range of editorial and leadership skills.

As a young adult, I constantly had to turn down opportunities for professional development due to cost and accessibility. It would be my honor to share my experience and the tools I have learned with women who are struggling with the same issues. I want to be a resource to writers who have the odds stacked against them.

With gratitude,

Anya Johnson