

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Audre Lorde?

***Lorde described herself as "a black-lesbian feminist mother lover poet."** Poet, essayist, and novelist Audre Lorde was born on February 18, 1934, in New York City. Her parents were immigrants from Grenada. Lorde received her B.A. from Hunter College and an M.L.S. from Columbia University. Her first volume of poems, *The First Cities*, was published in 1968. *The First Cities* was quickly followed with *Cables to Rage* (1970) and *From a Land Where Other People Live* (1972), which was nominated for a National Book Award. In 1974 she published *New York Head Shot and Museum*.

In 1976, W.W. Norton released her collection *Coal* and shortly thereafter published *The Black Unicorn*. Her other volumes include *Chosen Poems Old and New* (1982) and *Our Dead Behind Us* (1986). Although her work gained wide acclaim, she was also sharply criticized. In an interview in the journal *Callaloo*, Lorde responded to her critics: "My sexuality is part and parcel of who I am, and my poetry comes from the intersection of me and my worlds. . . . Jesse Helms's objection to my work is not about obscenity . . . or even about sex. It is about revolution and change. . . . Helms knows that my writing is aimed at his destruction, and the destruction of every single thing he stands for."

Lorde was diagnosed with cancer and chronicled her struggles in her first prose collection, *The Cancer Journals*, which won the Gay Caucus Book of the Year award for 1981. Her other prose volumes include *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982), *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches* (1984), and *A Burst of Light* (1988), which won a National Book Award.

In the 1980s, Lorde and writer Barbara Smith founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. She was also a founding member of Sisters in Support of Sisters in South Africa, an organization that worked to raise concerns about women under apartheid.

Audre Lorde was professor of English at John Jay College of criminal justice and Hunter College. She was the poet laureate of New York from 1991-1992. She died of breast cancer in 1992. *The Collected Poems Of Audre Lorde* was published in 1997.

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Who is eligible for an Audre Lorde Scholarship?

Any **out** lesbian/ gay man of color who is a graduating high school senior or currently attending any accredited technical, undergraduate or graduate school located in the United States The *Audre Lorde Scholarship Awards* are especially designed to recognize lesbians and gay men of color who are making significant contributions to their communities.

Any other eligibility criteria?

Yes, you must be accepted or registered at a post-secondary educational institution for full or part-time attendance as defined by the institution. You are also required to have a cumulative high school/college/or technical school grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

What is the definition of out?

Out is defined as an acknowledgement of lesbian/ gay identify to self, and or to family, friends, and community.*

I have been out of school for a while. Can I apply?

Yes but you must submit an acceptance letter if you are an entering freshman or transfer student.

Are older gays and lesbians eligible?

Older gays and lesbians are encouraged to also apply.

Can I apply if I am not gay, lesbian or of color?

No.

Can I use a 2006 application or an older one to apply?

No, we modify our applications each year. You must use the 2007 application otherwise you will be disqualified.

How much money will I get?

The amount of the Audre Lorde Scholarship is \$1000.

Where does the money come from?

Lesbian & Gay Donors.

How many scholarships do you give annually?

The amount varies. In 2006, we awarded 17 scholarships, in 2005, we gave out 22 awards. We never give less than 10 scholarships per year.

Can I use the money to study abroad?

No.

Am I required to attend the scholarship activities in Atlanta?

Yes but all expenses are paid by ZAMI, the sponsor of The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund.

Can I bring my partner or family member to the event?

Yes, we encourage their support but cannot pay their expenses.

How can I apply for the upcoming school year?

Please download an application from the website. We do not mail applications. We prefer that all application materials be mailed as one package. If the references or transcript(s) are mailed under separate cover, the student is responsible for making sure that we receive it on or before the deadline.

*We also require that you email one application package with the exception of transcripts and recommendation letters to zami@zami.org

When will I find out if I get the Scholarship?

Awardees will be notified on or before July 30, 2007

Can you send me additional information?

No, there is no more information to send. All of the information is contained within the application and this FAQ.

Can I apply if I don't meet all of the requirements?

No. Please do not submit an application if you do not meet the eligibility requirements. No exceptions to the eligibility requirements are considered. The Fund does not offer scholarships for weekend programs, summer sessions, research, special projects, or for study out of the country.

What are the application deadlines?

Deadline (post-mark) and email for all application materials must be submitted by May 1, 2007. Awardees will be notified on or before July 30, 2007.

Can I save my scholarship and use it the following year?

Awards are for the current academic year only and by law are paid directly to the recipient and the academic institution. Please send proof of official registration at the beginning of the school year.

Checks not processed with the academic institution within 90 days of receipt will be rendered null and void by the Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund.

I'd like to apply for a scholarship for the year after this one. When will that be possible?

You may only apply for the upcoming school year starting JANUARY 15, 2008.

I am an applicant and have not heard from The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund. Will you please let me know if you have received my application?

You will only hear from us if you are selected as a finalist. Finalists may be invited to participate in a face-to-face or telephone interview. We cannot confirm receipt of your application; therefore we recommend you use a delivery confirmation and tracking system, such as the USPS registered mail.

If I apply once and am not selected, can I reapply?

Yes, you can reapply.

If I apply and am selected, can I reapply the following year?

Yes.

Whom do I contact?

Contact us at zami@zami.org or mail us at
ZAMI o/b/o The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 2502,
Decatur, Georgia 30031

Can I fax my application?

No.

What if my Professor won't have my letter of recommendation done just before the application deadline?

All applications and accompanying materials must be completed by the deadline. It is your responsibility to follow up with the professor or educational institution.

Can I send in my application materials early?

Yes. We encourage early submission.

Is it advantageous to submit my application and materials early?

Absolutely.