

CALL FOR PROPOSALS · 2026

FIRE!!!

Devoted to Younger Black American Artists

SUBMISSION WINDOW

June 15 – August 15, 2026

Politics + Culture + Identity

*"FIRE ... flaming, burning, searing, and penetrating far beneath
the superficial items of the flesh."*

FOREWORD · FIRE!! · 1926

submissions@firemag.org

THE CALL

ONE HUNDRED YEARS: STILL, THE FIRE BURNS.

In 1926, Wallace Thurman, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Aaron Douglas lit a match called FIRE!!, a journal by younger Black artists who refused to wait for permission.

It ran one issue. It changed everything.

Now, we strike the match, one century later. FIRE!!! returns to publish twenty-one new pieces, paid, in the spirit of the original. There are seats at this table for emerging Black American writers, poets, photographers, makers, and artists.

THREE SECTIONS · SEVEN PIECES EACH

ONE ISSUE, THREE FIRES.

FIRE!!! will publish artwork, essays, poetry, photography, conversations, and short stories organized around three themes: Politics, Culture, and Identity.

Politics

Organizing, economics, citizenship and the status of the Black political world. Topics may include voting rights, economic justice, education, housing, healthcare, technology, activism, public policy, and social movements.

Culture

Music, photography, film, art, performance, and the life of the Black American mind. Topics may include music, art, fashion, language, foodways, digital culture, sports, faith traditions, and community life.

Identity

Black selfhood, lineage, belonging, and determination through who we say we are. Topics may include family, gender, sexuality, regional identity, class, spirituality, mental health, belonging, and memory.

THE ONE RULE

ABSOLUTELY NO AI. NOT IN WRITING. NOT IN ART.

Every accepted piece is read and made by people. FIRE!!! publishes work made by human hands, voices, and minds. Nothing else. We commission our art and draw on the public-domain 1926 issue. We do not generate it.

ELIGIBILITY

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- 01** Black or African American artists, in the tradition of the original FIRE!! — the direct descendants of African people enslaved in the United States.
- 02** Ages 18 to 35.
- 03** Your submitted work must be original and previously unpublished. It cannot have appeared in any magazine, journal, book, newspaper, or exhibition.
- 04** One piece per submission — but you may enter more than one work, each submitted separately.

Each section also carries one donated piece from an established voice in support of the cause.

THE WORK

WHAT WE'RE PUBLISHING. WHAT WE PAY.

Seven pieces in each of three sections: Politics, Culture, and Identity. Rates are per accepted piece, paid plainly and proudly.

Short Story	\$500
Essay	\$600
Photography or Photo Essay	\$500
Art Piece	\$500
Conversation, Roundtable, or Interview	\$600
Poem	\$200

When you're paid

25% on acceptance, once your proposal is in and the agreement is signed. The remaining 75% when editing is complete.

Roundtables

Group conversations pay \$300 per participant.

Your rights

For multimedia work, television and film rights are split 50/50 between you and FIRE!!!.

Donated pieces

One piece per section is donated by an established voice as a gift to the issue, not a paid slot.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- 01** Choose your section: Politics, Culture, or Identity, and the form your piece will take.
- 02** Write a short proposal. Please include: A) Who you are; B) What you're making; C) Why it belongs in FIRE!!!; D) A link to a work sample.
- 03** Submit before the deadline. One piece per submission — submit additional works separately. Please do not send a finished manuscript.

Key dates

Proposals open · June 15, 2026

Deadline · August 15, 2026

Submit & questions

submissions@firemag.org — and through the form at the FIRE!!! site.