

Boston Ujima Project | Guidelines for Prospective Writers

About the *WIRE*

The Ujima WIRE is a digital publication that runs on our newsletter and [Medium](#). We publish new pieces monthly from January through September.

- >> [Submit your idea here.](#)
- >> [Read our past work here.](#)
- >> [Learn more about the Boston Ujima Project here.](#)

What to submit

We're interested in:

- Interviews (ex: organizers, artists, culture workers, thought leaders, etc);
- Solidarity Economy coverage (of worker's co-ops, organizing groups, and funders)
- Investigative or educational essays that center justice and counter-narratives;
- Local, community-based arts/music criticism and coverage;
- Short stories that get at the heart of living and working in cities;
- Poems that excavate politics or inspire us towards liberation.

Ideally, your work with us will take into account current contexts, while exploring new potentialities and imaginaries.

Stories should have a strong connection to at least one (and preferably more) of the following: Boston's Black, Brown, working-class communities; solidarity politics and economics; liberation narratives; and urban policy and planning.

Editorial/Style

The best way to understand the type of writing that our editorial team is looking for is to spend some time with our *WIRE* archive and publications.

Here are examples of past essays that have run in the Wire!

- **Arts Criticism:** [Roots Edition](#)
- **Cultural Criticism + Policy :** [The T is Toast](#); [Money Edition](#)
- **History or Analysis:** [Possibilities Edition](#); [Black Farmers Edition](#)
- **Interviews:** [Estate Planning Edition](#); [Hoodoo Edition](#)

Additionally, we run a print and digital magazine [Fortunately](#).

That said, we are looking for:

- Bold, thoughtful writing with a distinctive voice that articulates clear and compelling critical perspectives.
- Approachable, lively language that avoids overly-academic jargon.
- Writing that implicitly demonstrates familiarity with the ideas at the center of the piece, as well as with existing dialogue around the conversation.
- Criticisms that are thoughtfully supported and contextualized.

The overall tone of the publication comprises a range: from reportorial/formal, to conversational, to irreverent, to sincere, we welcome a variety of voices as content and clarity of message matter most to us.

Word count

We welcome submissions across a spectrum of genres, including:

- interviews (1,500 to 2,500 words)
- short essays or stories (1,000 to 1,500 words)
- longer essays (1,500 to 2,000 words)

- reviews (600 to 800 words)
- poetry (any length)
- fiction (600 to 1,500 words)

Please keep in mind that our max length is 2,500 words per article.

Compensation

Pieces that run in the *WIRE* are compensated at \$0.30 per word, or \$200 to \$300 for longer pieces. Payment is determined by factors such as length, prior publication, and format.

How to pitch

Writers should submit a detailed pitch that outlines the direction/thesis of their planned piece and gives editors a clear idea of what to expect.

Pitches must propose a specific lens through which you will view. Details to consider include:

- Why is this topic important right now?
- What's the impact of the subject on our readers?
- What's your perspective on the topic, and how will it contribute to the wider conversation?
- What is the intended format and style of the piece?
- What is the proposed timeline for completing the piece?

If you are submitting a pitch for review, please include **at least two relevant links to your work**.

If you are a new writer, or previously unpublished, we still want to hear from you!

Other things to include:

- When pitching interviews, please include some sample questions you might want to ask your interviewee.

- If applicable, please disclose your relationship to the topic. (Ex: Do you personally know the individual you plan to interview? Have you reviewed the work of this artist before? Are you in any way affiliated with the gallery or museum?)

[Use this Google Form to submit your pitch.](#)

**If you have any questions, please contact our editorial
manager,
Alula Hunsen at alula@ujimaboston.com**