

INSPIRE: National Trust of Western Australia Writer in Residence Initiative

About the National Trust of Western Australia

The National Trust of Western Australia works to **raise knowledge, awareness, understanding and commitment to Western Australia's natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage**. The Trust achieves this objective through the conservation and interpretation of heritage places it manages on behalf of the community and government of Western Australia, and through its education and learning programs.

The National Trust of Western Australia was established in Western Australia in 1959 by a group of concerned citizens who identified the need to promote heritage conservation. This group grew rapidly and included some of the most prominent citizens in the State. Some five years later an Act of Parliament was passed in the State Parliament which formally established the Trust as an independent community-based organisation.

MISSION

To connect communities to the value of Western Australia's diverse natural and cultural heritage

VISION

To be recognised as leaders in engaging communities with the value of Western Australia's heritage to ensure its protection for future generations

(For the National Trust of Western Australia's Strategic Goals, see page 9)

INSPIRE Writer's in Residence

The National Trust of Western Australia is partnering the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to respond to Recommendation 9 of their Writing Sector Review: **Establish writing in residence opportunities in National Trust properties**.

Through this program the National Trust of Western Australia aims: **Conserve and share the stories of our places**, through activation of the National Trust's assets through storytelling, engagement, participation, and interpretation (assets being places, collections, cultural stories).

This new initiative, **INSPIRE**, is an exciting opportunity for Western Australian writers to undertake a residency in one of three National Trust of Western Australia's properties in the Perth metropolitan area.

The initiative is open and responsive to writers' needs, inclusive of emerging and established writers, and recognises the breadth of storytelling and writing genres Western Australia is known for.

The benefits of the residency centre on opportunities for research, creative and professional development, encouraging excellence in writing and nurturing connections with potential publishers.

The residency is intended to **INSPIRE** the writer through the locations, heritage and surroundings; a unique immersion in rich cultural, historical memories, stories and artefacts of each heritage site, to act as a springboard for creative responses. It is not expected that the writer will develop literal interpretation or concepts of the historical legacy of the sites and families that lived there. The National Trust of Western Australia is interested in writers adding to the understanding of the sites and /or Western Australia's heritage more generally, through a contemporary lens, the sociological impacts of the place on the surrounding population, on industry development, on the way people's lives changed, and the lessons that have far reaching impacts on today's Western Australia. Most importantly, the National Trust of Western Australia is interested in engaging ideas, values and stories that open the public's eyes to who we are today, as West Australians.

The residencies will be up to 3 weeks (15 days) in length and a stipend of \$5,000 will be paid to each writer for this period. The National Trust of Western Australia will negotiate how the writer wishes to undertake the 15 days, whether in a full-time three-week block or divided on a part-time basis across a longer timeframe. The timing of the residency is also negotiable, whether the writer is available at different times of the day, or wishes to experience the residencies' location at night. Please note, only one of the heritage sites offered in this initiative provides live-in accommodation (Curtin Family Home in Cottesloe). We ask that the writer engage with the public and/or community of interest to consult, research, present or demonstrate the explorations and research findings at some point during their residency period.

The INSPIRE heritage locations:

Peninsula Farm, Maylands

Located on the banks of the Swan River off Johnson Road, Maylands, Peninsula Farm is the site of one of the first farms in the colony and the earliest residence still standing in the metropolitan area. Peninsula Farm offers a unique opportunity to explore the first years of European settlement in Western Australia. Constructed by Joseph Hardey in 1839, it was the third house he had built on Peninsula Farm, a property originally granted to him in 1830. Over the years the house was added to, expanded outwards and upwards. At the same time, the farm became smaller and smaller.

Peninsula Farm remained in the Hardey family until 1913. Joseph Hardey, and his son Richard, who took over management of the property in the late 1860s, were highly influential in the religious, business and political activities of the colony. Peninsula Farm, however, tells more than just their stories. It also tells of their wives and daughters, the women and servants who ran the house and the workers who ran the farm. It tells of farming, and how families and the young colony sustained themselves.

Residency includes access to a writing space, wifi, basic kitchen facilities, café on site, access to cycle paths but limited public transport. No overnight accommodation available. Standard toilet available in house, disability access toilet available in café during opening hours.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/peninsula-farm/>

Samson House, Fremantle

Samson House, along with its contents from 2 generations of the Samson family, was left to the people of Western Australia by Sir Frederick Samson. 'Fred' was elected to the Fremantle City Council in 1936 and became mayor unopposed in 1951. He remained unchallenged in that office until he retired 21 years later in 1972. His enthusiasm for the port city led to him becoming known as 'Mr Fremantle'. His legacy includes a range of industrial developments and protection and reuse of heritage buildings.

Samson House was built for Sir Frederick's father, Michael Samson, who was also Lord Mayor of Fremantle. Michael was the son Lionel Samson, one of two brothers who arrived in Western Australia aboard the Calista in 1829. They established an import export business which continues today making it one of the oldest family businesses in Australia.

Samson House, completed in 1888, is a well-known Fremantle landmark designed by Sir Talbot Hobbs.

Residency includes access to a writing space, wifi, basic kitchen facilities, close to public transport, walking distance to Fremantle. No overnight accommodation available. The writing space has limited disability access.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/samson-house/>

Curtin Family Home, Cottesloe

John Curtin, wartime Prime Minister of Australia, and his wife Elsie built this house in 1923. Four generations of the Curtin's extended family lived in the house over the following seventy-five years.

The house underwent major conservation and interpretation works in 2010 including restoration of the garden. Interpretation of the place included the production of a series of internal panels, a self-guided audio tour, a booklet website and the dramatic performance season.

This National Trust project provided an exciting opportunity to focus on what is an often neglected part of John Curtin – the importance of his home life. The unassuming nature of the Jarrad Street House reflects the nature of the man and his family and helps explain his political convictions and directions for the nation during WWII.

The property has been in the care of the National Trust since 2002 and is one of only three former prime ministers' homes that are in public ownership.

Residency includes access to a writing space, wifi, kitchen facilities, is close to public transport, walking distance to Cottesloe township. Live-in accommodation available: two bedrooms, (one double bed and two singles), one standard bathroom; Length of stay

negotiable (2-3 weeks), costs of rent and services covered. Access is fair but non-wheelchair toilet and bathroom.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Who is eligible?

INSPIRE residencies are open to established and emerging Western Australian writers of non-fiction, history, creative fiction, novels, short stories, poetry, graphic illustrators and digital creators (pod-casts, blogs etc).

Collaborating writers, or small groups may apply, however, must share one stipend per residency. We encourage writers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply, including but not exclusive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers.

Writers with disability are also encouraged to apply. Each heritage residency has historical physical limitations, however the National Trust of Western Australia will endeavour to meet your access needs.

Writers must be over 18 years of age.

Western Australian is defined as being born in Western Australia (and may be living outside the State); or have lived or been a resident of Western Australia for more than twelve months.

Emerging Writer Status: at least one but no more than two full length literary works published, OR have a substantial body of minor published work and be progressed on a first major work for publication. For children's and young adult writers, graphic illustrators: published 3-5 literary works under 20,000 words, 1-2 literary works over 20,000 words, 3-5 picture books. Self-published writing and digital publication should demonstrate readership and review.

Established Writer Status: three or more full-length works published or performed (fiction and literary non-fiction of 30,000 words min, poetry collections of 36 pages min). For children's and young adult writers, graphic illustrators: published 6 or more literary works under 20,000 words, 3 or more literary works over 20,000 words, 6 or more picture books. Self-published writing and digital publication should demonstrate readership and review.

Stipend, inclusions and exclusions and length of residency:

Most writers in residence opportunities are not paid opportunities. A writer's stipend is rare across Australia, and writers mostly pay for the residential time to retreat to a quiet space in which to research and write, and sometimes to connect with other writers, publishers and creatives.

The National Trust of Western Australia, through consultation with the sector, respects the profession of writing and values writer's skills and time. We acknowledge the costs involved in taking time away from paid employment, or for additional costs associated with devoting time to a residency.

INSPIRE will provide a modest stipend of \$5,000 to assist writers undertake and commit to this residency, for up to a three-week, 15 day period (full-time or part-time is open for negotiation to suit writer's needs).

This amount also includes a fee for public presentation and/or community engagement activities at the conclusion of the residency. (Costs associated with the Curtin Family House residency will not be deducted from the \$5,000 stipend).

In addition, writers will have access to the National Trust of Western Australia's archives for research.

The writer in residence program will build links to publishers such as Fremantle Press, writers centres, and professional development. The National Trust's insurance will cover writers whilst onsite. Costs for any necessary police clearances/ working with children checks that may need to be provided can also covered.

The **INSPIRE** program does not provide for travel costs, food, and the writer must provide their own laptop and phone.

Selection Criteria

Writers will be selected for the residencies by a selection panel of highly regarded writing sector representatives. A pool of selectors will be appointed at the outset of the **INSPIRE** initiative, and a group will be convened for each selection process acknowledging any conflicts of interest that the submissions may raise.

The selection panel will assess the submissions based on the following criteria and weightings:

- **Merit:** the quality of the writing – including but not limited to the craft demonstrated in story, character development, innovation in form (30%).
- **Impact:** the potential impact the residency will have on the applicant’s writing practice and career (20%).
- **Significance:** conceptual research response to the heritage site, the potential of the opportunity to develop new contemporary Western Australian stories and literary outcomes (30%);
- **Suitability:** The applicant’s availability and commitment to fulfilling the residency and the community engagement outcomes (20%).

Application and Support Material

Application to INSPIRE Writer in Residence is online, through the link on the National Trust of Western Australia’s website.

Applications may be made by the writer, or collaborating writers directly, or by nomination from a publisher, academic, supervisor etc.

Applicants are asked to provide the following support material:

- **Merit:** Examples of work: maximum 10,000 words
- Writer’s statement in response to the criteria:
 - **Impact:** One A4 page on impact to writer’s career;
 - **Significance:** One A4 page outlining the conceptual response/ research interest connected to the heritage site/s chosen;
 - **Suitability:** Indication of two prioritised heritage sites for residency; potential dates and timeframes for the residency to be undertaken, indication of willingness to complete the community engagement aspects, including provision or willingness to provide a police clearance and/or Working with Children Check where relevant.

Closing dates and timelines

Applications for residencies in 2020 will close Monday 16 March 2020. Applications will be accepted electronically only and received by 11.59pm WST (midnight).

Applicants will be notified in early April 2020.

Upon notification, successful writers will be invited to a familiarisation briefing with the National Trust of Western Australia to introduce writers to the archive systems and research capabilities, program expectations, and an on-site induction will be necessary to introduce the heritage sites, set up work spaces, meet volunteers and staffing, familiarise with security, local and emergency contacts, evacuation procedures etc.

3 Residencies will be implemented between April and June 2020.

For further information please contact Ricky Arnold, Writer in Residence Program Co-ordinator by email: writers@ntwa.com.au

The National Trust of Western Australia

MISSION

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VISION

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IMPACT AND VALUE PROPOSITION

The Western Australian community values and conserves its natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage for the well-being of current and future generations

In partnership with the community and government the National Trust promotes awareness and understanding, encourages participation, actively champions protection, and leverages the economic and social value of Western Australia's heritage.

VALUES

Excellence

Collaboration

Innovation

Courage

Integrity

Respect

BENEFICIARIES

The National Trust carries out its activities for the benefit of all Western Australians.

GOALS

1. Position the Trust as the voice in heritage
2. Nurture, harness and grow relationships and partnerships
3. Ensure a sustainable Trust
4. Optimise heritage portfolio and resource model
5. Provide a best practice, collaborative working environment

ABORIGINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Trust of Western Australia acknowledges its properties are situated on Aboriginal land across the state.

The National Trust recognises Aboriginal people remain the cultural and spiritual custodians of their land and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge.

The National Trust is committed to working with Aboriginal people to ensure these practices are recognised and included in the conservation and interpretation of its properties and Aboriginal people are consulted and involved in the development of Trust projects and programs.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Writing Sector Review was conducted in 2017. Its recommendations can be found here:

https://www.dca.wa.gov.au/Documents/New%20Research%20Hub/Sector%20Reviews/DLGSC_Writing_Sector_Review_Final_Recommendations.pdf