



Seeking Children's Book Illustrator

About Shout Mouse Press:

Shout Mouse Press (www.ShoutMousePress.org) is a writing program and publishing house for underheard voices. We empower writers from marginalized communities to tell their own stories in their own voices and, as published authors, to act as agents of change.

Shout Mouse authors have produced original children's books, novels, comics, and memoir and poetry collections that engage reluctant readers as well as open hearts and minds.

Thus far we have produced 45 books by incarcerated, at-risk, immigrant, and otherwise marginalized youth in DC and Haiti. See all books here: shoutmousepress.org/catalog

Opportunity:

We are seeking illustrators for our 2020 series of Books by Teens. In partnership with [Reach Incorporated](#), we coach 12-15 DC teens to write 4 illustrated children's books for the students they tutor. These books are motivated in part by the [#WeNeedDiverseBooks](#) movement, which advocates for diversity of characters, authors, and illustrators within children's literature.

We have produced over 30 books thus far with Reach, with over 35,000 copies in circulation in Greater Washington and across the country. The DC Public School system requested to carry every title in every public school in the city. This is a great opportunity to build a portfolio, be published and widely distributed, and to use your talents for art for a good and empowering cause.

Books are generally ~40 pages long and require color cover + up to 20 color full-page or spot illustrations. Previous illustrators have spent an average of 100 hours total on this project.

Qualifications:

- Required:
 - Skilled artist in digital and/or traditional media,
 - Skilled and professional communicator and collaborator, both with project leader and with teen authors,
 - Ability to draw characters from varying ethnicities as well as imaginary creatures,
 - Ability to edit images digitally as needed via Adobe creative suite
 - Ability to upload/scan high-quality JPEG files in DropBox
 - Ability to work independently, take initiative, and meet all required deadlines
 - Ability to join workshop and collaborate with authors on-site in DC for at least two

- workshops at the end of July
- Preferred:
 - Prior narrative illustration / storyboarding experience
 - Investment in mission and history of engagement in social justice, minority rights, diversity initiatives

We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Shout Mouse is committed to building a culturally diverse team and to providing professional development opportunities for the next generation of diverse artists and writers. We strongly encourage applications from racial and/or religious minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, individuals with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented groups.

Timeline:

~July 15 - October 1. Exact dates TBA.

On-Site:

The project requires at least 2 on-site visits during the last two weeks of July in Washington, DC (location TBA) to meet authors and sketch characters + create basic storyboard.

Off-Site:

All other illustration work can be completed from home according to the following schedule:

- ~ 2 weeks for sketches (due ~Aug 15)
- ~ 4 weeks for color art (due ~Sept 15)
- ~ 2 weeks for final revisions (due ~Oct 1)

Compensation:

This opportunity is part-service, part-compensation. Our goals:

- We want to give aspiring illustrators the opportunity to have their work published and distributed in order to build professional credentials.
- We want to offer an opportunity to do concrete, tangible good with artistic talents. If community service hours are applicable, we will happily sign forms or affirm participation.
- We want to value artists' time and contribution as much as possible with our limited budget. We are able to offer a stipend of \$1500/book with the opportunity for a bonus, plus 5 free copies/book.
- We also promote your work as much as possible and will provide your bio + link on our website and in print in the books.

Interested? Please send a link to your artwork + brief email detailing your interest to jointheteam@shoutmousepress.org.