



Conference & Bookfair  
April 8-11, 2015

# Attendee Guide

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North America's  
Largest Literary  
Conference

Minneapolis Convention Center  
& Minneapolis Hilton Hotel



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

[awpwriter.org](http://awpwriter.org)  
#AWP15



## #AWP15 Coming Soon!

The AWP Conference & Bookfair is an essential annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Each year more than 12,000 attendees join our community for four days of insightful dialogue, networking, and unrivaled access to the organizations and opinion-makers that matter most in contemporary literature.

## Why Choose #AWP15?

- Select from over 550 literary readings, panels, and craft lectures that focus on the broadest range of what literature has to offer, including discussions on fiction, nonfiction, poetry, social and regional issues, the craft of writing, teaching, publishing, marketing, and more. Our events bring together thoughtful and creative people for conversations that extend well beyond the confines of the conference.
- Access the largest literary marketplace in North America. The AWP Bookfair features over 700 presses, publishers, literary magazines, literary centers and retreats, and writing programs from universities around the world.
- Hear readings and discussions from some of the most established writers, critics, publishers, and agents in the field. Recent featured presenters include Sherman Alexie, Margaret Atwood, Anne Carson, Don DeLillo, Jennifer Egan, Cristina García, Robert Hass, Seamus Heaney, Ha Jin, Edward P. Jones, Erik Larson, Ursula K. Le Guin, Barry Lopez, Joyce Carol Oates, Sharon Olds, Tom Perrotta, Annie Proulx, Marilynne Robinson, Luis J. Rodriguez, Richard Russo, Natasha Trethewey, Derek Walcott, and Jeanette Winterson.
- Network, collaborate, and have fun with your peers at hundreds of parties, receptions, and offsite events.

"I was thrilled to moderate an insightful, diverse, thoughtful, serious, funny, amazing event on the enduring legacy of William S. Burroughs. This event could have only come together at AWP."

—Ira Silverberg, *Strategic Advisor, Open Road Integrated Media and Former Literature Director of the National Endowment for the Arts*



## Who Attends the Conference?

The AWP Conference & Bookfair welcomes writers and literary devotees from all walks of life. Our attendees include thousands of writers, publishers, graduate students, agents, and teachers who are passionate about literature.

## When is the Conference?

Registration materials will be available starting at 12 noon on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. Conference sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, and conclude on Saturday, April 11, at 12 midnight.

## How Do I Register?

Registration opens Friday, August 1, 2014, and will be ongoing through the conference. The lowest early-bird rates are available until Thursday, October 30, 2014. Special packages and rates are available for AWP members, students, seniors, spouses, and presenters. To view the registration rates, please visit the [Registration](#) page on the AWP website.

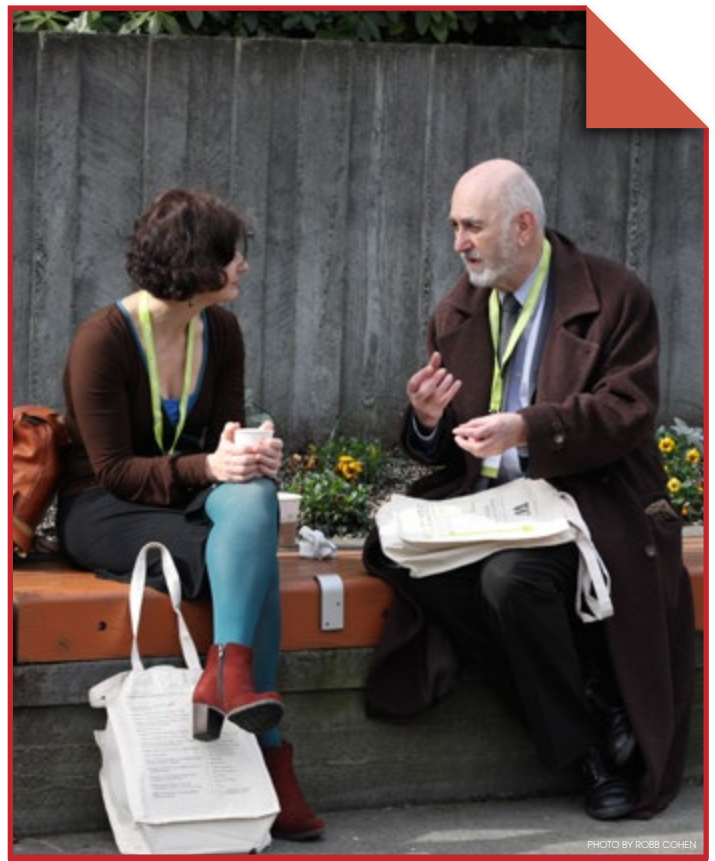
## Where to Stay?

Hotel reservations open on August 15. The official conference hotel is the Hilton Minneapolis, and overflow hotels will be available. Reserve your room early to avoid disappointment. Please refer to the [Hotel and Travel](#) page for the most up-to-date information.

## Who is Presenting?

The keynote speaker is celebrated author Karen Russell. Other presenters include winners of the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize; former U.S. Poet Laureates; and many other acclaimed contemporary writers including T. Coraghessan Boyle, Ron Carlson, Carolyn Forché, Marie Howe, Ted Kooser, Adrian Matejka, Alice McDermott, Pablo Medina, Thylas Moss, Alicia Ostriker, Francine Prose, Vijay Seshadri, Bob Shacochis, Dani Shapiro, Susan Straight, Arthur Sze, Mary Szybist, Michael Thomas, and Kevin Young, among others.

To view the most up-to-date list of featured presenters, visit the [Featured Presenters](#) page on our website. A complete list of conference events and presenters can be found on the [2015 Conference Schedule](#) on the AWP website.



## Who Exhibits at the Bookfair?

The over 700 exhibitors in the bookfair represent many of the most respected, up-and-coming, and well-known publishers, journals, and literary institutions in the country. Check out the [Bookfair](#) page on our website for an up-to-date list of exhibitors. Visit the bookfair to browse titles, find new magazines, go to author signings, talk with your favorite presses, and connect with friends and colleagues.

## Where Can I Eat?

Attendees are welcome to take breaks at their leisure, and concessions will be available in the bookfair. There are also many restaurants and bars in Minneapolis attendees might enjoy, including [Butcher and the Boar](#), [Café Lurcat](#), [Crave](#), [Dakota Jazz Club](#), [Ichiban](#), [The Local](#), [The Oceanaire Seafood Room](#), [Porter & Frye](#), [Prairie Kitchen and Bar](#), [Solera](#), and [Zelo](#). For a list of Kosher eateries in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area that welcome guests during Passover please visit our [Passover](#) page.

"The AWP conference's audience of thousands of passionate readers, writers, and teachers has been the perfect forum to showcase the National Book Critics Circle awards winners and finalists. Over the past five years, I've hosted numerous events featuring some of contemporary literature's best authors, and it's hard to beat the scope of the conference year after year."

—Jane Ciabattari, Vice President/Online, National Book Critics Circle

"As a president of AWP nearly three decades ago, I have watched this association grow from a determined, at times beleaguered group of writers struggling to claim a spot on the academic map to a bustling, formidable institution -- if not the major institution -- in the panoply of American arts and letters."

—Rita Dove,  
Former U.S. Poet Laureate



PHOTO OF SHARON OLDS BY ROBB COHEN



PHOTO BY ROBB COHEN



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## The Cultural Scene in the Twin Cities

Minneapolis is home to some of the most outstanding literary presses, including [Coffee House Press](#), [Graywolf Press](#), and [Milkweed Editions](#). We also encourage attendees to visit [Open Book](#), which houses one of the country's premier writers' centers, [The Loft Literary Center](#), as well as the [Minnesota Center for Book Arts](#), and Milkweed Editions. Open Book is located a short distance from the convention center. Be sure to visit [Magers and Quinn](#) or [Birchbark Books](#) for your Twin Cities' independent bookstore needs. We also recommend attendees take time to visit the [Minneapolis Institute of Art](#) and the [Walker Art Center](#), or take in a show at the [Guthrie Theater](#), [Hennepin Theater Trust](#), [First Avenue](#), or the [Minnesota Orchestra](#). Take a short trip to St. Paul, the birthplace of F. Scott Fitzgerald, to see his statue in [Rice Park](#), and shop at [Common Good Books](#) and [Micawber's Books](#). A complete list of offsite events happening during the conference can be found on the [2015 Conference Schedule](#) on the AWP website.

Visit the [Meet Minneapolis](#) website for more information regarding Arts and Entertainment, attractions, and dining in the Twin Cities; and check out this list of '[150 Things to do in Minneapolis](#)'.

## What Are My Travel Options in Minneapolis?

Transportation in the Twin Cities includes the [Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport](#) (MSP), the [Metro Transit Light-Rail Train](#), [Metro Transit Buses](#), and taxi and car services. For more details, please visit our [Hotel and Travel](#) page.



# Timeline

August 1, 2014: Early Bird Registration opens

August 1, 2014: Tentative list of accepted events is announced

August 15, 2014: Hotel reservations open

Mid-October: Official conference schedule goes live

October 30, 2014: Deadline for Early Bird registration rates

April 7, 2015: #AWP15 Begins

Stay connected to the AWP Conference & Bookfair through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (#AWP15). Visit the [Conference](#) page on the website for the most up-to-date information.

## Who is AWP?

AWP was established in 1967 by fifteen writers representing thirteen creative writing programs. Today AWP provides support, advocacy, resources, and community to nearly 50,000 writers, 540 college and university creative writing programs, and over 125 writers' conferences and centers. Our mission is to foster literary achievement, advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing.

AWP's first conference was held in 1972 at the Library of Congress with help from the National Endowment for the Arts. It hosted six events and sixteen presenters. Today it is the largest literary conference in North America with over 550 events, 12,000 attendees, and 700 presses, publishers, journals, and organizations exhibiting at the bookfair.

For more information about AWP and resources for writers please visit our [website](#).

## Where is the Next Conference?

Each year, AWP holds its annual conference and bookfair in a different region of the country. Future locations include Los Angeles (2016) and Washington D.C. (2017). If you have additional questions, please read our conference [FAQs](#).



## First Timer Tips

- Register and book your hotel and travel early for optimal pricing and location.
- Arrive in Minneapolis on Wednesday, April 8, to pick up your registration materials. Longer lines for these materials are expected Thursday morning.
- Download the conference mobile app, so you can plan your days and stay up-to-date with any changes.
- Wear comfortable shoes and stay hydrated.

"The AWP Conference is the greatest gathering of writers, publishers, and magazine editors in the United States. The Conference allows writers to break out of their isolation and come together every year to discuss their craft and celebrate their art. Our profession would be a great deal poorer without it."

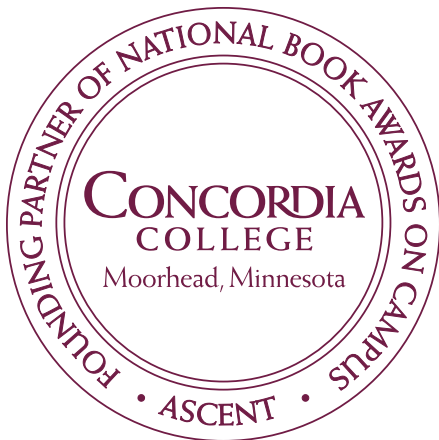
—Pablo Medina, Graduate Program Director, Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing, Emerson College, and the author of *Cubop City Blues*

# A Grateful Thanks to the Premier Sponsor, Presenting Sponsor, Major Sponsors, and Literary Partners of the Conference



Association of Writers  
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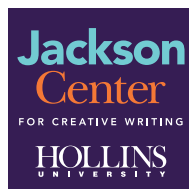
## Premier Sponsor



## Presenting Sponsor



## Major Sponsors



## Literary Partners

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Association

Blue Flower Arts

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Coffee House Press

Copper Canyon Press

Council of Literary Magazines  
& Presses

Graywolf Press

Grove/Atlantic Press

Kundiman

Milkweed Editions

National Book Critics Circle

National Endowment for  
the Arts

Poets House

Rain Taxi Review of Books

Red Hen Press

Writers in the Schools