

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

The Amy Clampitt Residency Program Guidelines

Eligibility

Poets or literary scholars with professional standing in their fields as well as emerging poets/scholars are eligible for residencies. The level of accomplishment of the work submitted will be considered as it is commensurate with the applicant's age and/or experience. The Amy Clampitt Fund Residency Program encourages individuals from all backgrounds to apply. It does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of age, race, handicap, sex, religion, marital status, or national origin in its admission policies.

Awards

The Residency award consists of the use of the Amy Clampitt House free and clear for a six month or twelve month period beginning on February 1, 2012 and ending on January 27th, 2013. Grants for travel to and from the Clampitt House are available based on need. A monthly stipend of \$2,500 is paid to the resident fellow. It is expected that the resident fellow commit to residing in the house full-time and focusing exclusively on his/her creative work except for occasional absences. The Resident Fellow will be asked to give a reading locally of his/her work.

The Amy Clampitt House is a charming, fully furnished, three bedroom, two-story house in the Cape style in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Partners and/or children may accompany the resident so long as the total number of individuals in the house does not exceed five. There is one phone line to the house and a DSL connection. Pets are not allowed. Smoking is not allowed inside the house. The house is not wheelchair-accessible and is located in a quiet, residential neighborhood, a 15-minute walk from the village of Lenox.

Lenox is in rural Western Massachusetts, bordering Northern Connecticut and Eastern New York. As public transportation is virtually non-existent, it is necessary that residents make arrangements for their own transportation for the duration of the residency.

The Clampitt Residency provides an ideal opportunity for writers who are independent and resilient enough to live and work in a somewhat isolated and rural community. The program is administered by a community foundation, and as a result, the administrative support is minimal.

Deadline

Applications must be received at Berkshire Taconic by 5 p.m., August 1st.

To Apply

Complete the attached application form and send it to the above address along with:

- A letter (no more than two pages) describing your interest in the residency and the work you propose to undertake.
- A 10-page work sample. This should be work completed in the last four years and representative of the genre in which you intend to be working at the Clampitt House. A portion of a work-in-progress

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- may also be submitted as long as the total submission does not exceed 20 pages. All prose manuscripts should be printed single-sided and double-spaced in an easily readable font.
- Your resume.
- Three personal and professional references: List the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of two authorities in your field who are familiar with you and your work, and one or two individuals who know you personally. Indicate in each case whether the reference is personal or professional.

Notification

Applicants will be informed of Berkshire Taconic's decision within four months of the deadline date.

Review Process

Acceptance is based on the evaluations of the Amy Clampitt Fund Board, using the review criteria listed below. The Board includes distinguished professionals in the field of poetry. The Board's recommendations will be reviewed and approved by Berkshire Taconic's Board of Directors. An interview in person or by telephone may be part of the review process. Over time the Board will award the residencies to a group of writers that is diverse: poets, poetry scholars whose writing style and stage of career may differ widely.

Review Criteria

The Board will review requests for residencies according to the following criteria:

- The quality of the applicant's work.
- The potential impact of the residency on the applicant and the commitment of the applicant to make propitious use of the residency period.
- Applicant's demonstration of ability to complete his or her proposed project, as presented.

Reporting Requirements

Resident fellows will be requested to submit to the Clampitt program a copy of any work developed during the residency, when/if it is published. Residents are asked to write a brief letter commenting on their overall experience during their stay.

Questions

Please contact Maeve O'Dea, program director at maeve@berkshiretaconic.org

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger, more vibrant communities and improves the quality of life for all residents of Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. Since 1987, we have been an agent for positive change in the region we serve. In education, health care, basic human services, transportation, the arts, youth and senior programs—our grants touch all aspects of life and every person in the Berkshire Taconic region. Each year, we help thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work. Berkshire Taconic is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and is proud to serve as steward for this fund.

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Mission Statement

The Amy Clampitt Fund seeks to “benefit poetry and the literary arts by converting Amy Clampitt’s prior residence ...into a facility which would provide for a place to foster the study and promotion of poetry and/or a poet in residence” through 6-to-12 month residencies at the Amy Clampitt house near Lenox, Massachusetts.

Amy Clampitt was born and brought up in New Providence, Iowa, graduated from Grinnell College, and from that time on lived mainly in New York City. Her first full-length collection of poems, *The Kingfisher*, published in 1983, was followed in 1985 by *What the Light Was Like*, in 1987 by *Archaic Figure*, and in 1990 by *Westward. A Silence Opens*, her last book, appeared in 1994.

The recipient in 1982 of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1984 of an Academy of American Poets Fellowship, she was made a MacArthur Prize Fellow in 1992. She purchased a small house in Lenox with part of the award and lived there briefly. She was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was a Writer in Residence at the College of William and Mary, Visiting Writer at Amherst College, and Grace Hazard Conkling Visiting Writer at Smith College. Ms. Clampitt died in September 1994. Her husband, Harold Korn, died in March 2001. It is his estate that has established the Amy Clampitt Fund.

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
The Amy Clampitt Residency Program
Application for Residency

Page 1 of 2

Please read enclosed Guidelines before completing form.

Submit form and other materials no later than 5 p.m. August 1st.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Email: _____

Phone (Work): _____ Social Security # _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ (month/day/year)

How did you hear about the residency?:

Scheduling Information:

What dates would you like to be in residence (six months minimum, twelve months maximum)

February 1st, 2012 – July 27th 2012

August 1st, 2012 – January 27th, 2013

February 1st, 2012 – January 27th, 2013

It is important that you make a commitment to spend your time in residence in the Clampitt House although it is understood that you may need some brief periods away for personal and/or professional reasons. **Please indicate that you agree to this commitment.**

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
The Amy Clampitt Residency Program
Application for Residency

Page 2 of 2

The Clampitt resident fellow has the opportunity to participate in a program at the local public school district if it is comfortable and appropriate. Berkshire Taconic staff will effect introduction and facilitate the resident's participation in the school program.

If this is interesting to you, please indicate so: Yes No

What other, if any, family members will be with you?:

Will you bring your car or do you plan to rent a car?:

Special Requirements: (e.g. scope of project, personal mobility limitations, etc.)

Work Sample Return: Please note that although every precaution is taken to see that work samples are handled with care, the Clampitt Fund cannot be responsible for their safety. Work samples will be returned only if you provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). No dated metered postage, please.

SASE Enclosed

Do not return sample.

Signature: _____

Date: _____