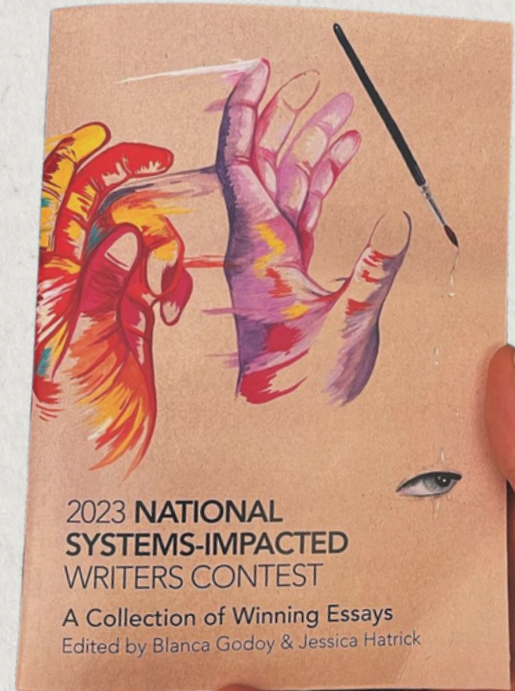




2024 National Systems- Impacted Writers Awards



Contest Theme: Place

Prompt: In an original creative piece (specific criteria below) reflect on the theme of “place” - however you interpret it.

A place can be real or imagined, here or over there, somewhere you choose to go to or somewhere you are placed within. We can think of a place as it is, as it was, or as it could be. Tell us about your childhood home, the country you’d most like to visit, or a utopian place that doesn’t yet exist outside of your imagination.

We’re interested in reading your reflections, your stories, your memories, and your dreams.

Awards: This year, we will be awarding a first-place, second-place, and third-place prize, as well as ten honorable mentions.

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place: \$500

3rd Place: \$500

Honorable Mention: \$100

Winning pieces will be featured in a chapbook published by the USC Dornsife Prison Education Project. All winners will receive copies of the chapbook. In addition to the awards, we will be awarding \$500 for the cover artist.

Criteria:



Use the guidelines to frame your piece and demonstrate a genuine grappling with the topic, employing specificity and detail. (Note: you do not need to include the word “place” in your piece, though you may if you would like to.) Please submit either a traditional essay (max: 1000 words) or a piece in a different genre, which could be a piece of fiction, poetry, songwriting, rap lyrics, journalistic exposé, comic strip, or another genre that interests you. We are also accepting 2D art entries for the cover of the chapbook.

1. By submitting to the USC PEP Systems Impacted Writers Contest you confirm that you are the sole owner of the Work and have the full power to grant the USC PEP the rights to publish the Work.
2. You agree the Work is original and has not been published anywhere else or in any other form, either in print or digitally.
3. We will not consider submissions under review elsewhere (e.g., other contests and publications).
4. If your submission is accepted for publication, you grant to the Prison Education Project a royalty-free license to use your submission in all formats and media published or distributed by Prison Education Project or its partners and affiliates.

Submission:

Any writer who is systems-impacted is invited to apply, which could include: incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, arrested and/or convicted without incarceration, or negatively affected by the incarceration of a close relative/caregiver.

Essay Submission should include: full name, address, and email

Please either submit pieces via **email to pep@dornsife.usc.edu**

- Include the above information and your piece with the subject line: Last Name, First Name – 2024 National Systems-Impacted Writers Contest

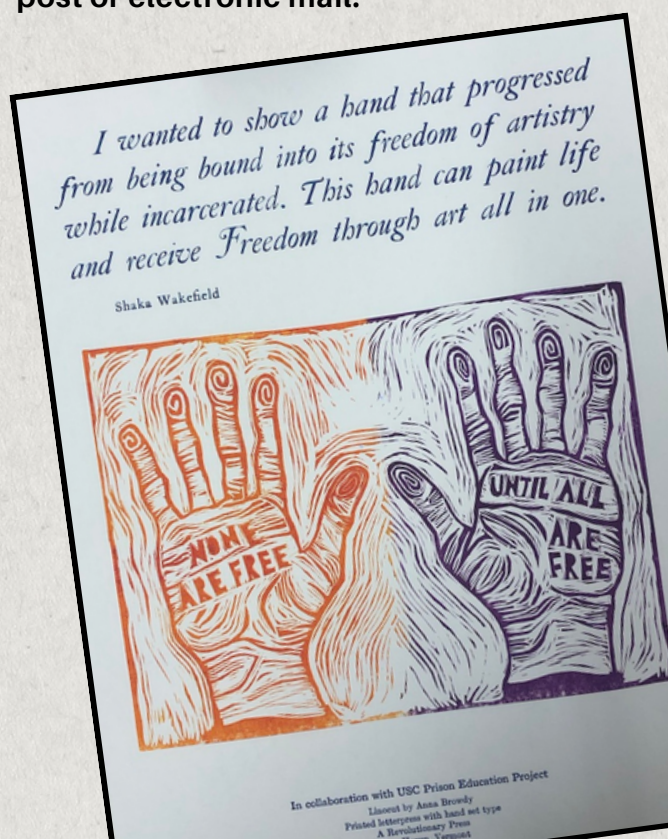
Or submit by mail:

National Systems-Impacted Writers' Contest,
USC Prison Education Project
950 W Jefferson Blvd., JEF 150
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1293

Deadline: March 15, 2024

Entries must be received by March 28. Entries received after March 28 will be considered on a case by case basis at USC PEP's discretion.

Winners will be notified by May 15, via post or electronic mail.



Payment:

USC PEP will work with winning creators to facilitate payment, because every artist's situation is unique.