

Section 1: Taleblazers Presenter Eligibility

1.1 Intent

All touring authors fulfill the YABS mission “to foster literacy and a love of reading among young people in Alberta.” Therefore all authors, illustrators, playwrights and storytellers must demonstrate a standard of professionalism before they are approved for participation in Taleblazers as a touring literary artist.

1.2 Regulations

- i. Participants must be residents of Alberta.
- ii. Participants who apply for touring eligibility must be prepared to develop a presentation that engages and inspires young people for their identified grade level.
- iii. **Authors must have published professionally, (not self published)* at least one complete book** of fiction, short stories, poetry, or non-fiction that lends itself to public readings to students in grades K-12. Authors of travel guides, bibliographies, cookbooks, exhibition catalogues, instruction manuals, self-help books, scholarly books, textbooks and specialized reference works are not eligible.
- iv. **Illustrators of children’s books** are eligible, provided they have illustrated the complete text of the work.
- v. **Storytellers who are recognized by their peers as professionals** and who have been paid professional rates for their work are eligible. To be considered, storytellers must submit with their completed Taleblazers Presenter Form a detailed resume; two letters of reference from hosts who have paid the storyteller for his or her services; and a letter of recommendation from another storyteller who has already met the Young Alberta Book Society’s criteria as to what constitutes a professional storyteller. This additional information will enable YABS to gauge a storyteller’s professional status. Storyteller inclusion must be approved by the YABS Board.
- vi. **Playwrights who have been professionally published** or produced are eligible.
- vii. **Professional illustrators** who have not illustrated the full text of a children’s book but who have a strong and diverse background which includes experience in youth art education and some professional publishing credits may be considered by the Board. Applicants must submit a detailed resume, two letters of reference from hosts who have paid the artist for youth art education services and some samples of art suitable for presentation to children. The resume should indicate any specialized training, professional showings, literary illustration publishing, and journalistic illustration experience in addition to art education experience. Illustrators in this category must be approved by the Board.
- viii. **Scriptwriters** must have had at least one dramatic or comedic work of a minimum of 30 minutes duration or 2 works of 15 minutes duration produced professionally on radio, television or film. At least one work should be material suitable for presentation to students in grades K-12.
- ix. **Writers with a minimum of four texts of creative literary writing** (e.g. short stories, excerpts from a novel) published on two separate occasions in literary magazines, recognized periodicals (including general interest magazines), or anthologies published by professional publishing houses, or
• for poetry, a **minimum of 10 poems published** in literary magazines, recognized periodicals or anthologies published by professional publishing houses is required, or
• for literary non-fiction, a **minimum of 40 pages (10,000 words) of literary articles published** in literary magazines, recognized periodicals or anthologies published by professional publishing houses. Material must be suitable for presentation to students in grades K-12.

YABS’ role is to provide support and assist in the development of novice touring participants in some or all of the following ways:

- i. notification of workshops by YABS or other organizations,
- ii. provide written suggestions and evaluations from hosting teachers,
- iii. make arrangements for specific viewings of experienced participants’ presentations so they may observe professional practice first hand,
- iv. provision of constructive feedback after the participant’s initial presentation

*The Canada Council for the Arts’ determines that a company must have fewer than 25% of its list written by principals in the company in order to be considered a professional publisher. This means that regardless of genre, an author, illustrator, playwright or poet must have published at least one book through a publishing house considered “professional” as defined by Canada Council in order to be considered eligible to participate in Taleblazers.