

Librarians: Want to know how you can support your local writing community?

Encourage your local authors to submit their manuscripts to the second **Soon to Be Famous (STBF) Illinois Author Manuscript Contest**.

The librarians who brought you the STBF Illinois Author Project that successfully leverages the credibility and power of libraries to bring talented self-published authors and libraries together, developed the STBF Manuscript Contest last year to support indie authors *before* they get to the publication stage. After a rigorous, three-round evaluation process, a team of volunteer librarian judges will select a winning author to receive these valuable prizes:

- Professional line editor who will work with winning author to polish the novel.
- Professionally designed cover.
- Self-publishing guidance from past STBF winners and committee members.
- If the winner decides to self-publish, that author's finished book will automatically be entered in the 2020 Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project contest for best indie-published books as a semi-finalist.

Is this a big deal for authors? Check out [the reaction of 2019 Manuscript Contest winner Hollie Smurthwaite](#) for your answer!

For the past six years, the Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project (STBF), has supported authors and libraries by providing a platform to identify and promote excellent self-published adult fiction (and for the first time this year Young Adult Fiction also). Winners have enjoyed increased exposure and book sales, library users have been introduced to some great new reads, and the relationships between authors and libraries have been recognized, celebrated and strengthened. Continuing to support indie authors at an earlier stage in their work with the Manuscript Contest is the next step in a growing partnership between libraries and indie authors.

So get the work out to your writers groups and NaNoWriMo participants. The STBF committee will accept complete manuscripts of adult fiction in book length (50,000 to 100,000 words) from Illinois authors through January 2, 2020. The winner will be announced in April 2020.

For complete details on entry requirements and the contest itself, visit <https://soontobefamous.info/about-the-project/manuscript-contest>.

The Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project is supported by the Illinois Library Association, Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS), Illinois Heartland Library System, American Library Association Digital Content Working Group, Public Library Association and the Chicago Public Library. For more information, visit soontobefamous.info.