

J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award: Presentation Recommendation

a reference by someone who has seen the applicant perform in a particular venue

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 from Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST, “assist”).

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 Award 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 Awards 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 presentation of stories at an event at which you were present. Please feel free to answer the following questions individually, or to incorporate this information into a single letter.

1. What was the event you witnessed? (Where and when did it take place? By whom was it sponsored? How large was the audience, and what was its composition?).
2. What brought you to the event? (Were you, for instance, a planner or sponsor? A friend of the storyteller? An audience member drawn to attend by some other connection?).
3. Please describe the storyteller’s presentation – its length, what stories/kinds of stories were told, whether other performance media (e.g. music, song, mime, dance, puppetry) accompanied the stories, etc.
4. What were the distinctive qualities of the performance? How would you describe, for instance, the storyteller’s style, language, physical presence?
5. How did the storyteller relate to the audience, and how did the audience respond?
6. How did this performance compare with the performances you have attended by other storytellers?

Please e-mail your letter directly 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.

