

ELEANOR TAYLOR BLAND CRIME FICTION WRITERS OF COLOR AWARD

Sisters in Crime[†]

The Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color Award is an annual grant of \$2,000 for an emerging writer of color. An unpublished writer is preferred, although publication of one work of short fiction or academic work will not disqualify an applicant. All applications will be career development. She or he may choose from activities that include workshops, seminars, conferences, and retreats; online courses; and research activities required for completion of the work.

Eleanor Taylor Bland was a pioneer in crime fiction. In 1992 her first crime novel, *Dead Time*, was published. It featured Marti MacAlister, an African American female police detective who works and resides in a Midwestern American town that closely resembles Bland's own adopted home town of Waukegan, Illinois. Bland also published several works of short crime fiction and edited a collection titled *Shades of Black: Crime and Mystery Stories by African-American Authors* (2004). When she passed away in 2010, she was one of the most prolific African American authors in the genre. With Marti MacAlister, Bland created an enduring and much beloved heroine who went against the grain of perpetuated stereotypes related to African American women in much of U.S. popular culture.



Although Bland focused primarily on stories about African American characters and their lives, bringing both complexities and comforts of familiarity to her readership, she also included in-depth interactions with other kinds of characters that reflect the broad spectrum of identities that is U.S. society. Bland saw crime fiction as an especially accessible fiction could continue over time broadening its appeal to new reading audiences by opening its doors to the kinds of characters, societal situations and perspectives, and potential for creativity that authors of color would bring.

Submissions open March 16 – June 8 2020
DEADLINE for applications: June 9, 2020

The winner will be selected and announced by July 1, 2020

This grant is intended for a writer of color. You do not need to live in the United States to be eligible for the award. Requirements for application:

- ❖ An unpublished work of crime fiction, which may be a short story or first chapter(s) of a manuscript in-progress, 2,500 to 5,000 words.
- ❖ A resume or biographical statement.
- ❖ A cover letter that gives a sense of the applicant as an emerging writer in the genre and briefly states how the grant money would be used. No prior writing or publishing experience is required, but the applicant should include any relevant studies or experience.

**An electronic copy of the full application in Word should be sent, with email attachments, to:
STEPHGAYLE@GMAIL.COM**

Receipt of your email application will be acknowledged by email, and forwarded to the award judges. For updates, inquiries, and additional information about the award please contact Stephanie Gayle at stephgayle@gmail.com.

Sisters in Crime is an organization dedicated to promoting the ongoing advancement, recognition, and professional development of women crime writers. It has 3,600 members in 51 chapters worldwide, offering networking advice and support to mystery authors.

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