

Writer's Guidelines

Your submissions are the lifeblood of Third Coast Press. We welcome submissions from both experienced and new/first-time writers. Please read the following writer's guidelines and e-mail one of the Third Coast Press editors (email addresses below) with queries or questions. Before submitting, you may also wish to read back issues or current articles to get a better feel for our content and editorial style. <http://thirdcoastpress.com/downloadissues.php>

If you are unsure if your story idea is a good fit for Third Coast Press, please e-mail the appropriate Third Coast Press editor with a 1-2 paragraph pitch (a description/summary of your story idea.) The more detailed your pitch is, the easier it will be for editors to give a detailed review and response to you.

Not all submissions to Third Coast Press will be accepted for publication but all submissions and queries will be responded to by Third Coast Press volunteer editors. Please be patient! Editors should respond in 3-7 days.

Submissions accepted for publication will be reviewed and edited by Third Coast Press volunteer editorial staff. Writers may be asked to revise or expand upon their submitted work before publication. **Currently, Third Coast Press cannot pay for submissions**, but contributors will receive a byline, and when appropriate, press credentials.

Third Coast Press accepts submissions from writers in three categories: News/Features, Arts and Reviews, Columns/Op-Ed's. Please pitch your idea to the appropriate editor: We are looking for news and features pertinent to Chicago communities, issues and individuals that are not currently being covered in-depth by the city's major news outlets.

News/Features

We welcome in-depth coverage of local events, community news, local policy issues or electoral politics, and profiles of individuals and groups organizing on a neighborhood or city-wide level, written from a progressive, advocacy-oriented point of view—and also with a firm commitment to solid, factual reporting. Most articles fall between 1200-2000 words.

Arts and Reviews

We are looking for art/music criticism, including reviews of CDs, live performances, DVDs, books, zines and comics from across the creative spectrum. We want to cover the work of new and emerging artists, performers and media makers in the Chicago area. We also welcome interviews and profiles of artists and musicians. Most reviews fall between 500-1200 words.

Columns/Op-Eds

Writers with a strong editorial voice and/or a specific area of expertise are encouraged to submit columns or op-eds on a specific theme, with a local focus. Themes may include, but are not limited to:

- Local Politics/Neighborhood News
- Environmental Issues
- Art and Music Criticism
- Race and Class Issues
- Sex and Relationships
- Technology and Society
- Popular Culture and/or DIY Culture

First-person narrative writing is welcome here! Please read the Third Coast Press mission statement for an idea of the kind of topics that best mesh with our editorial interests. Columns and Op-Ed's fall between 500-1200 words.

Please submit articles in Word (.doc) format, and include your name and contact information (e-mail, phone #) in the header of the documents. The deadline for submitting queries and completed articles to Third Coast Press is rolling. The website is updated regularly, with most recent stories receiving prominent front-page placement.

Contact

News/Features: tcp.features@gmail.com

Columns/Op-eds: tcp.columns@yahoo.com

Arts/Reviews: tcp.arts@gmail.com

Cartoonists: grimlyn@yahoo.com

Photographers: tcp.arts@gmail.com

Web/graphic designers, editors and general interest: tcp.recruiting@gmail.com

Our Mission

Third Coast Press strives to provide fair, alternative reporting on significant local issues and to inform the public of worthy community groups and activist efforts in Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. We are proud to cover stories of progressive interest, and work to do well-researched, high-quality, accurate journalism.

Central to our mission is a belief that people should not only read the news - they should help to create it. While we take a critical perspective when reporting problems or shortcomings in our city, we also work to offer positive solutions. We don't believe that true democracy comes from people merely being informed, or voting in elections; it comes from citizens being socially and politically active in their day-to-day lives.

While we strive to offer reporting for the city's progressive community, we also want to help preserve and support non-corporate alternatives in the broader sense. We believe that the unique character of stores, restaurants, businesses, and the arts in Chicago, is being eroded as corporations homogenize our culture. It is our perspective that supporting businesses and arts projects rooted in our own community has social value. To that end, we offer an alternative take on Chicago's non-corporate art, music, literature, film, and theatre, in our reporting, and we encourage readers and contributors to support the businesses that help make Chicago a unique world-class city.