



**NON:op**  
Arts and Humanities



**NON:op Arts and Humanities and the Guild Literary Complex**

**SAY THEIR NAMES 2026 Commission**

**Call for Proposals**

**Application Opens: June 1, 2026**

**Deadline: July 31, 2026**

## **BACKGROUND**

**SAY THEIR NAMES: Remembering Black Americans Killed by Police Violence** is an online memorial and interactive map that tells the stories of the lives of Black Americans killed by police. This participatory national project gives a glimpse of who they were and what their lives were like. *SAY THEIR NAMES (STN)* documents incidents that likely would not have resulted in the death of white Americans given the same set of circumstances. Proposed by Ronald Browne (deceased) and Saba Ayman-Nolley in the summer of 2020, *STN* seeks to provide solace to those who have lost family, friends, and colleagues and provide educational opportunities to communities who are less aware of this crisis and to those who wish to contribute through research and project development.

As part of *SAY THEIR NAMES* and with the generous support from The Saints, NON:op Arts and Humanities and Guild Literary Complex are commissioning up to three individual artists/teams to create a new work in response to *SAY THEIR NAMES*—whether in response to individual cases, groups of cases, the map, the entire project, or its impact on you, your family, or your community. Commissions will be publicly announced in the fall and will be presented in a concert with other works in March 2027. Selected commissions will receive a total of \$1,000 for an original work. Additional funding and production assistance will be available for the performance.

## **APPLICATION OVERVIEW**

Project proposals must be for an original performance-based work that may include any of the following: music/sound, poetry/text, visual art/video, and/or movement/performance. Selected projects must be performative and time-based in nature, and respond to the *SAY THEIR NAMES* memorial project. Collaborative teams are encouraged to apply together. Commissioned works will be publicly presented—along with additional works by commissioned artists or others—in March 2027.

This opportunity will be competitive with a maximum of three commissions awarded. Each project will be awarded \$1,000. The duration of the commissioned work shall be between seven and ten minutes.

Proposing artist(s) must demonstrate copyright ownership. Samples may be included in the commissioned work if they are licensed.

The adjudication panel will consist of one representative from NON:op, one representative from Guild Literary Complex, and one at-large judge.

Artists or teams may submit more than one proposal, however, only one will be selected. If you would like to submit more than one proposal, you must fill out a separate application form for each.

Commissioned artists are required to participate in the spring 2027 concert. While not required, commissioned artists are strongly encouraged to attend the Public Announcement in September.

#### **PAYMENT**

- Initial \$500 payment dispersed on receipt of the signed commission agreement
- Final \$500 payment dispersed on receipt of the completed commissioned work
- Performance Fee dispersed upon participation in the Spring 2027 concert

#### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

- June 1: Application Opens
- July 31: Application Deadline
- September 15: Decision
- October: Public Announcement Event
- February 1: Commissions Completed
- March 2027: Public Presentation of Commissioned Works

#### **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

The *STN* commission is open to all musicians, writers, artists, and performers 18 years of age or older who are currently living in the greater Chicago metropolitan area.

Application must be made using the online form located [HERE](#). (Application questions are attached below.) All fields are required unless otherwise indicated.

You must include a description of your commission, how it relates to the *SAY THEIR NAMES* project, and the media you anticipate using (music, poetry, video, video, etc.), in your commission—200 words or less, please!

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Please include one or more of the following support materials. You may provide a link to online documentation, upload a file or files through the form, or attach to your emailed proposal.

- Poetry or other written samples (PDF)
- Audio samples (mp3 files or online link)
- Video samples (online link only)
- Preliminary Sketches or Other Preliminary Details (pdf, word, or text document)

Information on the *SAY THEIR NAMES* project, proposal requirements, and application link may be found at <https://www.nonopera.org/stn>

Submit your application digitally via a Google form [HERE](#).  
If you have questions, please contact Christophe at [stn@nonopera.org](mailto:stn@nonopera.org)

**NON:op and the Guild Literary Complex**  
**SAY THEIR NAMES 2026 Commission Application Form**

Name 1

Email

Phone/Text

Website and/or Social Media

Name 2 (if a collaboration)

Email

Phone/Text

Website and/or Social Media

Commission Title (if known)

Anticipated Duration

Anticipated Media (see above)

Commission Description (please limit to 100 words)

How does your proposed work relate to the *STN* project? (100 words)

Questions, Comments, or anything else you would like to add (50 words)

Support Documentation (optional if you would like us to review your website or social media instead)

- ∞ Poetry/Spoken Word/ Other Written Samples (PDF)
- ∞ Audio (mp3 files or online link)
- ∞ Video (online link only)
- ∞ Preliminary Sketches (pdf, word, or text document)

Submit your application digitally via a Google form [HERE](#).  
If you have questions, please contact Christophe at [stn@nonopera.org](mailto:stn@nonopera.org)