



Lil AVC X: Call for auditions for our 2023 constructor roster

We're looking for crossword puzzle constructors (including those without many, or even any, publication credits) to regularly contribute “midi” puzzles! (Yes, you'll get paid—and you will receive mentorship from our editors.)

What we need from you is one sample puzzle, and a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to be part of the team. The form is [here](#). Email lilavcx2023@gmail.com with any questions.

Details:

Lil AVC X provides two midi-sized puzzles per week to [AVCX](#) subscribers. The 2023 editors for Lil AVC X are [Brooke Husic](#), [Derek Allen](#), Kavin Pawitranon, [Kelsey Dixon](#), [Ken Stern](#), [No-feet McGee](#), [Olivia Mitra Framke](#), [Rafa Musa](#), [Rose Sloan](#), [Sally Hoelscher](#), [Sara Cantor](#), [Steve Mossberg](#), and [Will Eisenberg](#).

Lil AVC X publishes American style “midi” crossword puzzles, roughly of sizes from 9x9 to 11x11. Puzzles occupy a range of difficulties and are themed, themeless, and in between. We expect our puzzles to exalt their constructors' unique voices.

We are looking for all kinds of constructors, including new constructors who do not have many or any published puzzles to their name; indeed, part of Lil AVC X's mission is to help develop new voices. It is important to us that the composition of our roster is inclusive, especially with respect to the historical demographic imbalance of published crossword constructors. We are looking for constructors who are excited to engage with us in a hands-on and detail-oriented editing process and particularly encourage applications from those who feel like their voice has been underrepresented in the crossword community. Ultimately, our aim is to create individual spaces in which you feel empowered to construct whatever kind of puzzles that you feel represent who you are.

The audition will be semi-anonymous; the deadline is Monday, November 21, 2022 at 11:59pm PST. The application form is [here](#) and a brief spec sheet can be found [here](#). Again, we welcome completely new, sort of new, and experienced constructors looking for mentorship. The [application](#) asks for one clued sample puzzle and has a few short answer questions. Your submitted puzzle must be a midi, but it may be already published, already published but with new modifications, or never-before-seen. (If you submit a previously published puzzle, we can't guarantee anonymity if one of us has already solved it.)

We're making four of last year's puzzles available for free so you can take a look at some stuff we really loved. This is not an exhaustive sample of all the kinds of puzzles we're looking for, but hopefully it's a helpful guide. Also note that these puzzles all went through editing and test-solving; we're not necessarily expecting ready-to-publish puzzles from your applications!



LIL AVC X

- ["I Was Josh Safdie's Muse" by Kelsey Dixon](#)
- ["Tight Fit" by Enrique Henestroza Anguiano](#)
- ["Fruit Salad" by Madeline Kaplan](#)
- ["Worry, Darling" by May Huang](#)

We encourage you to send us puzzles that reflect your voice. Use entries that you are excited about, and write clues that reflect your interests.

We're looking forward to your submissions!

The 2023 Lil AVC X Editing Team