

# WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

## A Quiet Space for Concord's Next Great Author to Research, Write and Engage Community

### Inspiring the Creative Imagination and Cultivating Literary Life

*The Concord Free Public Library Corporation acquired the adjacent house and property at 151 Main Street and is in the quiet phase of a campaign to fund a substantial addition that will connect the Library House to the Main Library. The project will allow us to meet growing demand by creating a new and expanded Children's Center, Teen Space, Program and Meeting space as well as enhancing our world-class Special Collections and creating the Workshop: flexible DIY space where people can create, invent, learn, and collaborate.*

### The Writer-in-Residence Program provides an inspiring home for the emerging writer

Concord is steeped in literary tradition that transcends time. As the home of influential writers such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Louisa May Alcott (to name a few), Concord has cultivated the roots of our country's cultural and literary heritage. The Writer-in-Residence Program continues this legacy by offering an emerging author the opportunity to hone their craft, research their passions, and share their literary pursuits with the community through workshops and lectures. In this way, the Writer-in-Residence program honors CFPL's mission to inspire lifelong learning and actively promote personal enrichment by connecting community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources, and each other in a tradition of innovation and excellence.

Honoring Concord's literary heritage and the CFPL's exceptional Special Collections, the Writer-in-Residence Program will offer an emerging writer of research-based fiction or creative non-fiction a quiet space in which to work and house research materials – a literal home for the creative imagination.

### The Writer-in-Residence Program continues the legacy of the written word

The Writer-in-Residence will be an annual appointment that provides access to free office space on the second floor of the library's Heywood-Benjamin House on Main Street. The Writer-in-Residence will be selected through an application process that includes: the submission of an author's statement detailing the reason for applying; a summary of the project; a 10-page sample of the work-in-progress; and a description of one possible literary lecture or writing workshop that the writer will offer to the community. A specially appointed committee of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation will select finalists, and the final judge will be a prominent author with ties to the Concord community.

- *Quiet Space.* In an age of tweets and pings, the Writer-in-Residence space will be a haven in which writers can become fully absorbed by their creative imagination without distraction.



- *Research Opportunities.* The CFPL houses *The Concord Authors Collection*, a major research resource of some 6,000 printed volumes of books by, about, and from the libraries of Concord authors from the 17th century to the present day. The expansive collection includes titles in literature and history as well as law, economics, cookery, gardening, and astronomy. Its development is ongoing, with books by present-day Concord authors added as they are published. It is hoped that the Writer-in-Residence's work will become part of the Concord Authors Collection after completing the residency.
- *Literary Community.* A warm, knowledgeable library staff dedicated to sharing the wonders of the CFPL will be available, as well as local patrons devoted to the world of writing and reading.

## A welcome home gives back to the Concord community

As an expression of goodwill and gratitude for the residency, the Writer-in-Residence will offer the following seasonal offerings that showcase their literary expertise and encourage community connection:

- *Fall and Spring Literary Lectures.* Open to the public, these free seasonal talks will feature themes from the Writer-in-Residence's research. An additional lecture can be offered in the writing space to a small group of key supporters of the Writer-in-Residence Program.
- *Winter and Summer Writing Workshops.* The Writer-in-Residence will offer two half-day writing workshops for local residents that explore aspects of craft such as narrative structure, character development, or plot and pacing, to name a few examples. One writing workshop will be geared toward adults and the other toward teens in order to cultivate the multi-generational love of literature that is a hallmark of the CFPL.

## We invite you to help make the Writer-in-Residence Program a reality

As Virginia Woolf attested, writers long for a room of their own. The writing life can be lonely, and the autonomous nature of crafting a narrative daunting. A year-long residency will afford a writer the time and space to hone a manuscript with the inspiration of a literary legacy that is palpable inside the walls of the Concord Free Public Library. Knowing that a quiet space to write and research awaits, a writer can look forward to breathing life onto the page, perhaps creating your next favorite novel. A contribution to the Writer-in-Residency Program will not only benefit the next generation of American authors, but will keep the love of literature alive and well in Concord.

## Help make the Library the place where Concord connects, learns, and innovates

For more information about CFPL's Connecting Our Community Campaign, contact Marcy Bouley Eckel at [MEckel@CFPLCorp.org](mailto:MEckel@CFPLCorp.org).

