

Proposal Guidelines for Guest Editors of Marvellous Grounds

Marvellous Grounds is a collectively run volunteer archive meant to support community members in editing and publishing their work, with a wider goal of documenting queer and trans Black, Indigenous and people of colour (QTBIPOC) histories that are often erased. We provide this support for free, and we do not offer contributors a publishing fee. We seek to create space to vision how QTBIPOC create communities, innovate projects and foster connections within Toronto/Three Fires Territories and beyond. Our anthologies and blog issues bring together art, writing, mapping projects, and research that engages with space making and is in the service of community building. Please see [our original call for papers](#) and read our [first two issues](#) to gain a better sense of the project.

The Marvellous Grounds collective encourages guest editors to submit proposals for future special issues or foci. If your proposal is accepted, you will be matched with an editor from our collective, with whom you will work closely on bringing the issue and its individual contributions into a publishable format. The ultimate responsibility for the issue will be yours. Please read our guidelines for authors and guest editors, which discuss issues such as copyright, research ethics, and guest editors' responsibilities.

Proposal format

Please submit the following as part of your proposal.

1. Title of the special issue
2. Abstract of the special issue (1-2 pages detailing its focus and purpose, main theme addressed, and overall summary. See questions below for guidance.)
3. Your own bio (500 words max.) and/or a 3-page CV. Include a statement about your interest in editing such a special issue. Tell us your relevant experiences in editing. If there is a co-editor, please explain how you would work together as a team in completing the issue.
4. A detailed list of:
 - a. the authors, including bios (2-3 sentences)
 - b. titles and abstracts for each of the contributions (approx. 4 sentences)
5. Sample contributions if available

6. Timeline for completion

This should include ample time to run the final issue by the collective member assigned to you, as well as by the authors, who need time to revise and review final editing suggestions. Generally, this timeline should include clear dates for the following:

- a) The date by which the author or artist agrees to submit their contribution to the editor
- b) The date by which the editor agrees to review the first draft of the submission
- c) The date by which the author or artist agrees to do the second draft based on the editor's comments
- d) The date by which the editor agrees to send all reviewed and revised submissions as well as their guest editor's introduction to the Marvellous Grounds editor assigned to them
- e) If further changes are made on the basis of d), the date by which the author or artist reviews and accepts these final changes
- f) The date by which you anticipate the issue to be published

We ask you to address the following questions in the proposal abstract:

- ***How does this proposed issue contribute to the Marvellous Grounds archive?***
What mainstream accounts of queer space and queer history does it disturb?
Which excluded communities does it centre?
- ***What is my positionality in relation to the themes of this issue?***
How does it prioritize self-representation? If you wish to create space for others as an ally, what will you do to highlight and centre the authorship of the people who are most affected by the themes of the issue, and to de-centre your own?
- ***Have I read anything related to this theme that would be useful for setting these pieces in context?***
This is not mandatory, but we want to know what inspired you to compile such an issue and what materials you would reference in the introduction of the special issue. You can list any readings that would contribute to the discussion, including non-academic resources. Provide URLs if applicable.
- ***How did I select these pieces? What were the criteria and process for selection? Is there a call for submissions? If yes, how will it be carried out?***

We encourage guest editors to solicit contributions and initiate contact with potential authors prior to submitting a proposal. At the same time, we invite guest editors to think about how they might diversify the contributions beyond their immediate work or friendship circle, and open up opportunities to those who might have less access to publishing and editing support.

- ***How will this issue make good use of the format of the blog?***

Are there any images or other media that will be included, either alongside of writings or as individual pieces? We encourage folks to incorporate creative ways of compiling/presenting a issue. In addition, how does the issue consider a range of readers, interests, and access needs?

Please submit proposals and any enquiries via email at marvellousgroundtoronto@gmail.com. Please allow 6 weeks for an initial response. We look forward to your submission!