Call for Submissions: Community Voice Writing at The Forum

We are excited to announce that The Forum is now accepting community writing submissions for the Insights Center!

The Insights Center at The Forum is our knowledge hub. The Center houses the primary findings from our various community engagements, as well as reflections on transformative, systems change work. These findings, currently written by Forum staff, tell the stories of our community's needs and aspirations.

At The Forum, we believe in the power of community voice. We know the path to a radical, liberated Black future requires our diverse perspectives and experiences and deserves to be heard.

Guidelines

We welcome opinion pieces, essays, and Black Papers from community members that contextualize current events in Black communities throughout Minnesota, as well as imagine our liberatory futures.

You do not have to be an established writer or researcher to submit a piece! We want to hear from everyone.

Submission Formats & Word Counts

- **Opinion Pieces:** Pieces that express your personal views, commentary, or analysis of current events in Black communities throughout Minnesota.
    - 600–1,200 words
- **Standard Essays:** Focused pieces that combine lived experience reporting or current events and culture with (light) research and analysis.
    - 1,200–2,500 words
- **Black Papers:** A detailed, longer report that uses research and analysis to present complex issues and solutions to readers.
    - 2,500–5,000 words

Submission Topics

- Submission topics will follow our impact areas and the specific area The Forum is currently focusing on. The six impact areas are as follows:
    - Economic Prosperity
    - Generational Wealth Building
    - Education
    - Public Safety
    - Environmental Justice
    - Health

For more information on our impact areas, visit: https://aalftc.org/impact-areas/.

What to Send

1. A pitch of 150–300 words: what you want to say, how it connects to the submission theme, why it matters now, and why you're the person to say it.
2. Your name, a two-sentence bio, and how to reach you.
3. Optional: If you have a writing sample, include a link to it.

Submissions are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Selection Process

Submissions will be reviewed by **The Forum's Director of Community Intelligence and Research.** Selected works will be featured in The Forum's Insights Center, social media accounts, and newsletter.

Compensation

Community brilliance and expertise deserve to be compensated. Once a submission is accepted, compensation will be discussed with each contributor on an individual basis.

Questions?

For questions, contact us at insights@aalftc.org.

We can't wait to see your brilliance!