

AWP's Fifteenth Tweet Chat: #ProposeAWP17 April 13, 2016 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

Putting together an [#AWP17](#) event proposal? Chat with us today at 3 pm ET using [#ProposeAWP17](#) and ask your questions!



#ProposeAWP17

Tips & tricks for proposing
an event for the
2017 AWP Conference
& Bookfair

April 13, 2016 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

Welcome to our [#ProposeAWP17](#) tweet chat. Today we'll discuss the [#AWP17](#) proposal system & share some tips for a successful event proposal.



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

With us today is [@inhannahland](#), Hannah Landsberger, Conference Events Coordinator.
[#ProposeAWP17](#)





[AWP @awpwriter](#)

Also here is [@ChristianTeresi](#), Director of Conferences. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

Ask a question about event proposals any time using [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

Not sure what category your event should be in? Read about categories here:

<https://goo.gl/UBLNmz> [#ProposeAWP17](#) [@awpwriter](#)



[MPC Creative Writing @MPCWriting](#)

[@awpwriter](#) Given the sameness of so many panels in L.A., the template for success seems clear. Light on teaching, heavy on group identities.



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@MPCWriting](#) But if you think something was missing from [#AWP16](#) in LA we encourage you to make a [#AWP17](#) proposal. [@awpwriter](#) [#proposeawp17](#)



[Jessica @Jlyndanger](#)

Is there a particular "hot button" panel you are looking for OR will refuse to take?
[#proposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Jlyndanger](#) Proposals are adjudicated by the 2017 Subcommittee. They are looking for diverse events. [#proposeAWP17](#)
[https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee ...](https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee...)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Jlyndanger](#) The subcommittee is a diverse group of lit professionals. Their tastes are as varied as the field.



[Jessica @Jlyndanger](#)

Is there a particular format for proposals? [#proposeAWP17](#)



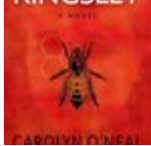
[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Jlyndanger](#) The best proposals always follow the guidelines in the handbook for proposals. [#proposeawp17](#)
[https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/proposal_submissions_acceptances ...](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/proposal_submissions_acceptances...)



[Jessica @Jlyndanger](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) fair enough! Thanks.



[Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity](#)

[#ProposeAWP17](#) Panel of environmental writers: eco fiction, cli-fi, etc. Barbara Kingsolver, Carolyn O'Neal, Margaret Atwood, etc.



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Raving_Sanity](#) Sounds like a good proposal. You may want to take a look at the eco-literary events we've hosted previously. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Raving_Sanity](#) The previous conference schedules going back several years are on the website. [#proposeawp17](#)

[https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/archive_overview ...](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/archive_overview...)



[Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) thank you so much!



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

It's surprising how often a good proposal will fail because it does not follow the handbook guidelines [#proposeawp17](#)

https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/proposal_submissions_acceptances...



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@awpwriter](#) [#AWP](#) consider recognizing categories to ensure inclusion of overlooked demographics ex disabilities/mental illness? [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) [@awpwriter](#) yes! would love to see a panel on illness narratives and not from and by and about doctors but writers w/illness



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) Diversity is a major factor in evaluation. For subjects you feel are absent please propose. [#proposeawp17](#) [@awpwriter](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) We've hosted disability/mental illness events previously, we did again at [#AWP16](#), & will again in the future [#ProposeAWP17](#)



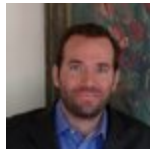
[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) The crit was that all disabilities panels were rejected, some felt excluded, others didn't know... [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) There were disabled presenters on events not specific to disabilities, & those events are great too [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) There are always more good proposals than we have room to accept. Out of 1780 [#awp16](#) proposals we accepted 560.



[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[#proposeawp17](#) [@lcess](#) [@thepoetmendez](#) [@awplatino](#) Are there any WOC, AOC or POC in general that are on the panel selection committee??



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) [@thepoetmendez](#) [@awplatino](#) Absolutely. Here is the 2017 Subcommittee. [#proposeawp17](#)
[https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee ...](https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee...)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) [@thepoetmendez](#) [@awplatino](#) And there have been for several years. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) [@lcess](#) [@thepoetmendez](#) [@awplatino](#) thanks for the reply just trying to better understand how it all works



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

You don't need to be a member of AWP to propose an event or to link yourself to a proposal. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

(All you need is an <http://awpwriter.org> user account, which you can create for free here: <https://goo.gl/qwbRPQ>) [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@AndreaLamber](#) [#ProposeAWP17](#) ask your Q's w/ that hash tag now! :)



[Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity](#)

[#ProposeAWP17](#). Writing group "speed dating" fun/interactive event where writers meet other writers with goal of finding support groups.



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@Raving_Sanity](#) You'll be able to submit offsite events for listing online later in the year [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Andrea Lambert @AndreaLamber](#)

[@awpwriter](#), [#AWP](#) needs more panels for & about mentally ill writers [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@AndreaLamber](#) [@xjoshuamusicant](#) Please make a proposal. We received very few for [#AWP16](#). Compared to the 1780 total proposals. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) [@AndreaLamber](#) Will do. Love what you guys are doing and I want to be more involved! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Andrea Lambert @AndreaLamber](#)

[@awpwriter](#) please have those yoga classes you had at [#AWP16](#) at future AWP's, they really helped with my stress level [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

That's the plan [@AndreaLamber](#). We're hoping to have [@sbasw](#) & Melissa Carroll back to host. [#ProposeAWP17](#) [@awpwriter](#)



[Susan Somers-Willett @sbasw](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) [@AndreaLamber](#) [@awpwriter](#) I am so thrilled that [#YogaforWriters](#) was a success at [#AWP16](#)! Sign me up for more!



[@singing_regret](#)

I know space is tight, but a dedicated quiet / de-stress room would be a wonderful addition for future conferences. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

[@singing_regret](#) We understand and have had a dedicated quiet space at the conference since 2013.



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@singing_regret](#) This is a feature we have every year! Look for the Emily Dickinson Quiet Space in the program [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[@singing_regret](#)

[@inhannahland](#) well I'm embarrassed & delighted. Don't know how I missed it. Many thanks.



[Andrea Lambert @AndreaLamber](#)

More specifically on the mental illness panels we need, a panel on living the writers life on SSDI/SSI would be so great. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



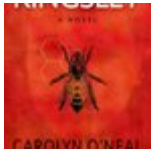
[AWP @awpwriter](#)

[@AndreaLamber](#) All of our event programming is created by our attendees or literary partners. We encourage you to submit! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@AndreaLamber](#) This sounds like it would be a strong proposal, please consider submitting it! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity](#)

[#ProposeAWP17](#). One disease one word - Cancer. Panel with writers/cancer survivors discussing works of great authors who died from disease



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@awpwriter](#) staff doesn't evaluate proposals. Consider how a proposal will appeal to the diverse interests of the subcommittee [#proposeawp17](#)



[@singing_regret](#)

Do you have a rough estimate, based on conv cntr & hotel space, of how many panels will be accepted for next year? [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@singing_regret](#) We're not exactly sure yet, but we should be able to accept between 520 and 560 again for [#AWP17](#). [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[the slimmest pug @levicitodd](#)

[@awpwriter #ProposeAWP17](#) Do you recommend using the full 500 word limit for proposals, or is brevity encouraged?



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@levicitodd](#) Conveying the purpose/content of your event is most important! Length less so, as long as it's in the limit [#ProposeAWP17](#)



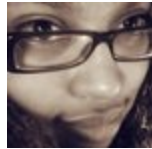
[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[#proposeawp17](#) oh and why put ALL the caucuses on the same day & time? If I was a gay disabled Afro-Latina I'd have to choose. [@lcess](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) This actually helps cut down on conflicts. During the day there are as many as 30+ concurrent events. [#proposeawp17](#)



[IcessFernandezRojas @lcess](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) [@jasminnemendez](#) Could there be half one day and half another day? Or could they start at different times?



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) If caucuses had to compete with 30+ events & the bookfair, a lot fewer people would be able to attend. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Agreed, [@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) ...it'd be great to avoid cross-scheduling caucuses, to avoid intersectionality conflicts. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@lcess](#) Plus we don't want caucuses at the same time as the many LGBT, Latina/o, etc. focused events during the day.



[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) [@Icess](#) I see your point I also noticed that many of the "diversity" panels happening at the same time instead of spread out



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) [@Icess](#) We try to spread similar events out when possible. We host many events that touch on similar subjects.
[#proposeawp17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

Also, counseling space for the [#AWP](#) experience. There was [#AlcoholicsAnonomous](#) but no therapy place for those AWP overwhelmed [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) We do have the Emily Dickinson quiet space, for people who need a break from the crowds [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@awpwriter](#) With attention to [#Agoraphobia](#), 1st time attendees, people w/ need to talk, integrate/assimilate to the experience [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

Event organizers are responsible for submitting all paperwork. They can be a panelist/moderator, but they don't have to be! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Melisa Cahnmann @cahnmann](#)

[#ProposeAWP17](#) has there been a big read nea panel? interest? would this be stewardship?



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@cahnmann](#) We've never had one before, but propose! But maybe check or collaborate w/ NEA first for a stronger proposal [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@cahnmann](#) It could be stewardship or based on genre of the read (ie Fiction Reading/Craft&Criticism) depending on the proposal [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Another panel idea: craft discussion on how to tell if a full-length nonfiction work should be memoir or an essay collection. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Icess Fernandez Rojas @Icess](#)

[#proposeawp17](#) what if your panels deals with a regional literature but has a national interest? How best to structure that proposal?



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@Icess](#) Categorize based on the type of lit discussed. Make clear the interplay between nat'l and local issues in your proposal [#proposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Icess](#) Hard to say without seeing the actual proposal. The subcommittee is mostly people from the region on purpose though. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@Icess](#) The subcommittee favors events w/ diversity in backgrounds/regions, so this may help your proposal succeed! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



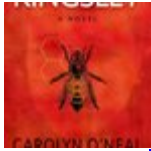
[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Icess](#) This helps the schedule highlight more lit events with a regional focus. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@lcess](#) Is the proposal a reading, panel discussion? Start there, and then see which category works best. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity](#)

[#proposeawp17](#). Would you consider a panel of dystopian fiction writers? "Gloom and Doom can be fun" ??



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@Raving_Sanity](#) of course! All previous programs are online, search & see what we've had in the past: https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/archive_overview...
[#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@Raving_Sanity](#) And [#AWP16](#) is still live too:
https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/schedule_overview... [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Need a panel idea? I'd love an appreciation of Harlem Renaissance / Black Arts Movement's footprint in DC literary community. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



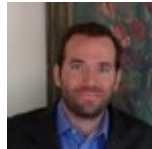
[Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez](#)

[#proposeawp17](#) truthfully speaking do you prefer panelists to be published authors? Where's the love for spoken word?



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) There are spoken word & unpublished writers who present every year. We hosted 2200+ presenters at [#AWP17](#). [#proposeawp17](#).



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) That is 2200+ presenters at [#AWP16](#) in LA. We hope to have as many at [#AWP17](#) in DC. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) Look at the bios of the presenters though, having published obviously helps, but it is not a requirement. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@jasminnemendez](#) We also have some slam/spoken word events each year, would welcome proposals for more. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Donald Garrett @DonaldGarrett](#)

Is the Panel Subcommittee seeking events that put a special emphasis on [@awpwriter](#)'s 50th Anniversary? [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@DonaldGarrett @awpwriter](#) Not specifically, but we'd welcome them! Help us celebrate! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[jbs @singing_regret](#)

Is there an advantage to proposing a panel over a reading? Do you try to have even numbers, or is one preferred? [#proposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@singing_regret](#) There isn't one that is preferred. Poetry readings is one of the most competitive categories. [#proposeawp17](#)



[jbs @singing_regret](#)

[@ChristianTeresi](#) this is useful information. Thank you.



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@singing_regret](#) We try to accept a number relative to the number proposed, but there are more panel categories. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Don't be afraid of provocation. Many of the best panels I've attended have showcased genuine disagreement over a thesis. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Panel ideas galore: Differences in the traditional MFA vs. low-residency teaching experience-- the challenges, rewards, ethics. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Andrea Lambert @AndreaLamber](#)

[@awpwriter](#) other panel items I would love to see for [#ProposeAWP17](#) are the Schizophrenic imagination & bipolar mania's impact on the writer.



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

We'd need to get the right intersection of writers / musicians, but a DC AWP panel that incorporates bluegrass would kick ass. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[#AWPK12](#) ? I asked [#NCTE](#) why they're not at [#AWP](#) , need more YA, K-12, High School Writing Programs and teachers represented! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) This is a group we'd like to see better represented as well. Ask them to propose! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@inhannahland](#) I intend to! :) [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[jbs @singing_regret](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) this is an interesting point-I wonder how many such programs there are, though



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@singing_regret](#) We'll never know w/o getting them involved... involving such programs may influence more programs to establish [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[jbs @singing_regret](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) no doubt. Just wondering out loud. There have to be a few interested programs at least



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@singing_regret](#) I'll find them. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) [@singing_regret](#) We didn't used to have a K-12 caucus, or a partnership with [@witshouston](#). So things are changing.



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) The number of YA & childrens lit events have been growing steadily too. [#proposeawp17](#).



[@singing_regret](#)

[@xjoshuamusicant](#) (& how eager their teachers are to have them come breathe in our hangovers at the book fair)



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@singing_regret](#) Simultaneity doesn't have to mean closely involved. YA authors are present. Writers are parents. Family fun! [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

When inviting panelists, really consider their energy. I'll sooner go hear a pro improviser or someone funny over a big name. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Marlena Chertock @Mchertock](#)

Considering panel ideas on invisible pain, disability, how to write about the body. Or how to move between poetry & fiction [#proposeawp17](#)



[Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley](#)

Panelists: If you're first / second on board for a proposal, it's on you to seek equity in rest of those voices represented. [#ProposeAWP17](#)



[Marlena Chertock @Mchertock](#)

[#proposeawp17 @ChristianTeresi @inhannahland](#) Have you considered events w great D.C. lit communities like Busboys & Poets & [@SplitThisRock](#)?



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

[@Mchertock @inhannahland @SplitThisRock](#) We have, and we're working on those, and many others. [#proposeawp17](#)



[Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi](#)

If you organize a panel, make sure your panelists have updated and submitted their bios. There are a lot that fail to do this. [#proposeawp17](#)



[AWP @awpwriter](#)

Thanks for joining us for [#ProposeAWP17](#). Our May tweet chat will be [#AWP17BF](#) about exhibiting at [#AWP17](#).



#AWP17BF

Answers and advice for
bookfair exhibitors

May 18, 2016 from 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET



[Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusicant](#)

[@awpwriter](#) Thanks for having this chat! Great info and fosters community! Big things happening for [#AWP](#) ! [#ProposeAWP17](#)