

J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award: Professional Storyteller Recommendation

a reference from a professional storyteller who can describe the applicant's storytelling skills

To the writer of the recommendation: You have been asked to provide a recommendation for a storyteller who has applied to receive the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award.

This award provides funding to help a storyteller develop performance skills (through, for instance, workshops, specific courses of study, coaching or work with a director, mentoring by senior tellers, relevant conference attendance, and other forms of training). In honor of its namesake, the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant seeks to recognize artists who already possess the considerable talent and the potential to advance the storytelling art, although they have not yet received wide public recognition (such as featuring at a major festival or theater).

The J.J. Reneaux Committee would appreciate your help in evaluating this candidate for the award. In particular, we would like you to describe, as specifically as possible, the candidate's distinctive skills as a storyteller. Please feel free to answer the following questions individually, or to incorporate this information into a single letter.

1. On what occasions, and under what circumstances, have you seen the applicant perform as a storyteller?
2. How would you describe the applicant's style? Do you feel it is unique or distinctive?
3. How do you assess the applicant's achievements, talent, and (if possible) potential as a storyteller?
4. The J.J. Reneaux Grant is awarded to support artistic development. In your view, what aspects of the applicant's storytelling would benefit from further work, and what kinds of training or mentoring opportunities would be useful in helping this candidate develop further as a storytelling artist?

Please e-mail your letter by no later than Monday, September 29, 2025 to Sue Kessler, ASST Executive Director, at execd@asst.art with "JJR Award Recommendation for [name of applicant]" in the subject line. Please include in your letter the applicant's name, as well as your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Thank you very much for taking the time to help us with this project.

