



100 Year Starship Canopus Award for Interstellar Writing Fact Sheet

What: The 100 Year Starship® Canopus Award for Interstellar Writing is an annual prize that recognizes the finest fiction and non-fiction works that contribute the excitement, knowledge and understanding of interstellar space exploration and travel. This year, 2015, is the inaugural year of the award program.

Purpose: To celebrate those authors, ideas and well told stories, fiction and non-fiction, that result in broader public engagement, commitment and advocacy around the technological, cultural, political, economic, scientific and innovative required to achieve an Inclusive Audacious Journey that Transforms Life Here on Earth and beyond—the objective of 100YSS.

When: The Canopus Awards will be presented during the 100 Year Starship Public Symposium 2015 in Santa Clara, California on October 30, 2015.

Why: Often, the most powerful ideas start with the simple question, “What if?” Writing based on this query—science fiction and exploratory non-fiction, challenges us to look beyond the world in front of us, to imagine what could be, and envision distant worlds and evolved realities. Such speculative tales inspire scientists and engineers, artists and teachers, politicians and cultural icons toward discovery, invention, and exploration; and in so doing, have transformed our world.

The human interstellar journey, travelling beyond our solar system to another star, is a grand challenge that has capture our imagination across the globe. It is also extraordinarily difficult. And it cannot be successfully accomplished without mustering the full of human experience, skills and talent. It is critical to broaden the participants in this journey by integrating the artistic expression of the interstellar exploration initially via literature.

100YSS exists to make the capability of human travel beyond our solar system a reality within the next 100 years. 100YSS is dedicated to identifying and pushing the radical leaps in knowledge and technology to achieve interstellar flight, while pioneering and transforming breakthrough applications that enhance the quality of life for all on Earth. 100YSS actively seeks to include the broadest swath of people and human experience in understanding, shaping and implementing this global aspiration. The 100YSS Canopus Award is given to celebrate non-fiction and fiction which explores these same challenges and goals.

Canopus Awards: Two awards will be made in two major categories, Previously Published Works of Fiction and Original Works. The details for submission and/or nomination for each award are given below.

Previously Published Work of Long Form Fiction award will be given for a work of 40,000 words or more which was previously professionally published.

Previously Published Work of Short Form Fiction award will be given to a work between 1,000 and 40,000 words that was previously professionally published.

Original Short Form Fiction Award will be given to a between 1,000 to 5,000 words is original, centered on the theme “Finding Earth 2.0” as defined by 100YSS and has not been published anywhere previously.

Original Short Form Non-Fiction Award will be given to a between 1,000 to 5,000 words is original, centered on the theme “Finding Earth 2.0” as defined by 100YSS and has not been published anywhere previously.

About the Theme: *“Finding Earth 2.0”*: Both the process of definitively finding and the actual indisputable discovery of an exoplanet capable of supporting Earth-evolved or terran life—an Earth analog or Earth 2.0 so to speak—will be game changers. 100 Year Starship (100YSS) considers the process and the discovery itself integral parts of the phenomenon “Finding Earth 2.0.”

Finding Earth 2.0 has profound implications for technology, knowledge and systems across the spectrum of human skills and capacities as well as experiences and perspectives on the future.

Submissions and Nominations: The public may nominate works via links on the 100YSS website or <http://www.bit.ly/canopusaward>. The window is open for nominations and submissions from July 28 through August 31, 2015. Details on the format for submission are available at <http://100yss.org/initiatives/canopusaward>.

How to Participate: Submissions and nominations are currently being accepted for both original works and previously professionally published works. The window for submissions and nominations close August 31, 2015.

The Award: Winners will receive a stunning crystal a gold award, complementary attendance at three 100YSS Public Symposia, three year professional membership to 100YSS among other prizes.

Judging: There is open nomination for Published Works. Judging will be done by a panel selected of scientists, writers, cultural influencers, and subject matter experts. Writing will be assessed on incorporation and presentation of the concept of interstellar exploration, excellent execution, delineation of plot, themes, characters, mood and information as appropriate. While speculative ideas are encouraged, authors are encouraged to build upon or around whenever possible science and physical reality—even if those currently are extrapolated upon or disputed in the writing (which we also encourage). Plots with significant components of interstellar exploration, research, and/or travel that focus on pushing radical leaps in knowledge and technology while pioneering and transforming breakthrough applications to enhance the quality of life for all on Earth are welcomed.

The works are also encouraged to integrate major pillars of 100 Year Starship's mission: Audacious, Resilience, Inclusion, Enhancing Quality of Life, Discipline, Energy, and Knowledge.

The Name of the Award: *Canopus* is the star on the 100YSS logo and links humanity's past, present and fantasy. Canopus, also called Alpha Carinae, is the second brightest star in the night sky. For millennia, its position in the sky heralded planting seasons for people of the Rift Valley and from the Bedouin of the Sinai to the Maori of New Zealand to the deep space probes like Voyager, Canopus has been used for navigation. The famous fictional planet Arrakis of the novel "Dune" is the third planet orbiting Canopus. That planet is the only source of "spice" in the universe—the substance that makes interstellar space travel possible in Frank Herbert fictional worlds.

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ABOUT 100 YEAR STARSHIP[®]

100 Year Starship[®] (100YSS) is an independent, non-governmental, long-term initiative to ensure the capabilities for human interstellar flight exist as soon as possible, and definitely within the next 100 years. 100YSS was started in 2012 with seed-funding through a competitive grant from DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) for the purpose of fostering the type of explosive innovation and technology and social advances born from addressing such an incredible challenge. To foster such innovation, 100YSS engages in collaborative international programs and projects in research and innovation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) capacity building, entrepreneurship and education projects with and between organizations, companies, universities and individuals. Based in Houston, TX, 100YSS recently opened an affiliate in Brussels, 100YSS@EU and is in the process of developing affiliates in Africa and Asia.

About the 100YSS PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM 2015

The 100YSS Public Symposium is a powerful four-day event of global, transdisciplinary experience of imagination, hands-on programs, thought-provoking discussions and action on the frontiers of science, civilization, space, technology, society, music, art and our present and future. The Symposium brings together experts, enthusiasts, students, celebrities, innovators, educators, and thought leaders from around the world. 2015 is the fourth Symposium and is themed around “Finding Earth 2.0”—how both the process to discover and the definitive identification of a planet outside our solar system capable of supporting Earth-based life will be game changing across the spectrum of human activities.

100YSS is part of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence. For more information, visit www.100yss.org. To register for the 2015 Symposium, visit <http://2015.symposium.100yss.org>.

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