

CALL FOR WRITERS at Forget The Box(.ca)

Forget The Box(.ca), the flagship digital magazine of the federal not-for-profit **Forget The Box Media**, is actively expanding its contributor pool. We are seeking passionate cultural journalists, critics, and writers to help us document Montreal's ground-level, underground, and marginalized art scenes.

We operate as a hyper-local, community-focused publication dedicated to English-language arts journalism. Our contributors cover everything from DIY music events and independent theatre productions to grassroots festivals and underground gallery openings across the city.

How We Work: The Contributor Pool & Freelance Structure

Accepted writers join our active internal contributor pool. On an ongoing basis through our Google Space, our editorial team distributes a curated list of upcoming assignments, press previews, and review tickets. Additionally, the pool serves as a direct pipeline for writers to pitch their own immediate ideas. There are no caps on how frequently contributors can pitch or claim assignments from the pool, offering writers a consistent, reliable volume of work.

Please note: Writers interested specifically in long-form Features are *not* required to join the ongoing contributor pool or the Google Space; we accept and publish long-form Feature work on a purely independent, project-by-project freelance basis.

Our Editorial Formats & Honorarium Structure

We operate on a structured freelance honorarium system. Writers are commissioned under two distinct editorial formats:

- **Wires (5 cents per word):** These are our sharp, time-sensitive, and reactive "live transmissions" from the front lines of the local scene. Typically ranging from 800 to 1,200 words (with a strict maximum cap of 1,500 words), Wires are tasked with documenting the heartbeat of Montreal's art scene—the here and now. They are the home for immediate theatre reviews, album critiques, gallery openings, and festival coverage, prioritizing visceral, real-time reporting and the writer's unique creative perspective over dense historical context.
- **Features (10 cents per word):** These are our long-form, intensive cornerstones of arts journalism. Features are deep dives that typically clock in at **2,500+ words**. This is where we want complex essays, historical excavations, hot takes, commentaries, artist portraits, and philosophical meditations on the creative process. Features are our deep-dive narratives that document the "why" and "how" of a Montreal artist or movement, alongside extensive contributions to our ongoing *Venue Series* (documenting the history and survival of physical underground spaces). Whether you're tracking a massive movement or writing an exhaustive cultural analysis on the literal graffiti in Montreal venue bathrooms, we want to read it.

Who We Are Looking For

We want writers who are deeply embedded in, or curious about, Montreal's diverse creative fabric. Whether you are an experienced journalist or an emerging writer looking to build a portfolio of verified, hands-on arts criticism, we provide an editing process that respects your voice and sharpens your craft.

How to Apply

Please review the options below and contact the appropriate editor based on your writing interests. For all submissions, please include a current CV (or a summary of relevant writing experience) and two or three writing samples (links or PDFs) that showcase your voice and critical perspective. Forget The Box(.ca) is deeply committed to mentorship, and we absolutely welcome applications from emerging voices. If you don't have published writing samples yet, that's okay! Just use your introduction to explain why you are passionate about the Montreal art scene and what you want to cover.

- **To Pitch a Feature:** If you are interested in pitching a Feature, please reach out to our Creative Director, **Andrew Jamieson**, at andrew@forgetthebox.ca. Include a brief introduction explaining your concept and your connection to the subject.
- **To Join the Contributor Pool (Wires):** Please reach out to our Editor-in-Chief, **Candice Ann**, at candice@forgetthebox.ca. Include a brief introduction detailing what specific disciplines you are most passionate about covering.