



KEY WEST

ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY™

Annual Tennessee Williams Poetry & Short Story Contests Prospectus

OVERVIEW

In commemorating Tennessee Williams's 114th Birthday, the Tennessee Williams Museum in Key West is convening short story and poetry contests.

Williams traveled across the United States and Europe but was most successful in his career and happy personally while living and writing in Key West. During his nearly four decades on the island, he wrote many of his notable works including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Drawing from the 2025 Festival theme, writing contest entries must in some way reference Tennessee Williams' seminal work *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Poets and authors should loosely make reference to the play whether it be Williams during the writing process, one of the play's characters, or one of the actors/actresses who played a role in the film. The cost is \$10 per submission and is limited to one poem and/or one short story per person. The first-place winner in each contest will be awarded \$300 while the second-place winners will receive \$150.

The winners will be announced on March 26, 2025, at a special Birthday Party at the Tennessee Williams Museum and published online on the Tennessee Williams Key West Festival website.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

Submission deadline for poetry and short story: **Midnight, March 9, 2025**

- Contest open to all United States residents.
- Submission fee \$10.00.
- Entries must be in English.
- Original written work of either short story or poetry that must reference Williams in some way. Writers may choose to reference Williams, his family, one of his characters, or an actor/actress who starred in his plays or films.
- Works must not have been published in print, digital or online publications.
- Poetry submissions are limited to 30 lines.
- Short Story submissions must be between 1,500 to 4,000 words.
- One entry per person.
- .PDF or .DOC files only.

- All entries must be submitted online via the entry form on the Tennessee Williams Key West Festival website www.twfest.org/contests or www.kwahs.org/tennessee-williams-festival
- All submissions are final. Refunds are not provided for disqualified, withdrawn or non-winning entries.

AWARDS

First and second place are awarded in each contest. First place winners receive a \$300 prize while second place receives \$150.

Winning entries will be published on the Tennessee Williams Key West Festival website beginning on April 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

RECEPTION & AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us at the Tennessee Williams Museum, **March 26, 2025, 5-7 PM** for a reception to honor Tennessee Williams on his 113th birthday.

Winners will be honored and a short excerpt from their story will be read along with the poems.

All participating writers, friends, family, and community members are invited to attend.

MEET THE JUDGES

SHORT STORY

- Anne Shaver: Retired Tennessee Williams Museum Founding Board Member.
- Dr. Suzanne Wood: Retired Professor and University Dean with degrees in English and Comparative Literature.
- Joanna Brady Schmida: Local Author and former Journalist with *Key West Citizen*.

POETRY

- Dr. Emily Schulten-Weekley: English Professor at the College of the Florida Keys, Key West Poet Laureate, and Author.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Writers retain ownership of submitted short story or poem.
- By submitting it to the Key West Art & Historical Society for publication or for inclusion in the contest, should it rank among winners or receive an honorable mention, you give the Society permission to publish it online on its website and the Tennessee Williams Key West Festival website.
- The KWAHS will not sell your individual short story or poem or have any further rights over it beyond the purposes listed on the prospectus.
- Once the contest is complete, writers can publish the work as they deem fit.