2024 AWP Conference & Bookfair
February 7-10, 2024, Kansas City, MO
Kansas City Convention Center

Tentative List of Accepted Events for #AWP24

This list of accepted events for the 2024 AWP Conference & Bookfair is tentative as we wait to receive confirmation from all event organizers and participants. We are also working to ensure that each participant does not participate in more than two events. The final conference schedule will be posted later this year at awpwriter.org.

The list is organized by event type: panel discussions (pg. 2), discussion rooms (pg. 70) pedagogy events (pg. 73), and readings (pg. 81). Within these categories, events are separated into in-person and virtual events, then alphabetized by title. Events marked as “in-person” will be held onsite at the Kansas City Convention Center, and some may include a mix of in-person and virtual presenters. Events marked as virtual will be prerecorded and made available to view on-demand online during the conference and for one month after #AWP24. A select number of in-person events will also be livestreamed on the virtual conference platform, and these events will be released when the full schedule is posted later this year. Please note that due to limited staff and resources, not all in-person events can be livestreamed for virtual audiences.

Event titles and descriptions have not been edited for grammar or content. AWP believes in freedom of expression and open debate, and the views and opinions expressed in these event titles and descriptions may not necessarily reflect the views of AWP’s staff, board of directors, or members. Visit the page on How Events Are Selected for details about how the 2024 Conference Subcommittee made their selections.

AWP’s conference subcommittee worked hard to shape a diverse schedule for #AWP24, creating the best possible balance among genres, presenters, and topics. Every year, there are a number of high-quality events that have to be left off the schedule due to space limitations. Although the pool of submissions was highly competitive, we did our best to ensure that the conference belongs to AWP’s numerous and varied constituencies. From 956 proposals, we tentatively accepted 382 events involving more than 1,600 presenters.

For more information about the extent to which various communities participate in the conference, please see Communities of #AWP24.

Please feel free to contact us at events@awpwriter.org with any questions you may have about this list. For more information about the 2024 Conference & Bookfair, including information about registration, hotels, travel, or the Bookfair, please visit our website.
Panels

A Cat’s Belly: Structuring Your Debut Collection through Place and Movement (India Lena González, Meghan Maguire Dahn, Ryan Cook, Tiffany Troy)
In-person event
In Marbles on the Floor: How to Assemble a Book of Poems (Giragosian and Konchan, eds.), Diane Seuss asks: “Might your book’s arrangement, taken far enough, be you?” This craft talk will look at various ways poets have engaged in the amorphous process of arranging, scrubbing, and sewing together poems. The panelists will examine how poems can cohere and create necessary movement and coda throughout a collection, and how the sounds, cadences, and colors of a place can ground a written work.

A Good Book Is Never Late (Chelsey Johnson, Vu Tran, Ricardo Nuila, Nami Mun, Peyton Marshall)
In-person event
The pressure on writers to be "productive" can feel relentless, both from within and without. This panel is the antidote: a love song to the long game from five fiction and nonfiction writers whose books took years to finish. We’ll talk candidly about how time transforms structure, voice, and research; how to sustain the slow burn; how not-writing can be essential to writing; managing anxiety, ageism, and self-doubt; and learning to love the duration for the sake of the art.

In-person event
Poet and editor Marianne Moore declared poetry a magic of pauses. Five poetry editors share how their varied editorial roles relate to their practices of poetry and cultural work, where their writing experience contributes to editing poems, and what conceptions of community have been born from working on journals and at presses, from established series to emerging spaces. The various pauses and magics that editing brings to writing is considered in terms of labor, time, and collectivism.

A new canon: 5 writers remaking the American West (Elizabeth Gonzalez James, Tom Lin, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Robin McLean, Claudia Cravens)
In-person event
The myth of the American West - a place to be tamed, dominated by narratives centering white men - is one of our most stubborn national fantasies. But 5 novelists are correcting the record. Their West is peopled with Black, Mexican, Asian, Indigenous, and Queer characters whose untold stories and unheard voices create a rich and complicated landscape that reflects the real American frontier as it was and is. We’ll discuss research, resisting tropes, and fitting new stories into the canon.
A Perfect Fit: Debut Short Story Collections & University Presses (Clare Beams, Caroline Kim, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Courtney Sender, Laura Chow Reeve)
In-person event
In an industry that often tells us that short story collections are “hard” to sell, five writers will discuss what it means to publish one beautifully. This panel centers love for the story form, building collections, and the presses that publish them. What can university presses offer that other independent and Big 5 houses can’t? This diverse panel will share our debut projects and answer questions that explore submission, editing, marketing, structuring, linking or not-linking, and beyond.

A tribute to Don DeLillo: a literary vandal and bad citizen (Michael Rizza, Ted Pelton, John Domini, Christina Milletti, Joseph Haske)
In-person event
A master storyteller, Don DeLillo has engaged American culture with prescience, writing about terrorism, white men with guns, a culture saturated by images and capitalism, and the necessity of the artist on the margins. Despite critics who complain that he is “woefully influential” (James Wood) or guilty of “literary vandalism and bad citizenship” (George Will), the panel will interrogate how DeLillo’s novels perform cultural critique and what we can learn from his craft as teachers and writers.

A Tribute to Gerald Locklin (Clint Margrave, Bunkong Tuon, Donna Hilbert, Raymond Hammond, Dave Newman)
In-person event
Gerald Locklin was a defining voice on the American poetry scene with over 3,000 published poems. Along with Edward Field, Locklin helped rein in a style of poetry that was accessible, witty, humorous and unpretentious, known as "Stand-Up Poetry." Sadly, in 2021, Locklin, like so many, lost his life to the Covid virus. This panel of five people, including writers, former students, and publishers, will pay tribute to his extraordinary life, writing, influence, and support of other artists.

A Turn of the Page: From Journalism to Creative Writing (Kahlil Crawford, Nika Beamon, Brenda Stanley, Melissa Hart, John Byrne Barry)
In-person event
This panel brings together a diverse group of authors who have also worked in some form of journalism: as reporters, producers, writers, reviewers and columnists. They will discuss how they made their career transitions or developed side gigs as fiction or creative nonfiction writers, and how the practices of journalism and creative writing can inform and enhance each other.

Ableism, On and Off the Page: Literature and Invisible Disability (Dr. Bradley Buchanan, Dianne Bilyak, Leticia Escalera, Nika Beamon, William Hartwick)
In-person event
These writers have mental and physical disabilities that are not obvious at first glance. They will discuss new literary framings of disability in terms of social marginalization, "othering," and denial of agency rather than simply personal struggles to overcome. Do writers with unseen disabilities have an obligation to speak about their conditions? Is it enough to "raise awareness" about one's condition? How can writers also undermine ableist perspectives through their work?

**About That Book Life: A Publishing Round Robin** (Sarah Levitt, Sebastian Stockman, Emily Cook, Marc Fitten)
In-person event
You write a book. An agent agrees to sell it. A publisher agrees to package and publicize it. A publicist pitches it to a book reviewer who reviews it or doesn't. The publishing game follows a well-tread path that first time authors often don't understand. Too many writers run the race with a lot of questions only half answered and unrealistic expectations. This publishing round robin covers the many decision points and thresholds that have to be crossed in order to get a book into the world.

**African Diaspora Caucus**
More information is coming soon.

**Against Tradition, Tradition: Contradiction & The Prose Poem** (Leslie Sainz, Dana Levin, Ae Hee Lee, Sophie Klahr, Jose Hernandez Diaz)
In-person event
Originating in 19th century France as a subversive form “supple . . . and rugged enough to adapt . . . to the lyrical impulses of the soul,” prose poems are now taught in writing classrooms across the globe. Has their popularity changed their capacity for surprise, radicalism, and (non)sense? How are contemporary poets troubling the contradictions inherent in the form's name? This diverse panel of poets will consider these questions and trace their relationships to the indefinable prose poem.

**Agented and On Submission: A Special Kind of Torture (Part II)** (Shinelle L. Espaillat, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Eva Simone Freeman, Mohamed (Moe) Shalabi)
In-person event
You've got an agent, you're on submission: now what? Panelists will address both excitement and angst while answering vital questions. What are the best ways to handle the uncertainty of publishing? What are best practices to combat imposter syndrome before, during and after submission? How to begin new projects when you're not sure the one on submission will sell? Panelists will discuss many parts of the process, including what it means to "die on submission," and how to recover.

**All About Audiobooks: Top 10 Questions Finally Answered!** (Andy Garcia-Ruse, André Santana, Sarah Nessel)
In-person event
Attention novice and seasoned writers alike! Discover the answers to the Top 10 questions about audiobooks. In this workshop we will cover everything from: writing with audio in mind, how to find/hire a narrator (or narrate yourself), pros/cons of various publishing and distribution options, addressing AI in the audiobook industry, understanding the importance of casting diverse narrators, learn current sales data, and gain new marketing tips and resources. The workshop will conclude with Q&A.

**Amplifying Ukrainian Voices in the English-Speaking Literary Environment I** (Ostap Kin, Grace Mahoney, Olena Jennings, Oksana Maksymchuk, Max Rosochinsky)
In-person event
Russia's war against Ukraine brought a realization that the global literary community had limited knowledge of Ukrainian literature past and present, and also a keen interest to learn more. Obscured by centuries of imperial discrimination and entrenched prejudicial stereotypes, Ukrainian literary voices are finally beginning to be heard. Leading translators from Ukrainian into English reflect on their efforts and challenges they face. The 1st in the series of 2 roundtables focuses on poetry.

**Applying for an Individual NEA Poetry Fellowship** (Katy Day, Amy Stolls)
In-person event
The deadline for published poets to apply to the National Endowment for the Arts for a creative writing fellowship is March 13, 2025. Would you like to know more about this opportunity? Staff members from the NEA's Literary Arts Division discuss and advise on all aspects of the program, including how to submit an application, how winning poets are selected, and the ways in which the NEA supports poets through other initiatives and grantmaking. Plenty of time will be allotted for questions.

**Arab American Caucus** (Glenn Shaheen, Jameelah Lang)
In-person event
This will be a town-hall style meeting, creating a much needed space for SWANA writers to build and connect within AWP. We invite established and emerging writers, editors, students, scholars, and organizers, and aim for the caucus to facilitate networking and exchange on Arab American literary endeavors, craft, publishing, poetics, and praxis. Our caucus seeks to empower and center the voices of underrepresented Americans with roots in the Arab world.

**Archives into Art: Jewish Writers Explode the Document** (Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, Sandi Wisenberg, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Leah Lax, Tom Haviv)
In-person event
What is this urge that drives us toward oral history, archives, and documents—to turn them into something else we've shaped and spun? What are our ethics and motivations? We will read and discuss our documentary poems, plays, librettos, and essays. As descendants of people who fled persecution, we take particular interest in historical record; as a people others attempt(ed) to erase, we explore the impetus to document and save. But, to quote a venerable rabbi: If I am only for myself, who am I?
Art School Writing Faculty Caucus (Lee Griffith, Paul Jaskunas, Melissa Tombro, Lee Hamilton)
In-person event
At one time, AI was more prevalent in the visual arts. Now it permeates the study and work of writing. Is ChatGPT a barrier to our students’ learning, or is it another tool that they—and we—need to master? Does AI stifle creativity, or might its judicious use cultivate it? In our annual art & design school caucus, faculty discuss the emergence of AI in our classrooms and professional practices, addressing issues of ethics, pedagogy, and craft.

Asian American Caucus (Devyn Mañibo, Neelanjana Banerjee, Jason Bayani, Gina Chung)
In-person event
What does it mean to steward Asian American and Pacific Islander literature, organizationally, collectively, and individually? The annual Asian American Caucus is a town hall-style hangout and community space. Come meet other Asian American writers and discuss opportunities and resources available to support you. Organized by Kundiman, the Asian American Writers' Workshop, Kaya Press, Hyphen Magazine, the Asian American Literary Review, and Smithsonian’s APAC.

Autobiographical Fiction: Writing about Trauma, Memory, Identity, and Survival (Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Jeffrey Dale Lofton, William Mark Habeeb, Chris Dennis, Sasha Vasilyuk)
In-person event
Five prize-winning authors will lead a discussion on crafting autobiographical novels/stories versus memoirs/personal essays. They will talk about the differences and similarities between fiction and nonfiction, what determines a writer’s initial narrative choice, and the challenges writers encounter while writing from their own experiences about cultural heritage, trauma, disability, violence, and sexual abuse.

Be Shameless: Everything You Need to Know to Nail Promotion (Cleyvis Natera, Mitchell Jackson, Angie Cruz, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah)
In-person event
The most cringe-worthy aspect of transitioning from writer to published author is mastering the art of self-promotion. The market appears to demand shamelessness and narcissism as a way forward. But there are alternatives that can center sharing your work without losing your soul. Join us to learn the best strategies to reach readers. We’ll cover social media, trade and online marketing essentials, how to leverage your network, all while staying focused on your work.

Beating the Numbers Game: Submissions Strategies (Amber Wheeler Bacon, Keith Lesmeister, Jonathan Bohr Heinen, Anna Gazmariian, Manuel Gonzales)
In-person event
In this panel, we discuss what it’s like as a literary magazine editor moving through the slush pile: sins we’re willing to forgive, and those we’re not. We’ll also look at tools to finding literary magazines that are a best fit for your work, how to rate them, and when to submit to what. We’ll also look at strategies for submitting to contests. If submitting is a numbers game, then we’ll help you figure out your best odds.
Becoming a Debut Novelist: The Journey From Book Submission to Book Launch (Marcela Fuentes, Temim Fruchter, Jon Hickey, Chin-Sun Lee, Denne Michele Norris)
In-person event
The path from selling a book to launching a debut novel into the world is thrilling and exciting, but it is also long and full of twists and turns. This panel of debut novelists—with publication dates from late 2023 through early 2025—will discuss all aspects of this journey, including selling the book, working with an editor, and navigating marketing and publicity. The aim of the panel is to be transparent and to provide helpful advice for all debut novelists to come.

Bedfellows: Sex and Shame (Jessica Nirvana Ram, Tyler Anne Whicard, K. Iver, Taylor Byas, Sam Herchel Wein)
In-person event
Join us in a nuanced and intimate conversation about the intersection of sex and shame. What does it take for us to write unabashedly about sex? How do we trace the roots of our shame? In this panel, five writers will talk about how they come to the page to address personal and collective stigmas surrounding sexuality. What do we gain from writing about sex? In what ways can we release trauma and unlearn that which we’ve been taught is deviant? How can writing free us?

Beyond Belief: Queer Religious (and Post-Religious) Poetry (Amanda Hawkins, Steve Bellin-Oka, Omotara James, Daniel Shank Cruz)
In-person event
Too often, conversations around queer people and religion is limited to trauma or blind fervor. This panel features a spectrum of queer and religious experience that moves beyond such binaries to consider the complexities of identity in particular and surprising ways. Panelists will speak on how their queer religious histories influence and show up in their own poetry and who and what they turn to for example and inspiration when creating new work.

In-person event
Many aspire to “the writer’s life”— publishing books, realizing literary fame—an often inaccessible, even exclusionary, ideal. But there is another way: a life in writing. What paths exist for those not seeking agents or haunting literary magazines but whose writing ambitions and accomplishments are just as relevant? A panel of Kansas City writers—an undergraduate, assessment writer, educator/storyteller, and print/radio journalist—discuss their unique experiences embodying a life in writing.

Beyond Gay and Bi: Creating Diversity in Queer Characters (Tonya Todd, Diane Glazman, Syr Beker, Gregory A. Kompes, Brandon Mead)
In-person event
While most fictional depictions of queerness focus on orientation and heterosexual models of behavior, the reality of the LGBTQIA+ community is more varied and includes identities of gender, attraction, and relationships. This discussion of queerness, both fictional and real, will explore orientations such as asexual and omni/pan; trans, fluid, agender, and nonbinary genders; aromantic, platonic, and other attraction styles; as well as open, poly, and consensually non-monogamous relationships.

**Beyond the Debut: Publisher One-Night Stands vs. Long Term Relationships** (Kim Liao, Kirstin Chen, Leland Cheuk, Amy Hassinger, Rachel Stolzman Gullo)
In-person event
After the debut book, what happens next? Where did everybody go? While some authors forge long-term relationships with agents and editors, others must start fresh with each book. This business-oriented panel offers insights on how to build a career book by book, whether at indie presses or commercial publishers. Panelists chart paths to publication, discuss relationships (or lack thereof) with agents and editors, and offer advice on continuing to publish books as an established author.

**Beyond the Limits of Loss: Translation as Generative Practice, Sponsored by ALTA** (Derick Mattern, Rebecca Hanssens-Reed, Becka McKay, Kelsi Vanada)
In-person event
The craft of translation is more than a merely faithful replication--it has potential as an originary form. We ask how translation can spark the writing process, prompt revision of the source, and trouble the concept of authorial genius, while also bearing in mind the practical and ethical pitfalls that a disruption of originality can bring. Current practitioners of "generative translation" share how their work seeks to transcend the limitations of loss by focusing on what can be gained.

**Beyond the Signed Copy: Lessons from Writers who are also Booksellers** (Dan Wells, Theodore Wheeler, Josh Cook, Casey Plett, Danny Caine)
In-person event
Booksellers have a unique understanding of how books sell. Author publicity efforts often focus on social media, but what should authors do to support sales in brick and mortar stores? How can they inspire booksellers to stock, recommend, and promote their books? The answers have everything to do with cultivating relationships and being a good literary citizen. Writers who are, or were once booksellers, some publishing with indie presses and some with big five houses, will share their wisdom.

**Beyond Zoom: Building Vibrant Literary Communities in a New Hybrid Era** (Karina Muniz-Pagan, Minal Hajratwala, Amber Flame, Randy Winston, Maceo Nafisah Cabrera-Estevez)
In-person event
Community is essential to a writer’s growth, but what do you do when spaces are inhospitable to your community? Build your own! These innovative authors share how they’ve built thriving programs for diverse NYC fiction writers, global Muslim writers, women/nonbinary writers,
domestic workers, and BIPOC+ authors. We share strategies and tools to empower anyone eager to create a nurturing space that centers writers of color, language justice, disability justice, and voices at the intersections.

**Biography: The Radical Work of Writing Lives** (Morgan Graham, Iris Jamahl Dunkle, Janice N. Harrington, Eloisa Amezcua, Courtney Faye Taylor)
In-person event
“I’ve entered LA to anti-erase, which is the work of resistance,” writes Courtney Faye Taylor in Concentrate. This panel of poets and nonfiction writers considers biography as an act of anti-erasure, recovering lives that systems of power seek to efface. Panelists discuss biography’s ethics, challenges, and possibilities, including redefining “archives,” reconciling evidence, interpreting gaps, and reimagining genre conventions to do justice to a subject’s lived experience.

**Black Women Leading** (Arleta Little, Tish Jones, Kimberly A. C. Wilson, Carla Du Pree, Samiya Bashir)
In-person event
Black women are authoring change as new and founding leaders of literary arts organizations throughout the country. Hear from the leaders of the Loft in Minneapolis, Hedgebrook in Freeland, Lambda Literary in New York, TruArtSpeaks in St. Paul, and CityLit Project in Baltimore about how their identities inform their values, their perspectives, and their approach to leadership within their organizations and communities.

**Breaking Silence: The Ethics of Writing Inherited Trauma across Genres** (Sarah Beth Childers, Chet’la Sebree, Tyler Mills, Ivelisse Rodriguez, Clemonce Heard)
In-person event
Investigating inherited and historical trauma can provide abundant material, but mining the past requires ethical acuity. How might we research and write responsibly when the record is fragmented or erased? How do we care for our loved ones and ourselves while writing through our truths? How might we mitigate historical harm? How might we avoid causing further harm through appropriation? Multi-genre writers discuss the ethics of breaking silence across creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry.

**Breaking the Rules on Chapbooks: New Approaches to an Old Form** (Aviya Kushner, Adriana Jacobs, Ruben Quesada, Michelle Gil-Montero, Jace Brittain)
In-person event
A chapbook is often a prelude to a first book—or so the conventional wisdom goes. But what if a chapbook comes along later in an established career, or if it marks a turning point from scholarship to original poetry or from prose to poetry, or if it is a way of introducing a writer in translation to English-language audiences? Four writers and publishers will discuss breaking the rules on chapbooks, what the future holds for this format, and how a well-timed chapbook can reshape a career.
Brick and Mortar: Partnering with Indie Bookstores, Sponsored by CLMP (Chelsea Kern, Cori Smith, Jenny Gropp, Riley Rennhack)
In-person event
Three indie booksellers give a behind-the-scenes look at how they learn about independently published books and literary magazines, how they decide which titles to carry, and their special promotional efforts—from handselling to author events. Learn how to connect with bookstores as an author or publisher to create lasting relationships and get books in readers’ hands.

Build Your Sharp & Unforgettable Bouquet: On the Making of Anthologies (Tess Taylor, Jennifer Barber, Elise Paschen, Brynn Saito, LeAnne Howe)
In-person event
Why and how do we make anthologies? What do anthologies allow us to share and see that single-authored volumes do not? How can building an anthology be an act of community building or resistance? And, importantly, what is the path to building an anthology in real life? Remembering that the word anthology means at its root “bouquet of flowers,” we will talk about the work of curating sharp and meaningful gatherings. We will also give practical suggestions for doing this work in future projects.

Building Bridges: Literature and Climate Justice (Nadia Colburn, Sarah Rose Nordgren, Jason Myers, Roger Reeves, Jake Skeets)
In-person event
Literature itself can be a form of activism, but what is the relationship between literature and non-literary activism? How is literature distinct? As the environmental and climate crisis threatens life as we know it, five writers explore the relationship between writing (sometimes across genres) and environmental justice. They’ll discuss ways writers can both celebrate their unique contributions and build bridges with other fields to form greater connection, community, engagement and action.

Building Writing Collectives that Empower and Support Outside the Institution (Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Randall James Tyrone, Glenn Shaheen, Stalina Villarreal, Chankrisna Tea)
In-person event
Artist Collectives have long been places of professional knowledge sharing, resistance, and deep care, but in this era of COVID 19, inaccessibility, and increasing homophobia, collectives offer invaluable support for the writer. Whether virtual or in person, local community-originating or a national group unified by an ethnic, cultural or Queer identity, collectives offer writers the ability to build a new society or way of relating. These five writers of color gather to share their experience.

Bullet Journaling, Car Retreats & Barney: 10 Hacks for Writing while Parenting (Melissa Hart, Rudri Patel, Estelle Erasmus, Andrea Ross, Steven Church)
In-person event
In this fun and engaging presentation, five parent writers share their most successful tips for how to write and publish fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while raising young children. We’ll offer
inspiring anecdotes to show how we achieved work/life balance, along with a wealth of resources covering everything from distraction blockers and reward-based writing software to how to train yourself to write anywhere, anytime. Handouts include a list of fellowships and retreats specific to parents.

**Can the (Grad Student/Tenure Track Professor) Subaltern Speak?** (Felicia Rose Chavez, Sonora Jha, Nicole Velez, Candace Walsh)
In-person event
Writers enter creative writing graduate programs to amplify the power of their voices. Yet it’s taboo to speak up about experiences of systemic oppression, negligence, or aggression in academia. Like Spivak’s subaltern, can grad students and tenure-track faculty speak without career repercussions? They can (anonymously) in this panel via dramatic readings; Felicia Rose Chavez, Nicole Velez, and Sonora Jha will respond, sharing advice fine-tuned by their relevant expertise and lived experience.

**Centering the Margin: Editors on Editing Anthologies** (Khem K. Aryal, Casie Dodd, Hannah Grieco, Emily Jalloul, Remi Recchia)
In-person event
In this session, editors of five recently published, or publishing in 2023, anthologies will highlight the contributions of their anthologies and share ins and outs of editing an anthology and getting it published. The anthologies—South to South, Mid/South Sonnets, Already Gone: 40 Stories of Running Away, What Things Cost: An Anthology for the People, and Transmasculine Poetics: Filling the Gap in Literature & the Silences Around Us—cover a wide range of issues and all major literary genres.

**Chosen Family: Making Kinship Among Queer Poets** (Keetje Kuipers, Meg Day, Jan-Henry Gray, Charif Shanahan, Shelley Wong)
In-person event
In the queer community where chosen family can be a vital lifeline, mentorship and influence go beyond craft and career to show us not only how to write but also how to live and love more fully. In this way, queer poet-hood can resemble a kind of parent-hood where artistic lineage becomes a true kinship. This panel will dig into our own queer family trees and the ways that mapping those creative and cultural lineages has helped us to inhabit our bodies and poems freely and with a shared joy.

**Collaborating in Korean: Why Two Translators Are Better Than One** (Jack Jung, Jeanine Walker, Jaekwan Shim, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, E.J. Koh)
In-person event
The particularities of the Korean language—from the disparities between spoken, written, and poetic Korean to the vast changes the lexicon has undergone within the past few generations—make translating partnerships important, even essential, when working from Korean to English. Two sets of co-translators discuss their process and how having a partner of differing age,
background, and familiarity with various versions of the language results in more accurate, creative, and engaging translations.

**Communing with James Baldwin: A Centennial Celebration** (Wesley Rothman, Ed Pavlić, Airea Matthews, Khadijah Queen, Kiese Laymon)
In-person event
100 years after his birth, Baldwin's legacy, influence, and relevance cannot be overstated. Panelists writing in several genres share work guided by the critic, activist, novelist, playwright, and poet, and discuss how we as writers and a society can make our way into communion with him.

**Crafting Counternarratives in the Age of Anti-AAPI Hate** (Celeste Chan, Chino Lee Chung, Kavita Das, Beth (Bich Minh) Nguyen)
In-person event
In an era of escalating violence against AAPIs, in the aftermath of imperialist wars and the Atlanta spa shootings, AAPI writers are crafting counternarratives. We’ll strike back against model minority and victim stereotypes with more complex stories: from Vietnamese refugee resettlement to South Asian feminist biography; activism against transphobic and homophobic legislation to Chinese intergenerational resilience. We’ll also create a shared resource through the conversation and reading.

**Crafting the Complexity of Jewish Women’s Lives** (Elizabeth Poliner, Margot Singer, Rachel Kadish, Anna Solomon, Debra Spark)
In-person event
Within the rich tradition of Jewish-American fiction, distorted and stereotypical depictions of Jewish women abound, often sourcing from male writers. This panel of award-winning Jewish women novelists will explore a more authentic, multidimensional vision of Jewish women on the page, one that captures the variety, complexity, and layers of truth about Jewish women’s lives. This craft panel is for all writers who create against patriarchal bias and cultural stereotypes.

**Crafting Unforgettable Characters—a Writer’s Guide to Storytelling** (Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Jen Fawkes, Raul Palma, Matthew Salesses)
In-person event
Great characters remain essential to any work of fiction. They are a combination of a writer’s knowledge, skill, and imagination. Five diverse award-winning authors of realistic and speculative fiction will examine the process of creating strong, multi-dimensional characters, as well as the principles and techniques that can effectively improve and/or define characters, avoiding cultural clichés and hackneyed stereotypes.

**Creating Community Residencies to Celebrate Queer Writers** (Kim Roberts, Sunu Chandy, Tanya Olson, Malik Thompson, Dan Vera)
In-person event
The inaugural group of five LGBTQ Poets-in-Residence at the Arts Club of Washington discuss how to partner with organizations to create community residencies. Historically, LGBTQ writers have formed nurturing communities, such as Natalie Clifford Barney in Paris, the Bloomsbury Group in London, and Mabel Dodge Luhan in Taos. The need for this type of joyful, visible representation becomes more essential with the sharp rise of anti-LGBTQ legislation nationwide.

Creating Literary Community for All: Literary Centers & Reaching the Underserved (Shawn Girvan, Dariel Suarez, Karen Schubert, Phil Memmer, Heather Newton)  
In-person event  
Literary centers create and nurture vibrant and diverse literary communities across the US, bringing together both writers and readers inside and outside academia. In this interactive panel, directors from established and emerging literary centers in urban and rural areas will explore the programs, readings, classes, workshops, events, outreach, and networking which help them to enrich both established writers and those without traditional access to literary arts programming and education.

Debuting with the Short Story Collection (Nina McConigley, Gothataone Moeng, Molly Gott, Lydia Conklin, Dantiel Moniz)  
In-person event  
Many industry professionals counsel against debuting with a short story collection, and urge fiction writers to "wait until they have a novel." The writers on this panel all had successful debuts with story collections. On this panel we will discuss the benefits and pitfalls of debuting with a collection, how to successfully market your first book, and what craft benefits came with debuting with a story collection.

Decolonizing American Literature: The Goals, Challenges, and Strategies of Write (GEMINI WAHHAJ, Sehba Sarwar, Oindrila Mukherjee, Namrata Poddar, Torsa Ghoshal)  
In-person event  
Four writers will discuss decolonizing American literature through the examples of literary works in the colonial languages of English and French from black, brown, and Asian writers across the world, as well as literature in Indian languages, including Urdu and Bengali. Panelists will discuss the goals of decolonial anglophone literature and consider the challenges and strategies of writers confronting imperial patterns in American Literature.

Defining Environmental Fiction: Writers and Editors Discuss (Michelle Donahue, Megan Giddings, Allegra Hyde, Michael Mejia, Erin Swan)  
In-person event  
Many have a narrow view of environmental fiction; they imagine lyrical encounters with nature or speculative, apocalyptic tales. However, this genre can and should be a capacious, varied genre where writers and readers reimagine place, reflect on our climate crisis, and imagine possibilities for sustainable living. In this panel, editors and writers discuss their definitions of
this genre, how all fiction might be environmental, and craft strategies for engaging with the more-than-human world.

**Defying Category: How to Sell, Edit and Market a Genre-Bending Novel** (Lucy Carson, Annie Hwang, Silvia Park, Tim O'Connell, Amara Hoshijo)

In-person event

In this guided discussion, the audience will hear from a diverse array of participants who are currently operating in the genre-bending fiction space: a debut novelist whose novel was pitched as "literary science fiction", two literary agents, and two editors who specialize in books that defy easy categorization. We'll discuss the frustrations of categorization, and how to work around them, as well as how to find and build your own community even when convenient labels don't apply to your work.

**Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus** (Cade Leebron, Emily Rose Cole, Jess Silfa)

In-person event

The Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus allows for those who are disabled or living with chronic illness, and their allies, to network and discuss common challenges related to identity, writing, and teaching while professionally leading a literary life. By meeting annually at the AWP conference, we aim to archive our interests, challenges, and concerns in order to increase our visibility and emphasize our importance both to this organization and to the communities where we live, teach, and work.

**Dispatches from PhD Land: Perspectives from Inside the Creative Writing Degree** (Danielle Harms, Joy Castro, Jill Talbot, Pritha Bhattacharyya, Alyse Bensel)

In-person event

Considering a PhD in creative writing? Students, graduates, and professors dig into the details: applications, funding, teaching loads, prelim exams, finances, and balancing self care with expectations to produce creative and critical work. We demystify how a PhD differs from an MFA, the variations in doctoral degrees, and common secondary concentrations like comp/rhet, critical theory, and ethnic studies. We clarify what a PhD in creative writing means, both within and beyond academia.

**DIY Your Lit Mag: How to Build a Literary Magazine From the Ground Up** (Ander Monson, NaBeela Washington, Angie Cruz, Steph Liberatore)

In-person event

You have an idea for a lit mag... great! Now what? Four founding editors share how they launched a literary magazine outside of academia. How do you fund it? How do you staff it? How do you sustain it over time? The editors of Aster(ix), DIAGRAM, In Short, and Lucky Jefferson will provide practical tips and advice for those looking to do-it-themselves.

**Down to the Wire: The Nuts and Bolts of Editing a Manuscript to Publication** (Chaitali Sen, Gemini Wahhaj, Dalia Azim, Jill Meyers, Kurt Baumeister)

In-person event
Two pairs of published writers and their editors will discuss the experience of editing manuscripts to publication, from developmental to sentence-level edits and fact checking all the way to galleys and jacket copy. Coming from various cultural and professional backgrounds, panelists will shed light on both practical and emotional aspects of the process, sharing approaches, mistakes, obstacles, and the satisfaction of carrying a book across the finish line.

**Draft, Draft, Goose: The Thinking Behind Revising** (Jameelah Lang, Jon Pineda, Beth Nguyen, Kevin Prufer, Alan Michael Parker)
In-person event
In this panel, five distinguished writers will each share a draft of a published piece along with its final version, and discuss the decisions made to get there. We’ll consider the cascading effects of the smallest changes, and how to maintain the equilibrium and disequilibrium one seeks in a finished piece—as well as how to remain committed to surprise, endeavoring not to polish a piece of writing into mediocrity. Our goal will be practical: to show the thinking behind revising.

**East Coast, West Coast, Best Coast: Writing the Midwest** (Megan Stielstra, Maggie Smith, Rebecca Makkai, Denne Michele Norris, Ashley Ford)
In-person event
“If you opened me up, you’d find Ohio,” writes Maggie Smith. Writers from all coasts wrestle with the question of how to write place, but it’s especially charged in the Midwest, where our forests and lakes, our asphalt and industry are so often called fly-over country. How can stories dig deeper into the truth of this place and its people? Whether we’ve been here our whole lives, left and returned, or never want to go back, the Midwest lives in the body, not in our heads but our bones.

**Editing Behind Bars: Mainstream Books Built by Incarcerated Artists** (Jennifer Bowen, Michael Torres, Zeke Caligiuri, Alice Paige)
In-person event
The literary world has grown more conscientious about including incarcerated writers in occasional projects, but their work is still siloed at best. What perspectives can literature gain when mainstream books are built by incarcerated writers? What can we learn when disappeared citizens take control of the narrative? Learn about the book, American Precariat (Coffee House Press), & the team behind the first-ever anthology compiled & edited by incarcerated writers, for readers in the free world.

**Ekphrasis & Indigenous Poetics: Writing the Space the Spaces In-Between** (Halee Kirkwood, Annie Wenstrup, Melanie Merle)
In-person event
Ekphrastic poetry places text in conversation with image and sound. In the practice, a dialogue emerges between the two and creates a third space, one that questions how embodied experience is intimately connected to witness and gaze. In this panel, five Indigenous poets will discuss how they employ that third space in their own poetics, complicating the underlying
power dynamics between gaze and object, by sharing examples of their own work and engaging with the audience.

Embody Prosody, Embodied Sentences: Coping Mechanisms (Brian Teare, Jenny Johnson, torrin greathouse, Oliver de la Paz)
In-person event
torrin a. greathouse asks, “What tools can prosody provide us with for cultivating an embodied poetics of disability?” Jenny Johnson suggests “Prosody can be a space for wrestling with and wrestling off old scripts, and also for generating the new ones that we need.” Oliver de la Paz argues that prose poems offer a specific vantage point for the “political” gesture of sentence making, while Brian Teare suggests that a collage-based prose practice can wire our sentences to our nervous systems.

Embracing Our Writer Identities: Women of Color Speak Candidly about the Journey (Patrice Gopo, Ramona Payne, Lillie Pardo, Angie Chatman)
In-person event
Our literary landscape tends to overlook and dismiss the experiences women of color encounter as they build writing lives. This reality can impact how some women of color see their writer selves. In this panel, women of color in various stages and places in their writing careers will discuss their journeys embracing their identity as writers. Panelists will consider questions of age, belonging, community, opportunities, the influence of non-writing backgrounds, and more.

Ethics of Writing the Other: #ownvoices in Literary Writing (Steven Dunn, Katie Jean Shinkle, Suzi Q Smith, Joanna Ruocco, Jubi Arriola-Headley)
In-person event
A common problem writers grapple with is the ethics of writing the Other: characters, cultures, voices not of their own personal subject positioning. In the era of #ownvoices where writers are claiming their subject positionings and desiring to experience authentic voices on the page, this panel will address the strategies by BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ writers across various genres who have explored answers to the question: How do we ethically write the Other?

Everyone is Multilingual: Inviting All Languages into the Writing Classroom, Sponsored by ALTA (Nora Carr, Rebecca Suzuki, Francesca Hyatt, L Torres, Jacqui Cornetta)
In-person event
How can we decolonize the classroom through language? How can we resist the idea of English being the “universal language” when most academic conversations still happen in English? This panel will bring together several translators and writers who are also teachers at Queens College, CUNY, an institution at the forefront of multilingual writing education, to discuss translation as a pedagogical practice.

Evolving Literary Landscape: Creating Innovative Programming at Literary Centers (Michael Khandelwal, Arleta Little, Andrea Dupree, Peter Murphy, Maggie Marshall)
In-person event
Literary programming means more than offering a workshop or hosting a reading. In this interactive panel, directors from established and emerging urban and rural literary centers will explore innovative programming that illustrate the power of the literary arts in the larger world, including creating writers groups, networking events, themed readings, celebrations, and targeted outreach to underserved and at-risk populations, among others.

**f/Lawless: Writing Queer Sex** (Asali Solomon, Melissa Febos, Jeanne Thornton, Carmen Machado, Annie Liontas)
In-person event
Writing queer sex has always been an act of power. In a new era of anti-trans and homophobic legislation, queer sex is resistance, subversion, imagination, celebration, style. Bell hooks reminds us that “the queer self is at odds with everything around it” and must “invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live.” In this panel, five writers read from their work and discuss specific ideological and craft choices that inform how they write queer intimacy.

**Feeling Heard in a World that Wants to Silence Us: LGBTQIA+ Rep in Young Adult** (Jenna Miller, Edward Underhill, Trang Thanh Tran, Rachael Lippincott, Julian Winters)
In-person event
More anti-LGBTQIA+ bills are being introduced and passed at alarming rates, including book bans. In such a dark, dangerous climate, how can authors in that community feel motivated to keep writing stories? Five Young Adult authors bring a range of experiences to discuss the pull they feel to tell queer stories despite these challenges. We’ll talk about queer joy, relationships, and plots that drive us forward.

**Fictionalizing Marginalized Histories: India, Jamaica, Japan, USA** (Asako Serizawa, Kim Coleman Foote, Maisy Card, Shilpi Suneja)
In-person event
Four fiction writers of color discuss how they researched and wrote multi-voiced, multi-generational books drawing from both archival records and family lore, as well as the politics surrounding it. How do the novel and short story form lend themselves to the retelling of marginalized histories? Where and why do these writers blur the line between “truth” and fiction? How do they grapple with representing presumed stereotypes (e.g., “bad mothers,” slavery and Black trauma)?

**Finding Your Own Rhythm: Writing Practices For Neurodiverse/Disabled Writers** (Lori Lynne Armstrong, Vayl Larkin, Mira Hadlow, Aqueila Lewis Ross, Anita Cameron)
In-person event
It's not always possible for neurodivergent writers or those with physical or mental disabilities to follow popular writing advice. This group of authors shares strategies and workarounds that have helped them research, complete, revise, and submit writing projects. They will also address ways to maintain professional relationships when attending events or communicating
with others is challenging - and urge the publishing and literary worlds to equitably include the disabled and neurodiverse.

**First Time’s The Charm: Debut Novelists on How to Debut** (Jeremy Broyles, Holly M. Wendt, Kate Reed Petty, Sarah Cypher, Sarah Marian Seltzer)
In-person event
Debuting is a fraught process, and the experience and advice varies seemingly year to year in a rapidly changing literary landscape. This panel of novelists from various genres shares tips, tricks, and hard-won lessons from the months before and after our debuts on everything from publicity and marketing to questions we wish we’d asked. Whether attendees are debuting their own novels next year or still dreaming the book into being, they’ll find fresh, urgent discussion about the processes here.

**Fragmented Inheritances: Lyric Essay and Intergenerational Trauma** (Joanna Penn Cooper, Jehanne Dubrow, Kiki Petrosino, James Allen Hall, Rajiv Mohabir)
In-person event
Lauded essayists discuss experiments with form, including fragmentary approaches to narrative, and how they leave space for both readers and writers to approach subject matter about difficult legacies. How does the use of fragments allow ways into incomplete or contested family and cultural narratives around war trauma; religious persecution; racial, sexual, and gender identity; and violence? How might fragmented narrative further the possibilities for sharing and transmuting difficult legacies?

**Fragments, Figments, and Flash: Unconventional Memoir and the Myth of Memory** (Charles Jensen, Maggie Smith, Joseph Lezza, Airea D. Matthews, Manuel Betancourt)
In-person event
Memory is fragile cargo, easily fragmented by time and distance. Traditional memoirs can appear to avoid this reality by presenting a flawless reconstruction of lived experience. But writers have many tools that embrace and emphasize memory’s flaws and limitations. Panelists will discuss their unique approaches to the questions of memory and the memoir impulse, revealing the challenges of writing, revising, and publishing.

**From A to Zines: Bringing Agency and Activism to our Classrooms and Communities** (Ryan Oliver Drendel, Margarita Cruz, Amber McCrary, Amanda Meeks, Charissa Lucille)
In-person event
Zines blossom at the intersection of self-expression and grassroots activism. They provide an accessible, low-stakes opportunity for students and community members to produce literature that thrives outside the established publishing industry. Join our panel of writing instructors, book festival organizers, zine-makers, and small press editors as we discuss (and show, and tell) the empowering roles that zines have played in our local writing communities.

**From Despairing to Done: the Inner Work of Memoir** (Minda Lane, Nicole Shawan Junior, Lisa Ellison, Angelique Stevens, Meredith Maran)
In-person event
Addiction, sexuality, incarceration, suicide, poverty...topics like these are common subjects of memoir. But the weight of the subject matter can make it difficult to write as we are forced to confront our losses, shortcomings, and social injustice in the work of crafting a narrative. It’s common to feel stuck. It’s vital we continue. During this panel, five memoirists will share their tools for making meaning and confronting shame in order to reach the first brass ring of memoir: completed.

From the First Idea to “It’s Finally Here!”: The Life Cycle of Publishing a Book (Katie Cortese, Sarah Viren, Yuka Igarashi, Joanna Englert, Stephanie Hansen)
In-person event
Writing a long-form, literary work can be a solitary and uncertain endeavor, but in the initial stages of creation, writers control their pace and drafts. Once a manuscript is ready for submission, though, connecting with a readership can be equal parts exciting and overwhelming as others become involved in the publishing process. This panel will feature an author, literary agent, editor, and publicist, each of whom will detail their role in making a book and offer advice to prospective authors.

(F)unemployment: Rethinking Graduate Education in the Age of Gen Z and ChatGPT (Kurt Milberger, Jennifer S. Davis, Michael Horner, Aaron Levy, Abhijit Sarmah)
In-person event
If grad school is supposed to prepare students for professional life or train future academics, what happens when that work and that academy cease to exist? And what about new students with altogether different expectations? As managers replace writers with LLM and universities slash humanities budgets and teaching jobs, our panelists consider the promises and pitfalls of graduate education and explores how we must evolve to meet the needs of today’s diverse students in and outside the classroom

FUSE Caucus: The Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors and Writers (Jessica Jelsma Masterton, Rachel Hall, Reed Wilson, Michael Cocchiarale, Ellie Pasquale)
In-person event
Undergraduate student writers and editors, accompanied by faculty advisors and mentors, meet at AWP’s FUSE Caucus to network and discuss issues related to the world of undergraduate literary publishing, editing, and writing. Organizational updates are followed by an open discussion, elections, and event planning for the upcoming year. This year’s focus will be "Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?" which was the theme at the annual FUSE Conference, hosted by SUNY Geneseo.

Gathering Evidence: Crime fiction as social commentary (John Copenhaver, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Mindy Mejia, Angie Kim, Rebecca Makkai)
In-person event
To know a society, you must first understand its crimes. Crime fiction in its various forms, from thriller to noir to historical, endeavors to understand society through the exploration of
criminality and our criminal justice system. Five accomplished authors discuss how they employ genre storytelling to expose truths about troubling aspects of American culture, past and present, as a means of raising awareness of social problems, generational trauma, and victims’ stories.

**Gathering the Loose Petals: A Celebration of the Work of Afaa Michael Weaver** *(Tara Betts, Enzo Silon Surin, Danielle Legros Georges)*

In-person event

This gathering of writers and scholars seeks to celebrate and honor the work of Afaa Michael Weaver and his storied career as a poet, essayist, playwright, mentor and much more. A number of presenters, including Dr. Tara Betts, Danielle Legros Georges and Enzo Silon Surin, will discuss poems by Weaver that have inspired them and facilitate a timely discussion about the impact that a writer can have off the page. Weaver will then close with brief remarks and a few new poems from his recent work.

**Getting the Word Out: A Guide to Book Marketing & Publicity for Indie Presses and Authors, Sponsored by CLMP** *(Emma Hine, Joanna R. Demkiewicz, Ryo Yamaguchi, Patrick Davis)*

In-person event

How do presses and authors successfully partner to market and publicize books? What should authors and publishers expect from one another before and after publication? And when should authors engage outside publicity for their books? On this panel, marketing and publicity directors from indie presses share how they promote new titles, best practices for presses and authors looking to improve their publicity strategies, and more.

**Getting the Word Out: Poets on Publicizing their Debut Collections** *(Thierry Kehou, Morgan LaRocca, Ae Hee Lee, Caitlin Cowan, Sebastian Merrill)*

In-person event

Poets & Writers’ presents a conversation with the publicist and authors selected to participate in the inaugural poetry cohort of Get the Word Out, a publicity incubator for debut authors. Together they will discuss the strategies they have learned and used on their journey to maximizing the exposure of their first collections, from reaching readers, to generating media buzz, and planning memorable events. Join us to learn about this exciting new program and how writers have benefited.

**Giving Place A Voice: Persona as a Tool for Redefining a City** *(Brittany Rogers, Joy Priest, Jake Skeets, Jacqui Germain, Karisma Price)*

In-person event

Place based writing has a long tradition in poetry; it also has considerable ethical concerns. What does it mean to claim a city as your own? When we write about location, what narratives are we creating or reinforcing? This discussion explores the archival nature of place-based writing while examining the impact of personifying place. What possibilities emerge when place becomes person? When land is given autonomy, what do we learn about it's values, culture, and residents?
Going Small—Writers (and a Publisher) Dish on the Small Press Experience (Viet Dinh, Jody Hobbs Hesler, Eric Sasson, Renee Simms, Ross Tangedal)
In-person event
Big isn’t always better, or even available. Writer panelists will share how they found their small presses, what fit and what didn’t about the experience, how engaged they were in marketing, the role (or lack thereof) of agents and publicists, etc. Cornerstone Press editor will address the publisher’s side of the experience, detailing how their press selects manuscripts, what makes a successful writer/publisher partnership, etc. All panelists will talk logistics, from query to final product.

Graywolf, Haymarket, Kaya, & Noemi Editors on Small Press Revision Practices (Suzi F. Garcia, Sarah Gzemski, Chantz Erolin, Diana Arterian, Neelanjana Banerjee)
In-person event
While there are numerous panels on writing a book or getting a manuscript picked up, what about what happens after? Some presses revise manuscripts—vital work that involves hours and hours of revisions, meetings, and mediation. Editors from Graywolf, Haymarket, Kaya, and Noemi Presses talk about how they roll up their sleeves and work on manuscripts—even prize winners!—with their authors to bring them into the world. Each will discuss titles that changed how they edit and their overall goals.

Greater than the Sum of Its Parts: Writing and Structuring Essay Collections (Melissa Febos, Alexander Chee, CJ Hauser, Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Lilly Dancyger)
In-person event
Putting together an essay collection is like arranging an album—each piece should be its own work of art, with its own unique effect; but the pieces should also build on each other so that the collection as a whole has a sense of flow, momentum, and resonance. How do you do both? In this session, five authors of essay collections will discuss considerations like thematic vs. chronological structure, repetition vs. redundancy, and balancing variety with cohesiveness.

Grief: What is it good for? (Maddie Norris, Ross Gay, Kathryn Savage, Thomas Mira Y Lopez, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint)
In-person event
Absolutely everything. While many view grief only as tragedy, these four writers dive in to find connection, community, love, and joy. An exploration of their writing shows the value of investigating grief and specific ways of doing so on the page. In this moderated Q&A, panelists showcase how they approach grief, the importance of doing so, the ethics of including those gone, and the various craft techniques used to find value in mourning.

Heretic: Confronting Religious Trauma Amid Growing Extremism (Erin McCoy, Kwame Opoku-Duku, Joseph Han, Patrycja Humienik)
In-person event
Writing through and about religious trauma can incite powerful emotions, such as anger, grief, and resentment, and writers trying to convey their experiences may feel threatened at the
The writers in this cross-genre panel discuss their varying perspectives from both inside and outside religious institutions, and how they've generated work that challenges dogma, redefines spirituality, and asks critical questions amid growing American extremism.

**Heroic Crowns: On the Values of Difficulty and Dazzle** (Jehanne Dubrow, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Matt Miller, Meg Kearney, Alexis Sears)
In-person event
Notoriously hard to write, the heroic crown is a tightly linked sequence of 15 sonnets that offers poets a chance to prove their virtuosity on the page. In this panel, five sonneteers who have enlarged the tradition of the heroic crown will discuss a range of strategies for approaching the form. Through an examination of techniques such as extended metaphor, lyric fragmentation, and formal flexibility, they will provide tools that other poets can employ when attempting their own heroic crowns.

**Holding Space: Creating a Safe & Supportive Virtual Writing Group** (Chekwubi Danladi, Adriana Rambay Fernandez, Constance Collier-Mercado, Shilpi Suneja, Rowena Alegria)
In-person event
Many writers struggle to find community, which can mean the difference between staying motivated through long projects or throwing in the laptop. In 2020, a group of writers who met at a residency for women of color came together virtually from around the world for accountability and encouragement. They've seen each other through publications, residencies, rejections, moves, even motherhood. Come find out how workshopping, sharing and support became a lasting sisterhood you might create, too.

**How Book Reviewing Is Changing and Why It Matters** (Martha Anne Toll, Ericka Taylor, Tope Folarin, Alice Stephens)
In-person event
Like everything in publishing, book reviews are in flux, with mainstream venues reducing reviews in exchange for fawning interviews and book round-ups that feel like marketing fluff pieces. This panel of book critics will discuss why they write book reviews, the state of book reviewing today, the need for diversity in book reviewers and in books reviewed, and how criticism can help reshape an often myopic and inequitable industry.

**How do you eat? Writers talk plainly about how they funded their writing lives.** (Marc Fitten, Laurel Snyder, Rachel Zucker, jeff sharlet, Lisa Page)
In-person event
Let's face it. At some point in our writing lives, we're going to need to find a job that pays bills and buys groceries. When the adjuncting no longer cuts it, when the fellowships dry up, when the book doesn't sell as well as you hoped, we will still need to eat. Join four writers from wildly different backgrounds for a transparent discussion on the most taboo subject of all. Money. How do you get it when you're a writer? How do you balance the reality of living with your artistic aspirations?
How Not to Lose Heart: Sustaining Mental Health in the Writing Life (Britt Tisdale, Chloe Benjamin, Lisa Williamson Rosenberg, Kyunghee Kim, Ebony Stewart)

In-person event
Three psychotherapists and two creative consultants, all poets or fiction writers, discuss struggles common to the writing life. From the isolated desk to the pressured book tour, panelists draw upon their own experiences plus their work with clients to provide tips for preserving mental health and well-being. Topics will include envy and comparison, imposter syndrome, addiction, work/life balance, developing social support systems, and challenges specific to marginalized communities.

How the Sausage Gets Made: Debut Poets on Making a First Book (Jocelyn Heath, Sara Burnett, Mary-Alice Daniel, Eileen G’Sell, Anne Myles)

In-person event
We all dream of holding our first published book, bound and beautiful, in our hands. But how does that stack of printed-out pages on your desk turn into a finished book? Four debut poets from a range of backgrounds will offer detailed, transparent recountsings of their journeys to a debut collection, addressing questions of manuscript preparation, publishing process, complications encountered, and post-publication advice. Audience Q&A will follow the presentations.

How to Be Your Own Agent (Pedro Ponce, Anne Elliott, Joanna Sit, Ariel Gore, Thaddeus Rutkowski)

In-person event
How can you place your manuscript with a good publisher if you don’t have a literary agent? A group of writers from diverse backgrounds will explain their process. This discussion will identify presses that consider unsolicited manuscripts and will explain how to find reading periods and contests. The focus will be on narrowing targets and submitting at low cost. Panelists are prose writers or poets who have successfully placed one or more books with a reputable independent publisher.

How to Make Your Story Into a Movie: DIY Edition (Vernon E. Williams, Ethan Avery, Doug Hilson, Jahaan Maiden)

In-person event
What does it take to fund your own film? Where do you start? And who should you hire? All that and more is answered in this panel featuring panelists who have been through the process themselves. This is a great opportunity to learn what you can expect as a writer who wants to see their story on the big screen, especially as an indie film. You’ll also get to learn some of the differences between indie and big budget filmmaking, and how that affects you as a writer.

How True Must Fiction Be?—The Role of Research in Fiction Writing (Teresa Burns Gunther, Charmaine Wilkerson, Jody Hobbs Hesler, Viet Dinh, Susan Baller-Shepard)

In-person event
When does our imagination require fact checking? Curated facts vivify our made-up worlds, deepen authenticity, and ward off appropriation, while inaccuracy undermines our credibility. This diverse panel of fiction writers will detail their research methods and madnesse, addressing questions like, how can you tell when you’re writing into territory you need to learn more about? When do facts weigh down rather than elevate a story? How can we avoid (or learn from) rabbit holes?

**How We Stay Whole: Celebrating Complex Identities in Our Writing** (Nari Kirk, Amy Alvarez, Susan Ito, Samantha Tetangco, Lyzette Wanzer)

*In-person event*

The literary world often reduces writers to oversimplified, manageable identities. Workshops, publishing, and marketing tend to place us into boxes that tokenize and dehumanize, silencing our intersectional selves. In this multigenre panel, BIPOC women writers will share how they resist such limitations and honor their complex identities in their creative work and the publishing process. They will explore how celebrating all that we are as writers can nourish us and open us, and readers, to joy.

**How Writing Transforms: From the Pen to the Screen** (Jahaan Maiden, Ethan Avery, Vernon E. Williams, Doug Hilson)

*In-person event*

How does a writer’s book, stage play, or screenplay change when being made into a film? This panel features film professionals including director, editor, producer and writers who explain the process. For anyone curious on how different kinds of filmmakers interpret a writer’s work and add their own spin to it, this is a great opportunity to learn more.

**Independence with Independents: Making the Most of Publishing with a Small Press** (Karen Lee Boren, Dionne Irving-Bremyer, Matt Roberson, Hasanthika Sirisena, Hugh Sheehy)

*In-person event*

While independent presses may not offer the big money of the Big 5 presses, publishing with IPs can offer significant benefits, including freedom with content, form, style, and objectives, as well as (some) control during production and marketing. Working with IPs also require more effort and responsibility from writers. Having published with 10 IPs, with diverse missions, from social justice to experimental form, we discuss the strategies, challenges, and delights of working with IPs.

**Independent for Life: The Value and Benefits of Publishing with an Independent Press, Sponsored by CLMP** (Montana Agte-Studier, Carmen Giménez, Adam Levy, Douglas Kearney)

*In-person event*

The hundreds of independent presses in the United States each publish beautiful, important, and high-quality books. Working with an independent press can be the beginning of a partnership that nurtures your writing and makes space for creative risk-taking. Indie presses’ dedication for their work allows them to compete with much bigger publishers for recognition.
in the literary world. Come learn why writers choose to trust their work to these essential publishers at all stages of their careers.

**Indigenous Stories & Literary Stewardship: Evolving & Protecting our Narratives** (Marisa Tirado, Stacie Denetsosie, Kateri Menominee, Erin Marie Lynch, m.s. RedCherries)

In-person event
How can Indigenous writers resist the “western gaze” and honor the multiplicity of their identities while respecting their communities and cultures? In this panel, published poets and fiction writers discuss craft choices, ethical questions, and publishing and editing concerns that affect the Indigenous writer and their work. The panelists will explore the Indigenous literary canon, focusing on Western literary exploitation and objectification of Indigenous storytelling, and discuss its future.

**Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus** (shauna osborn, Deborah Taffa)

In-person event
Indigenous writers & scholars participate fluidly in AWP by teaching & directing affiliated programs, working as independent writers/scholars, in language revitalization, & local community programming. Annually imparting field-related craft, pedagogy, celebrations, and concerns as understood by Indigenous-Native writers from the Americas and surrounding island nations is necessary. Essential program development continues in 2024.

**Internationalism and Identity: A Need for Magazines to Transcend Borders** (Abeer Hoque, Hananah Zaheer, Aditya Desai, Kamil Ahsan, Shubhanga Pandey)

In-person event
When we discuss literature, literary communities clearly understand that going beyond national borders is integral. As writers we are inspired by works of translation, and many of us who are fluent in more languages read works in those languages. In this panel, editors of the South Asian Avant-Garde (SAAG), an internationalist magazine, South Asian-Americans hailing from 4 countries will discuss why literary magazines should aspire to be internationalist, and why that matters for representation.

**It's Me. Hi. I'm the Problem, It's Me: Wrestling with Your Former Self in Memoir** (Joanna Rakoff, Michele Filgate, Beth Nguyen, Emily Farris, Hyeseung Song)

In-person event
Public discussions of memoir generally center on the difficulties—and ethics--of turning loved ones into characters. But the most challenging aspect of chronicling our lives tends to involve looking inward, rather than outward: Facing our former selves with honesty and transparency, but without judgement or embarrassment. This brutal task is, ultimately, the backbone of all great memoir. In this panel, we give you the tools to confront and construct your most important “character”: yourself.

**It's Alive... It's Alive! Using Horror Film Aesthetics in Poetry** (Glenn Shaheen, Sara Eliza Johnson, Christopher Munde, Christian J. Collier, Melanie Jordan)
In-person event
Long viewed as an outside genre, horror only rarely skirts so-called mainstream “artistic legitimacy,” as seen recently in the award-winning films of Jordan Peele and Ari Aster. How can poets use horror films to push, even transgress, the boundaries of verse, and explore intersections of body, identity, and sociocultural history? Five poets will share how horror films have shaped their work, from processing the body to translating trauma. Who will survive and what will be left of them?

K-12 Teachers Caucus (Molly Sutton Kiefer, Jeremy Wilson, Allison Campbell)
In-person event
The caucus creates a space where teachers in K-12 schools, as well as those who work part time with young writers, can share their classroom experiences with the hope of helping one another understand the complex and diverse needs of young writers in the 21st century. The meeting will feature presentations by caucus members to help generate discussion around issues of pedagogy and how to build a creative writing curriculum that is accessible to students no matter their identity or background.

KC in Black and White: Contrasting Fictions by Vincent Carter and Evan Connell (Steve Paul, Jesse McCarthy, Gemma Sieff, Whitney Terrell)
In-person event
2024 brings the centennial of two very different writers born in Kansas City. Evan S. Connell emerged from a prosperous white family. Vincent O. Carter grew up on the Black side of town, far removed from Connell’s world. Their respective fictional portrayals of Kansas City—Connell’s two novels of the Bridge family; Carter’s posthumous novel Such Sweet Thunder—serve in yin-yang fashion to illuminate how economic and racial differences operate in works of the imagination.

Keeping It Lit: Nurturing a Literary Journal Program at Two-Year Colleges (James Ducat, Melissa Ford Lucken, Mary Lannon, Phoebe Reeves)
In-person event
This panel explores ways to shepherd a community college literary magazine with diverse, high-risk, low-income students. Topics of discussion include: staff recruitment, pedagogy, editing, layout, budget, advertising, submissions, course credit, and technological tools. The panelists reflect on obstacles – some common, some unique – and equity-minded solutions. Faculty advisors share experiences producing print and online student journals and fostering a vibrant literary community.

Latin@ Literatures: Publishing and Editing Latinx Literature Today (Liz Márquez, Florentino Solano, Thania Muñoz D., Fabio Chee Madrigal)
In-person event
In this panel, writers and editors will share their experiences publishing and editing Latinx Literature online today. This discussion will include the editors of Latin@ Literatures and a panel of writers. The diverse group of writers will also have an opportunity to discuss genres, themes,
language in Latinx Literature, and the ways in which Latinx literary journals can provide a sense of “literary community.”

**Latiné Stories: Beyond the Immigrant Narrative** (Nathan Osorio, Alexandra Silvas, Brenda Peynado, Andrew Boryga)
In-person event
Many of the Latiné stories that garner mainstream attention focus on the immigrant experience. While these perspectives are vital, other narratives including stories from Afro-Latinos, children and grandchildren of immigrants, and those who resided in the American Southwest prior to the invasion of Mexico must be shared in order to accurately reflect the Latiné population. Join these panelists as they discuss how their work expands upon the canon and the importance of diverse Latiné literature.

**Latinx Writers Caucus** (Amy Alvarez, MK Chavez, Amairani Perez, Casey Ramos, Breena Nuñez)
In-person event
Latinx writers are becoming increasingly visible in literary spaces. However, there is still work to be done to address inequalities in access and visibility. The Latinx Writers Caucus creates space for new, emerging, and established writers of varied Latinx identities to network, discuss obstacles to publication (e.g. active oppression and the cultural marginalization of Latinx writers), and to discuss panel and event planning that will increase Latinx participation at future AWP conferences.

**LGBTQ Writers Caucus** (Belinda Kremer, Erin Sharkey, Derek Scheips, Casey Gabriella Almodovar Ramos)
In-person event
The LGBTQ Writers Caucus provides a space for writers who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer to network and discuss common issues and challenges, such as representation and visibility on and off the literary page, and how to incorporate one’s personal identity into professional and academic lives. The Caucus also strives to discuss, develop, and increase queer representation for future AWP conferences, and serve as a supportive community and resource for its members.

**‘Life of Labor’ in Letters: Working-Class Storytelling** (Dustin M. Hoffman, RS Dereen, Curtis Chin, Joe Milan, Toni Jensen)
In-person event
Midwest author Sarah Smarsh said, “You can pay an entire life in labor, it turns out, and have nothing to show for it. Less than nothing, even: debt, injury, abject need.” Five writers, all with Midwestern and working-class ties, share their approach to showcasing this "life in labor" through storytelling. The panelists will discuss why they write these stories and how, and what precious language and poetry can be mined from what has been called gritty, dirty realism.

**Liminal Silences: (Un)Writing The First Poetry Collection** (Simon Shieh, Leslie Sainz, Xiao Yue Shan, Sahar Muradi, Alisha Dietzman)
In-person event
Silence, long a sign of complicity and conformity, is being reclaimed by a new generation of poets as a revolutionary and innovative force. For these poets, silence adds an ineffable dimension to their subject matter, gestures toward the limits of the English language, and honors the unsayable by tracing its outline. This multicultural panel of poets will discuss the role that silence plays in each of their first books in an attempt to find shared and distinct understandings of its poetic use.

Lit Mags Explore Challenges & Methods of Expanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (Lorena Hernández Leonard, Robbie Gamble, Anri Wheeler, Shuchi Saraswat, Actress Bethany White)
In-person event
Literary magazines have historically been criticized for being dominated by white, cisgender, heterosexual voices, and too focused on the experiences of a privileged few. Editors from Solstice, Pangyrus, and AGNI will explore diversity, equity, and inclusion in literary magazines; specific challenges and opportunities, and how editors, writers, and readers can create a more inclusive and truly representative literary landscape.

Mango Is Not My Only Metaphor: South Asian Writers on Fiction in the 2020s (Eshani Surya, Mimi Mondal, Swati Sudarsan, Sarah Thankam Mathews, Sophia Babai)
In-person event
Despite the innovative art South Asian writers are creating, the US writing world often expects our work to fit into the same single-story immigrant narrative that has been in vogue for decades. Join five South Asian writers of various intersectional identities as we discuss what South Asian fiction looks like in the 2020s, how we respond to and/or critique our lineages, how we navigate the Western publishing industry, and what we envision for an inclusive South Asian writing community.

Margins and Memory: The Craft of Trauma and Truth(s) (Jameelah Lang, Caridad Moro-Gronli, George Abraham, Ingrid Rojas Contreras)
In-person event
This panel will explore the frictional spaces between craft, memory, and trauma. Poets and prose writers will discuss writing about personal and cultural trauma, and how that writing can center people and experiences often marginalized. How do limits of memory, including institutional memory, necessitate alternative approaches to hegemonic literary craft? This panel approaches craft in opposition to silence embedded within such constructs as linearity, truth, and singularity of voice and vision.

Mecachihuanimeh, Weavers of the Cord: Crafting a Future to Honor Ancestral Pasts (Tracey Flores, David Bowles, Rudy Ruiz, Guadalupe Garcia McCall)
In-person event
Professors, writers, and activists David Bowles, Rudy Ruiz, Guadalupe Garcia McCall and Tracey Flores gather to discuss the concept of mecachihualiztli, what the Nahua called, “cord-weaving,” as it pertains to crafting works that will effect change in the world. The panelists will discuss
Futurism and challenge attendees to question how by recalling, retaining, and repurposing the knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors, weaving them into our work, we might create a stronger, healthier future.

**Mek We Talk: Language and Identity in Caribbean Writing and Beyond** (Carol Mitchell, Donna Hemans, Kevin Jared Hosein, Tanya Batson-Savage, Katia D. Ulysse)
In-person event
Like many marginalized authors, Caribbean writers are challenging colonial storytelling patterns. One challenge we face in incorporating local languages into our work is that, while our lived vernacular adds authenticity to our literature, some say it hinders comprehension. In this panel, five Caribbean authors and editors discuss dialect's role in establishing setting, character, and plot; how they respond to demands for “standardized” language; and how they find balance in their own work.

**Melodrama and the Market: A Match Made in the Bedroom** (Torsa Ghosal, Autumn Fourkiller, Colleen Morrissey, Silvia Park, Preeti Vangani)
In-person event
Women, non-binary, and BIPOC writers exploring deep emotions are haunted by the label of "melodrama", that is, an excess-- of sensation, sentiment, immersion-- which supposedly exposes their lack of discipline in craft. This panel discusses how fear of straying into melodrama impacts the handling of intimacy and sex in fiction. How does the "specter" of melodrama determine artistic respectability and marketability of BIPOC women and non-binary writers? How can we reclaim our right to render joy?

**Memoir as Detective Novel: Writing the Investigative Memoir** (Lilly Dancyger, Sarah Perry, Jeannie Vanasco, Carmen Rita Wong, Leta McCollough Seletzky)
In-person event
In this session, five memoirists who built their stories around questions, writing into mysteries in their own lives or their families', will discuss the particular craft challenges that come up in writing a memoir that reads like a detective novel with readers following along on a search for truth, clarity, or closure: from finding clues and remaining open to surprise, to the practical concerns of research, to how to write into questions with no definitive answers.

**Memoirs-in-Essays** (Margo Steines, Maddie Norris, Natalie Lima, Krys Malcolm Belc, Hea-Ream Lee)
In-person event
The rise of memoirs-in-essays is upon us, but what purpose does the form serve? What even is a memoir-in-essays? These four CNF writers discuss why they chose to inhabit the space between memoir and essays and the possibilities inherent in the subgenre. In this moderated Q&A, panelists will discuss the contours of the form, the freedom of liminality, and the challenges of writing the in-between.
Missouri Literary Magazines: Show Me Show Me Show Me How You Do That Lit (Michael Czyzniejewski, John Gallaher, Dusty Freund, Jacob Griffin Hall, Christie Hodgen)
In-person event
The editors of five Missouri literary journals—Boulevard, Laurel Review, The Missouri Review, Moon City Review, and New Letters—discuss how the Show Me State has established a long-standing and eclectic history, from Mark Twain to Maya Angelou, as well as how they're tackling the challenges of the present and future. Literature is alive in Missouri, and these five editors will break down its proud tradition, as well as how they're helping to keep Missouri at the forefront of American letters.

More Than Our Tongues: Women of Color Writing with Arabic, Chinese, and Korean (Su Cho, Anni Liu, Alycia Pirmohamed, Zeina Hashem Beck)
In-person event
How do we decide when to fold in the language we grew up with in our poetry? What effects do the use of our “other” languages have, and what does it make possible? This often becomes a question of negotiation and balance. We’ll shift that paradigm into one that puts not the audience but the poet first. We’ll discuss the joys and unanswered questions we have about this process and how we’ve learned and changed our view on this, and of course, the delightful surprises that come along the way.

My Feet, Whose Shoes? Writing and Translating “The Other” (Alison Lewis, Areg Azatyan, Laura Nagle, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub)
In-person event
Writers and translators of fiction often put themselves in the shoes of some "other"—someone of a different culture, gender, time period. How do we understand this "other" and represent them with sincerity and respect, balancing artistic expression against a risk of cultural appropriation? The Armenian author and translators from French and Yiddish of three books with cross-cultural themes, all newly released in English, explore the line between "writing what you know" and depicting "the other."

Navigating Age-Based Audiences: Adult to Picture Book & Everything In Between (Shana Youngdahl, Jennifer Moffett, Patrica Park, Laura Ruby, Linda Urban)
In-person event
Publishing writers working in Kid Lit talk truthfully about figuring out which age-based market their story fits into. Some intentionally wrote for one even if their story bent typical rules, others subbed stories in YA and A, some wrote the story and then figured it out. All have learned from their experiences and grown as writers. Panelists will have a lively conversation about what age-based markets mean, and how over the course of a writing career, to move between them.

Neurodiverse Sounds like Universe: Crafting Worlds Embracing Neurodiversity (Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach, Oliver de la Paz, Eugenia Leigh, Diannely Antigua, Allison Blevins)
In-person event
Combating stigmas and shame culture surrounding mental health, writers share poetry, nonfiction, and cross-genre work that embraces autism spectrum disorder, Anxiety, ADHD, OCD, Bipolar, and depression. These writers refuse to hide from or mask within an ableist society and through content and form, call attention to the creative powers of neurodiversity. They will share their work and discuss how their craft choices transform neurotypical language into a neurodiverse universe.

**Nonbinary & Genderqueer Writers Discuss Working in a Time of Transphobic Crisis** (A.E. Osworth, Emily Holland, Jason Crawford, Nino McQuown, Tonee Moll)

In-person event

Trans writers, editors, and performers have always had to navigate risk in this country, but the last few years have felt particularly perilous, both in the U.S. and globally. These nonbinary and genderqueer writers will discuss what it means to for us to exist as members of a literary community in the 2020s & what the transphobic policies being enacted (and the cultures in which they are being produced) mean to our pedagogies, our careers, and our lives.

**Nonfiction for Women of Color: Liberating and Celebrating Our Narratives** (Kirin Khan, Grisel Y Acosta, Elizabeth Owu, Natalie Lima, Danielle Jackson)

In-person event

“won't you celebrate with me/what i have shaped into/a kind of life?
i had no model/born in babylon/both nonwhite and woman/
what did i see to be except myself?”-- Lucille Clifton

The rise of memoirs by women of color is changing the landscape of publishing. How do we keep forward momentum in finding the beauty of our complex stories without being performative for the industry? Join a diverse panel of women of color memoirists for a reading and discussion on the exciting future of nonfiction.

**Norman Dubie: A Critical Legacy** (Cynthia Hogue, Dorothy Chan, Dexter Booth, David St. John, Elizabyth Hiscox)

In-person event

From 1975 until his death in 2023, Norman Dubie—who helped establish the MFA program at Arizona State University in 1985—served as a tireless, dedicated, and influential mentor to writers living and studying in central Arizona and the American southwest. Comprised of former students, colleagues, and critics, this panel examines Dubie’s legacy as both a poet and teacher, paying special attention to his inclusive pedagogy, devotion to students, and the genius of his poetic vision.

**Not Just Surviving: Queer Poets Thriving in the Red** (C.T. Salazar, Brody Parrish Craig, Steve Bellin-Oka, Bleah Patterson, Raye Hendrix)

In-person event

When discussing what queer folks under attack in "red" states should do, one thing is always suggested: leave. While it may be ideal for some, for many, leaving means abandoning not only
loved ones, but also their homes. Queer folks have always loved, lived, and created in hostile places, and fleeing is not something everyone can or even wants to do. In this panel, queer poets in or from deep red states talk and write through complex loves of home and the joys that can still be cultivated there.

Of a Certain Age: Women Writers Near 60 and Beyond (Jay Lamar, Patricia Foster, Angela Jackson-Brown, Wendy Reed, Jacqueline Allen Trimble)
In-person event
Four diverse women writers near 60 will discuss the complications and pleasures of aging and creativity, asking, in essence, what conditions allow the inner life to flourish: How does past creative work empower or inhibit them in a publishing market that privileges youth and middle age? How do they contend with setbacks of the creative will including illness and caretaking? How do they build a multi-ethnic, nonbinary platform of writers whose support will add to the tropes of literature?

On the Frontlines/School Matters: K-12 Teachers Writing the Classroom (Mahru Elahi, Marguerite Sheffer, Brittany Rogers, Matthew E. Henry, Davon Loeb)
In-person event
At a time when public educators are increasingly under political pressure, panelists will explore what it means to portray complex truths, dispel myths, and talk honestly about how to stay creative within top-down school systems as they find form and language for their experience with youth in the classroom. This multiracial and geographically diverse panel centers writers, editors and activists who put their K-12 classroom experience in conversation with their writing across multiple genres.

Only This: Running a Themed Journal in an Era of Distraction and Specialization (Parisa Saranj, Randon Billings Noble, Barrie Borich, Donald Quist, Matthew Krajniak)
In-person event
Jacqueline Woodson says, “The more specific we are, the more universal something can become.” Does this apply to a themed magazine? Starting and running a lit mag is hard. Why make it harder by restricting its theme to something deeply specific? In this intellectually lively session, the editors of Slag Glass City, After the Art, Consequence, and Past Ten will discuss the pleasures and challenges of running themed lit mags. Come for inspiration, practical advice, and practical advice!

Onward!: Agents & Editors on Rejection & What Comes Next (Maggie Cooper, Kate McMullen, Misha Rai, Roma Panganiban, Callie Garnett)
In-person event
Whether we like it or not, the road to publication is paved with rejections—and in this panel, five publishing professionals will address the specter of “no,” offering insight and encouragement applicable to writers at all stages of the publishing process. We’ll consider how to mine rejections for useful feedback, when we might step away from a project, and instances where we should push through or push back in service of the work and its essential integrity.
Our First Universe: The Aesthetics of Home in Fiction (Miciah Bay Gault, Robin MacArthur, Adam McOmber, Samuel Kolawole, Michelle Ross)
In-person event
Five fiction writers from geographically far-flung homes discuss how our writing is influenced by where we grew up. These iconic places affect motif, rhythm, imagery, even the color palette of our prose. But how do writers embrace stylistic fingerprints without being limited by them? Bachelard says, “The house is our corner of the world. It is our first universe, a real cosmos in every sense of the word.” We’ll offer practical ways to seek new universes without abandoning the aesthetics of home.

Our Souths: Curating Spaces Against BIPOC & LGBTQIA+ Erasure (Dorsey Craft, Kai Coggin, Jessica Stark, Erin Hoover, Sebastian Paramo)
In-person event
As various states continue to pass restrictive and bigoted laws, the South is an increasingly hostile landscape for writers, particularly for queer and BIPOC writers. Writer-run reading series can help sustain these communities, serving as hubs for fellowship, creativity, and connection. Reading series organizers from across the American South will discuss the challenges and rewards of hosting live reading events and offer practical advice for those seeking to grow and develop a series.

Pathways to Publishing for Indie Authors of Color (Christina Vo, Amy M. Le, Kiran Bhat, Mugabi Byenkyia, Nika Beamon)
In-person event
We’re a group of authors of color at various career stages who’ve taken winding roads to publication. We will share insights about the various paths each of us took to get our works out: self-publishing, hybrid publishing, or working with small presses. Topics will include finding editors and presses who understand your work, deciding whether you need an agent, marketing your work, avoiding our publishing missteps, and dealing with people considering your work "too niche" for their audiences.

Pathways to Success: Practical and Personal Tips for Getting Published (Kyunghhee Kim, Camille Pagan, Lydia Kang, Jean Alicia Elster, Ann Kim)
In-person event
It’s every writer’s dream to see their words published, so why is it so hard to get honest, practical advice? Five ethnically diverse authors with diverse pathways to success share their tips for navigating the publishing world. How challenging is it to get an agent? Do you always need an agent? How do you get a book deal? Are there alternatives to the Big Five? What are the pros and cons of self-publishing? Are the pathways different for poetry, children’s books, YA, fiction, and non-fiction?

Perspectives on the Caregiving Memoir (Elizabeth Cohen, Tanya Ward Goodman, Carmen Rita Wong, Cheryl Jordan, Lori Arviso Alvord)
In-person event
The plethora of memoirs by authors tasked with caregiving aging parents with dementia illnesses mirrors a growing genre and increased publishing interest in this topic. Authors from varying practices whose books explore this life-changing experience will discuss the emotional and technical hurdles faced in the writing of personal and family caregiving stories and provide candid advice and practical techniques for those using them as educational materials as well as those at work on memoirs.

Play Nice: How to Get Along in the Publishing World (David Ebenbach, Margaret Luongo, Jaymee Goh, Amy Toland, Delaney Heisterkamp)
In-person event
Publishing is about relationships. Writers who approach editors and agents with goodwill, courtesy, and a readiness to jump with both feet into the publishing and marketing processes are more likely to form long-term professional relationships—and sell books. The panelists, hailing from both sides of the writer-publisher dynamic, will talk about what can sour a relationship and what can help it thrive.

Please don’t tag me in a negative book review on social media (Lupita Aquino, Yohanca Delgado, Marines Alvarez, Traci Thomas, Arianna Rebolini)
In-person event
Bookstagram, #BookTwitter, #BookTok, #Booktube, and book-related Substacks are the fastest-growing venues for contemporary readerly conversation. These communities don’t only spark sales, they expand the field of literary criticism to include diverse voices. In this panel, literary influencers and authors will discuss how this dynamic landscape is reshaping and sustaining the culture of literacy outside of traditional media and the most effective way for authors to engage with these communities.

Poet to Playwright: On the Dramatic Joy of Changing Hats (Jason Bayani, Arisa White, Tess Taylor, Patricia Smith)
In-person event
Poetry and playwriting are linked crafts—and not only the hands of the famed Bard of Avon. What happens when poets set out to write plays? How does the craft of poetry translate to the stage, and what can the idea of the stage teach us about the poem? In this panel, four poets with playwriting projects discuss the joyful learning curve of entering theatrical spaces, reflecting on how this crossover affects everything from craft to collaboration.

Poetry on the Plains: Laureateship in the Midwest (Traci Brimhall, Nicholas Gulic, Matt Mason, Christine Stewart-Nunez, Mary-frances Wagner)
In-person event
Midwestern states cover large geographic areas, and people who serve as state poet laureates must find a way to serve as arts ambassadors across these large and diverse states. How can state laureates—and state arts organizations—reach both the urban and rural populations of
their states? How can they offer the arts to historically underserved communities? And how are these roles being shaped by the state arts organizations that create them?

**Poetry Promoters: The Collective** (Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Luivette Resto, Mike Sonksen, traci kato-kiriyama, F. Douglas Brown)
In-person event
Los Angeles-based creators and promoters F. Douglas Brown, Mike Sonksen, traci kato-kiriyama, and Luivette Resto will share strategies for promoting a diverse range of poets and communities they are passionate about to inspire others nationally to elevate the poets and artists in their regions. By working with schools, local neighborhoods, organizations, and friends, these educators, organizers, historians, and poets hone the power of the collective for a more vibrant world.

**Poetry Stacked: Building a 21st Century Reading Series at the Library** (Melissa Norris, Michael Peterson, Dior Stephens, Aditi Machado, Ben Kline)
In-person event
Tasked to enrich and engage the University of Cincinnati campus and community, UC Libraries and Elliston Poetry Room partnered to create Poetry Stacked, a multimodal reading series staged in the stacks of UC’s Langsam Library and curated with 21st century values. Poetry Stacked brings faculty, staff, student, and community poets together in-person and live streamed. Panelists will discuss the planning and staging process, sharing lessons and adjustments, feedback and the future.

**Poets Against Walls: An Anthology/Handbook for Writing Past the Checkpoints** (Cesar De Leon, Sehba Sarwar, Emmy Perez, Carolina Monsivais, Celina Gomez)
In-person event
Poets Against Walls anthology/handbook features poetry and hybrid writings from the geopolitical spaces of the borderlands, along with a history of the collective’s social actions, discussions on craft, and writing prompts. In addition to reading short selections of their work and speaking on the value of writing directly about communities under attack, panelists will provide tips and strategies for writing what some may feel dissuaded from in workshop spaces: crafting work for social change.

**Poets Learn to Pitch (& other practical tips for writing and publishing prose)** (Nancy Reddy, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal, Tiana Clark, Hope Wabuke, Chen Chen)
In-person event
So many poets have turned to writing prose—but the leap across genres can be intimidating. What does it mean to write “on spec”? What’s a fair fee for an essay, and how do you negotiate without annoying an editor? Panelists will address both practical concerns—when does it make sense to start querying agents? what’s included in a book proposal?—and issues related to craft, like adapting your process as you move across genres, or how the skills you’ve refined in poetry can translate to prose.
POLLEN, RUST, LAKES, & PLAINS: WRITING POEMS IN THE MIDWEST (Caryl Pagel, Zach Savich, Lindsay Turner, Robin Beth Schaer, Jason Harris)
In-person event
How can poetry account for the material conditions of the environment, tethering regional circumstances to questions of conservation, extinction, or the nonhuman? This panel of Midwest poets will consider what forms—ode, mess, palimpsest, somatic, plein air—might best connect a region’s particulars to global transformation. Poets will share experiences of writing their region and useful place-based prompts, texts, or fieldwork for landscapes that combine the urban, industrial, and agricultural.

Publishing as Activism: Amplifying Marginalized Voices (Juania Sueños, Diamond Braxton, Murphy Anne Carter, Claire Bowman, Cyrus Gray)
In-person event
Writers and editors of color remain underrepresented in the publishing industry despite a new wave of literature that centers the stories of marginalized peoples. These Texan publishers have created space outside mainstream avenues to reimagine what it means to uplift marginalized writers, editors and publishers. This panel explores their experiences – impacted by criminalization, queerphobia & racism – as they relate to self-publishing and literary community activism.

Queer Architectures: New Models for Memoir (Alden Jones, Zoë Sprankle, Pustata Reang)
In-person event
Queer stories break from traditional norms, so why wouldn’t their narrative shapes do the same? As our canon of queer memoir expands, memoir as a genre continues to open itself to experimental architectures that amplify narrative possibilities for all nonfiction writers. Three queer memoirists draw from their own work as well as the writers they love to explore the exhilarating possibilities for queer forms and how to find the containers that enable them to tell their truest stories.

Queer Latinx Men & Vulnerability (Saúl Hernández, Aldo Amparán, jj peña, Gustavo Hernandez)
In-person event
Latinx men who write on identity, culture, or those who grew up with limitations as to how they could express themselves, know how ones own culture plays a huge part in showing vulnerability, thus, creating perpetual feelings of shame affecting identity. As queer Latinx, we write because vulnerability is often seen as weakness; however, it’s necessary to address how it affects writing both from the writer’s and reader’s perspective. What does vulnerability look like writing in a world dominated

Queer Speculation: Transing Genre, Transing Gender (Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Kai Cheng Thom, KJ Cerankowski, Clare Sears, Raquel Gutiérrez)
In-person event
Queerness is everywhere. Yet, so, too, are attacks on queer lives, stories, and art. Too often, these attacks—and the erasures and gaps they leave behind—become what we know of queer history. But might introducing speculative elements into narratives allow us to recover a fuller past and future? The writers on this panel will discuss how we deploy imaginative, fantastical, and fabulist moments in our nonfiction, fiction, and hybrid work, transing both gender and genre to remake a queerer world.

Queer Stories: Writing Our Way into Belonging (Jeffrey Dale Lofton, Bushra Rehman, Rasheed Newson, Rafael Frumkin)
In-person event
The queer community has gained a measure of acceptance over time and also been dealt crushing blows in today’s sharply divided world. Queer literature allows us to tell our truths, our stories that show who we were, are, and hope to become. Four authentic and uneasily honest queer voices show our power is more in how we receive ourselves than in how the world receives us. Join us to explore stories of lives lived as our authentic selves in a world that does not fully embrace or understand us.

Queering Kansas: LGBTQ+ Writers in the Heartland (Laura Lee Washburn, Allison Blevins, Jericho Hockett, Fable Briggs, Dennis Etzel Jr)
In-person event
Five Kansas LBTQ writers of memoir and poetry discuss how Kansas influences their writing in both representation and resistance. How do LGBTQ+ poets and writers draw on the landscape of Kansas, from the Tallgrass Prairie to the Flint Hills? How is memoir and poetry shaped by writing as survival? How has prose and poetry played a role in coming out? How does community play a role in subject matter and support in LGBTQ+ writing? This panel will be a lively conversation about Kansas queer writing.

Questions & Wonder: Science in Fiction (TaraShea Nesbit, Kristen Millares Young, Katy Simpson Smith, Elisabeth Eaves, Natalie Green)
In-person event
Scientific discoveries shape us and scientists themselves are driven and curious. Yet for all that dramatic potential, it can be hard to find fiction that incorporates science. Science is also not neutral, nor benevolent: it can be used for harm. These panelists take readers into the study of botany, nuclear research, anthropology, & more, exploring wonder, breakthroughs, prejudices & ethical dilemmas. Writers & program directors share experiences & advice for writing science-informed fiction.

Raising More Than One Voice: Polyvocal and Multivocal Poetics (Asa Drake, Jimin Seo, Emily Luan, Janine Joseph, Saretta Morgan)
In-person event
What happens when the speaker becomes a collective? Or when the self fractures into multiplicity? Polyvocal and multivocal poetics demand that we explore not a first telling nor a
retelling, but a faceted nonlinear narrative. Join panelists as they explore how expanding the speaker confronts the limitations of the self and the canon in search of solidarity and belonging.

Re-Membering Past and Present: The Practice of Documentary Poetry (Tara Ballard, Niki Herd, Philip Metres, Joseph Harrington)
In-person event
Documentary, or “research-based,” poetry provides writers with opportunities to present contemporary or historical complexities through wedded structure and content. The panelists include leading theorists and practitioners who will reflect on seminal texts within documentary poetry and examine the subgenre’s benefits, including how chosen forms can further a text’s message, demonstrate an artistic version of a truth commission, de-center hegemonic or colonial narratives, and chronicle the now.

Representations of Arab American Communities in Poetry & Prose (Ghassan Zeineddine, Sally Howell, Alise Alousi, Kamelya Youssef)
In-person event
This panel aims to provide intimate glimpses into the Arab American communities in the Detroit metropolitan region, which is home to the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the country. Through works of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, the panelists will discuss the creative process of dramatizing a diverse range of Arab ethnicities and voices, as well as capturing the complexities of community life.

Resurrection Not Erasure: When Poets Talk Back to History (Alyse Bensel, Shane McCrae, Nicole Cooley, Blas Falconer, Cherene Sherrard)
In-person event
Poets whose work complicates or writes against dominant narratives will discuss how the persona poem challenges historical erasure and revises both the past and present. Panelists will discuss the ethical implications of the personal poem, their decisions to use persona in their work, and their underlying methodologies and research in voicing the past.

Resuscitation: Writing About Trauma (Rachel Kowalsky, Beth Hahn, David Queen, Jay Baruch)
In-person event
How can fiction express trauma, both lived and witnessed? From “telling it slant” to employing metaphor and rhythm, to imbuing the very landscape with disturbance, fiction permits us to animate trauma in amazing ways. Drawing upon our collective experience as writers, editors, emergency room physicians, and members of the Latinx diaspora, we will describe our own approaches and that of other authors to writing about trauma.

Revising Revealed: The Art of Revising Poetry (Kim Stafford, Charles Finn, Abayo Animashaun, Tami Haaland, Beth Piatote)
In-person event
Two co-editors and three poets from The Art of Revising Poetry (Bloomsbury, 2023) share and discuss revision techniques. From false starts to how they tinker, cut, rearrange, and shape a
poem, panelists detail what they changed and why, as they strove to wake their poems to full resonance. Providing a behind-the-scenes look into the creative minds of working poets, panelists reveal personal revision tricks, idiosyncrasies, and lessons learned through long practice.

**Revision as Trans* Praxis** (Crystal Odelle, Nico Amador, K. Angel, Safa Khatib, Maurice L. Tracy)

In-person event

The panel affirms revision as transformative practice. Writing across gender and genre, we will examine literary and human transition—the revision of form, language, narrative, and understanding. The panel will discuss the promise of reflective practice, away from perfection and legibility toward integrity and liberation. Topics will include conception, discernment, integration, and audience. Framing revision as iterative rather than linear, we consider what's at stake in revision: truth.

**(Re)Vision: Creating a Sustainable Writing Community** (Tiana Nobile, Sarah Audsley, Tamiko Beyer, Dharani Persaud)

In-person event

Writers are not only writers. They are parents, teachers, and organizers, among others. As a result, it can be a challenge to carve out dedicated time for the page, and when we do, a piece can sit untouched for months. A group of Asian American writers created a space to exchange work that requires minimal time while maximizing community building amid life’s other commitments. Panelists discuss the significance of safe writing spaces and how their mixed genre grouping allows for unique dialogue.

**Rewriting Motherhood, Reimagining Essential Labor** (Namrata Poddar, Pragya Agarwal, Amaris Castillo, Cassandra Lane, Vanessa Martir)

In-person event

While care work sustains human life on our planet, it took Covid-19 and a global lockdown to acknowledge, if only briefly, the essential labor of mothers and caregivers at large. This panel will focus on stories of motherhood within contemporary American and global literature to reimagine essential labor, social justice and literary forms, especially when parenting isn’t restricted to a biological phenomenon and mediated by factors of race, class, sexual orientation, place and/or migration.

**Ripped (Gently) from the Headlines: The Ethics of Writing Fiction Based on Fact** (Andrew Altschul, Ellen Meeropol, Ava Homa, Charmaine Craig, Justin Torres)

In-person event

All writers borrow from life: people we’ve known, things we’ve witnessed, and historical events inevitably find their way into the work. But when novelists explicitly set out to retell true stories, they face serious ethical and artistic challenges. What does it mean to “shape” reality? What do we owe the people whose lives are our source material? Is our responsibility to historical accuracy or to the meaning we find there? Five authors discuss the fraught process of turning fact into fiction.
Routine Means Keep Doing It: Giving Your Writing Practice Structure & Support (Tessa Fontaine, Annie Hartnett, Shannon Sanders, Krys M. Belc, Jennifer De Leon)

In-person event

Most writers want to be writing more than they are, but life (jobs, kids, exercise, washing the dog) gets in the way. How do you create a writing practice that fits into your life? How do you adapt when that plan inevitably goes awry? How do you find community and support? Five busy, productive writers share approaches to creative accountability, including: writing partners, work contracts, fake deadlines, sticker charts, designated writing space, an ongoing accountability cohort and more.

Screenwriting with the Hero's Journey and Beyond (Dennis Etzel Jr, Erin Hamer-Beck, Kevin Rabas, Matt Nyquist)

In-person event

In Story, (1997), Robert McKee proposed the Hero's Journey serves as a universal outline for many stories and encouraged its use for screenplays. In this panel, we will explore if this is still true. What are the steps in the HJ? How have screenwriters borrowed from its structure? What films deviate from the HJ norm and how? What other "journeys" can screenwriters use when crafting their stories? The panelists will include films which focus on diverse representation to discuss these questions.

Scriptural Entanglements: Poets Writing Into, Through, and Against Sacred Texts (Rachel Edelman, George Abraham, Rachel Mennies, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Patrycja Humienik)

In-person event

Religious scripture is among the oldest and widest-read written material; as such, it carries immense potential for poetic re-imagining. In their scriptural entanglements, these five poets explore and explode notions of gender and property, faith and belonging, violence and care. The literary canon is largely white and Christian, and this panel, led by poets across spiritual and religious backgrounds, pushes for a more expansive and inclusive practice of devotional engagement on the page.

Shape and Symbol: The Visual Poem (Emily Lee Luan, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Anthony Cody, Keith S. Wilson)

In-person event

The “visual” poem untethers language from the traditional line, the left margin, linearity, the page, and sometimes even from the word itself. What happens when the poem becomes shape or object, beyond stanzaic structure? What power does the physical image lend to a poem’s argument, or the histories that it describes? Panelists will examine the formal tools that make the visual possible in a poem, as well as what might be freed—poetically, linguistically, and politically—in this process.

Should I Just Give Up? (Michelle Otero, Anel Flores, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Jackie Cuevas, Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera)

In-person event
These Chicana/x, feminist poets, memoirists, artists, administrators, and professors have invested a collective 90 years on projects that lingered long past their anticipated finish dates. Because we represent communities whose stories might not otherwise be heard, the writing process can be especially daunting. We’ll talk about how we got it done, the communities that supported us, how we handled rejection, how we navigated this long relationship, OR how we finally let go and moved on.

**Show (Me), Don’t Tell: Missouri Writers Grappling with the State of Their State** (Caleb Tankersley, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Sam Edmonds, Ron A. Austin, Phong Nguyen)
In-person event
Missouri has recently made a dramatic turn toward repressive social policy, raising difficult questions for the state’s writers: how do I love a place that doesn’t love me back? How can I acknowledge Missouri’s rich literary history and use writing to address the current crisis? How can writing become part of the solution to the state’s problems? In this panel, five Missouri writers discuss their struggles to love and critique their home as they hope for its future renewal.

**Sight Singing: Poetry and the Visual** (Chris Santiago, Doug Kearney, Mag Gabbert, Monica Ong, Keith Wilson)
In-person event
This panel explores the intersections between language and visual art through the lens of visual poetry. Our panelists will engage with questions about the role of design, typography, poetic images, so-called white- or negative space, and how visual elements can expand our understanding of poetic meaning. We will examine a range of visual poetry forms, including concrete poetry, collages, and multimedia works, to showcase the playfully diverse ways poets blend text and image to create meaning.

**Sin Fronteras: Navigating, Representing, and Publishing Latine Authors** (Viktoria Valenzuela, Cloud Delfina Cardona, Carlos Espinoza, Maria Maloney, Edward Vidaurre)
In-person event
As the United States continues to diversify, state legislatures advance bills that target people of color and the LGBTQ+ community. Publishing is one of the only industries that gives a truer representation of the richly complex Latine populations in the U.S. and their contribution to culture, history, and literary landscape. This panel of independent publishers from the U.S.-Mexico border discusses the importance of publishing Latine, including LGBTQ+ Latine authors in Texas and the U.S.

**Slackers, Stoners, and Screw-Ups: APIA Writers on the Margins of the Margins** (Mark Galarrita, Gene Kwak, Joseph Han, Jean Kyoung Frazier, Jenn Alandy Trahan)
In-person event
Most first- or second-gen APIA stories are tales of perseverance. The American Dream fulfilled. But what about everyone else: the slackers, stoners, and screw-ups? This panel is five creators, working in a variety of prose genres, who will discuss the personal and artistic choices that led
them to writing about APIA people in the margins. The discussion will delve into conversations around the consideration of audience, upending of the model minority myth, and writing complicated characters.

**Small & Mighty: Everything You Want to Know About Working with Indie Presses** (Margot Atwell, Ryo Yamaguchi, Kate McMullen, Cat Fitzpatrick)

*In-person event*

Independent publishers publish some of the most dynamic and exciting books in the literary landscape, often launching debut writers’ first books or chapbooks. This panel, featuring publishing veterans from prominent independent presses, will demystify the process of submitting to and publishing work with an indie press. Panelists will share the benefits and challenges of working with an indie press, as well as tips for how to put your best foot forward when submitting your work to indie presses.

**Snap, Crackle, Prose: Telling Our Stories in 300 Words or Less** (Kalehua Kim, Samantha Chagollan, Devi Laskar, Shaina Nez, Darien Hsu Gee)

*In-person event*

Defying the notion that brevity diminishes impact, this panel celebrates the art of concise writing. Writing micro is an opportunity to cut to the chase, to distill what is most essential into a few carefully considered words, to center a single experience or thought. Defined as 300 words or less, micro essays/narratives/memoirs linger long after you’ve read them. Panelists will discuss how they’ve used micro in their work, and the publication options for micro. Discussion and Q&A at the end.

**So You Want to Publish a Translation. A How-To Panel for Literary Magazines, Sponsored by ALTA** (Susan Harris, Jafreen Uddin, Arthur Dixon, Gerald Maa, Jim Hicks)

*In-person event*

As translated literature commands greater interest in the US, more literary magazines are looking to publish it. Words Without Borders editorial director Susan Harris will moderate a discussion on how to approach publishing and promoting literary translations in print and online magazines. The panel of editors and publishers from The Margins, Latin American Literature Today, and The Georgia Review will address editorial considerations, contracts, payments, and promotion and event opportunities.

**Social Justice on the Page: How Writing and Activism Feed Each Other** (Jen Soriano, Daisy Hernandez, Tijanna O. Eaton, Hans Lindahl, Karina Muniz-Pagan)

*In-person event*

As Kansas City and other locales organize fiercely against incessant attacks, this panel of regionally diverse, mostly LGBTQI/BIPOC authors share how activism and lived experiences inform their writing on topics such as incarceration, medical racism, intersex identity, mental health, immigration, queerness, and intergenerational trauma. We explore the craft of writing stories that contribute to deep, durable narrative change, restructuring the way people feel, think, and respond to the world.
Sons of the Father: War, Inheritance, and Toxic Masculinity in Nonfiction (Andy Smart, Keenan Norris, J. Michael Martinez)
In-person event
The last American troops withdrew from Vietnam over fifty years ago, but the children of veterans and draft resisters—in this case, their sons—still walk in the long shadow of that war. In this panel Keenan Norris, Andy Smart, and J. Michael Martinez examine some of the disparate but undeniable effects of growing up with fathers who split their duties between family, country and protest, and whose notions of manhood were forever linked—directly or otherwise—to violence.

Speaking Mosaics: Hybrid Narratives & the Prism of Identity (Marissa Landrigan, Rajiv Mohabir, Monica Prince, Adriana Es Ramirez, Caitlyn Hunter)
In-person event
Accustomed to wielding multiple perspectives, many BIPOC, queer, and neurodivergent writers are drawn to fragmented or hybrid forms: multimodal, cross-genre mosaics of personal experience, and cultural, social, political, or natural history. Our panelists work across poetry, performance, nonfiction, and folklore, and will explore the craft and challenges of fragmented forms, offering inspiration & motivation to embrace hybridity as a way to claim space for historically marginalized communities.

Stop Being So Dramatic! (Marcela Sulak, Jeannine Ouellette, Hyeseung Song, Esteban Rodriguez, Sabrina Orah Mark)
In-person event
There are some stories so unbelievable, so horrible, or merely awful, but they must be told, for survival. How do we write about the overwhelming without overwhelming the reader? We are five memoirists and poets who write about things others would probably rather not hear about, but we've mastered drama (and dramatic technique), the understatement, humor, the fable, the archetype, third-degree emotion. We will share these techniques, that help us develop an audience that asks to hear more.

Storytelling through Hermit Crab Flash: Exploring Borrowed Forms (Kathy Fish, Lindsey Novak, K.B. Carle, Ruth Joffre)
In-person event
How can the ordinary forms we use in daily life—like receipts, shopping lists, crossword puzzles—be inhabited to create compelling stories? Our panel will focus on how borrowed forms—called hermit crabs as they borrow the “shell” of a familiar text—can open up playful experimentation in our work and surprise by their hidden depth. We will look at stellar examples of both fiction and nonfiction and show how and why they work. We will also share techniques, ideas for forms to borrow, and prompts.

Submission Models: Best Practices for Literary Magazines, Sponsored by CLMP (Chelsea Kern, Oscar Villalon, Liz Harms, Angela Flores)
In-person event
How a literary magazine invites writers to submit their work for consideration is not only a logistical question, but also a question of how to communicate with writers about a publication’s character and style. In this panel discussion, three literary magazines editors lead a conversation on different submission models, covering questions about reading fees; submissions caps and reading periods; agented, solicited, and unsolicited submissions; and more.

**Summons and Return: How We Write Globally of Our Homes and Other Destinations** (Allen Gee, Oindrila Mukherjee, Samuel Kolawole, Kerry Neville, Faith Adiele)

*In-person event*

How do we as prose writers navigate our current fragile and complex world? What stories do we want to tell with prevalent issues like global migration, climate change, class biases, limited gender roles, restrictive borders, hunger, poverty, language loss, vanishing histories, and the persistent question of American involvement to consider, and how do we best tell and nurture those stories? Five engaging writers offer advice for those who want to travel and expand their writing perspectives.

**Ten Years of APBF: African Women Poets in the US and their Publication Journeys** (Rezina Habtemariam, Mary-Alice Daniel, Yalie Kamara, Hope Wabuke)

*In-person event*

This year, the African Poetry Book Fund celebrates ten years of promoting and advancing the development and publication of the poetic arts of Africa. Women poets from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Uganda will discuss their individual paths to publication and the unique challenges, lessons, and best practices they encountered. They will also discuss the influence of the African Poetry Book Fund on their careers and the promotion African poetry throughout the world.

**The Art of Building and Sustaining Writing Communities** (Alyse Bensel, Gwen Kirby, James Allen Hall, Jeremy Jones)

*In-person event*

Writers’ conferences are collaborative efforts with the shared mission of fostering writing communities. Conference and festival directors and staff will share their challenges and successes when creating, sustaining, and growing writers’ conferences. This panel will candidly address establishing partnerships, seeking institutional support, cultivating inclusivity and equity, and selecting and managing speakers, faculty, and participants.

**The Art of The Believer Interview: 20 Years of Artists In Conversation** (Rita Bullwinkel, Rachel Khong, Ross Simonini, James Yeh, Deb Olin Unferth)

*In-person event*

For over 20 years The Believer has interviewed the artists and writers that define our culture. The magazine’s tone of candor and camaraderie fosters an environment where the reader often feels as though they are witnessing a rare and intimate conversation between friends. This panel will feature four acclaimed writers who have published interviews in The Believer, and
touch on how they approached the interview process, and what makes a literary interview sparkle.

**The Author/Agent Relationship: Navigating the Rapidly Evolving Industry Together** (Amanda Orozco, Roma Panganiban, Kayla Lightner)
In-person event
Literary agents from three different agencies speak about their experience in crafting their MSWLs, client strategy, and the querying process. Additionally, in light of the recent discourse (as of May 2023), we provide an inside view of the agents' submission process to editors, as well as the working agent/author relationship in general. How do you know your agent is the right fit for you? What does a successful agent/author relationship look like? And what do you do if issues arise?

**The Black Grotesque** (Chaun Webster, Ron Austin, Aaron Mallory)
In-person event
In this workshop we will be discussing the Black Grotesque as a framework for confronting the physical, psychological, and spiritual horrors compounded by white supremacy, ableist, cis/hetero-patriarchy and late stage capitalism. We will offer a critical reading of work proposing the Black Grotesque as a method of thinking outside of the proper tied logic of indexing and measurement that prize the single unit, a kind of individuation, and propose something porous and always assembling.

**The book was better... or was it? Adapting your novel into a screenplay or play** (colette freedman, Nicole Hodges Persley, Guadalupe Garcia McCall)
In-person event
Demystify the journey of adapting your novel into a viable screenplay or play. As a novelist, you allow your readers an insight into characters' thoughts and inner monologues; yet, to be a successful screenwriter or playwright, you must master the craft of turning the internal into the visual. We will give you the structural, formatting, dialogue and character tricks of the trade and building blocks to successfully adapt your novel into a viable screenplay, teleplay or play.

**The Courage to Write Theatre in Turbulent Times** (Derek McPhatter, Dolores Diaz, Jessica Lit, Delaney Piggins, Cheryl Coons)
In-person event
From state legislation banning the discussion on certain topics related to identity, censorship, and the potential of controversy, it can feel like a difficult time to write - especially those centering queer/marginalized communities. For theatre writers, there is the added concern of producibility, or whether a show will then be picketed or cancelled by stakeholders with diverging interests. This session will explore the importance of these stories, and how to protect them.

**The Craft and Currency of the Literary Book Review** (Joseph Salvatore, Cassie Packard, Julia Brown, Chris Campanioni, John Domini)
In-person event
 Thousands of books are published each year. Often, we’re led to them by intelligent, engaging, well-made book reviews, which not only investigate and articulate the mysteries and pleasures a literary text offers, but also please the reader with their style. Five widely published writers/critics/editors will discuss the review as a genre in its own right, a unique artistic form that contributes to a book’s reception, raises the level of public discourse, and establishes critical reputation.

The Craft of Writing Intersectional Identities in Young Adult Literature (Jen Ferguson, Adib Khorram, Adrianne Russell, Anna Meriano, Hayley Dennings)
 In-person event
 KidLit has embraced expanding representation so that characters in stories now better reflect the demographics of our cities and schools. But how do you successfully craft characters whose identities are intersectional and oftentimes multiply so while still telling a story with a great plot and excellent pacing? This panel will consider the craft of writing characters in YA, in both short stories and novels, whose identities are shaped by more than one marginalization.

The Criticism of Translated Books: A Words Without Borders Conversation (Adam Dalva, Sarah Chihaya, Laura Marris, Justin Rosier)
 In-person event
 Three leading critics and translators—Sarah Chihaya (Book Critic and Author The Ferrante Letters), Laura Marris (Translator of The Plague), and Justin Rosier (Chair, National Book Critics Circle Criticism Committee)—will discuss the challenges and benefits of reviewing translated literature with Words Without Borders Books Editor Adam Dalva. The conversation will focus on both the ethics of reviewing books in translation and practical tips on how to best write compelling contemporary criticism.

The Epigenetics of Joy: Writing Judaism Beyond Trauma (Jessica Jacobs, Erika Meitner, Yehoshua November, Chanda Feldman, Mónica Gomery)
 In-person event
 Jewish literary events often focus on the Holocaust, generational trauma, or antisemitism—vital topics of discussion. Yet how much is lost if we reduce Jewish writing to writing from trauma. What about the joy, wisdom, traditions, and ubiquitous humor that can be found in Judaism and Jewish culture? With a combination of readings and conversation, our panelists, who embody a range of engagement and representation, will speak to the many visions possible when writing through a Jewish lens.

The Facts Behind Memoir: How Research Expands the Vision and Market for Stories (Jody Keisner, Sofia Ali-Khan, Erica Berry, Minna Dubin, Jessica Hoppe)
 In-person event
 Non-celebrity writers are often told their memoirs are not marketable, but our panelists have found that research-driven memoirs occupy their own niche, with crossover genre appeal. We will explore the ways research can break memoir open, offering readers a deeper, fact-driven
understanding of both the author and themselves. Panelists will share ideas for using archival research, interviews, immersion journalism, and more to illuminate the wider realities that drive our experiences.

**The Fate of the Long Short Story** (Maegan Poland, K.C. Mead-Brewer, Yohanca Delgado, Tanya Shirazi Galvez)
In-person event
The short fiction landscape is crackling with change. Excitement for flash and micro fiction is as strong as ever but as many print magazines shutter, there seems to be an ever-tightening belt about the word counts of longer short stories. Panelists will discuss the challenges of writing and publishing longer short stories in today’s literary marketplace and how magazines’ shifting word count requirements are impacting the stories they tell and read.

**The Fine Art of Craft Talking** (Barrie Jean Borich, Jenny Johnson, Geffrey Davis, Suzanne Berne, Brenda Miller)
In-person event
At some point in our careers, we might be called upon to give a craft talk. The prospect of such a task can inspire both excitement and trepidation. In this lively discussion, panelists will speak to their experiences devising craft talks, and we’ll explore nuances of this genre, addressing questions such as: What is a craft talk? How do you write one? Are there certain conventions? Do you subvert those conventions? We’ll also discuss how to repurpose a craft talk for publication.

**The Happy Family: The Craft of Domestic Horror** (Elinam Agbo, 'Pemi Aguda, Gerardo Sámano Córdova, Akil Kumarasamy, Annesha Mitha)
In-person event
Ghosts. Sacrifices. Monsters. Mothers. What do we hide inside our houses, and what do our houses hide from us? How do we tell the same family stories in new ways? In this panel, five writers of literary horror discuss the domestic as a place of invention, myth-making, and witnessing. Drawing upon examples from their own novels and short stories, the panelists share strategies and tools from graphic novels, manga, films, and other mediums that have helped them bring their hauntings to life.

**The Hybrid Memoir: Weaving Personal Narrative with Research** (Sonya Huber, Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Daisy Hernandez, Catina Bacote, Heather Lanier)
In-person event
Nonfiction books that combine memoir with research are populating the lists of prize winners and readers. Research methods such as fieldwork, interviews, and historical deep dives can do more than enhance a personal story; they can capture complexities, advocate for social justice, and inspire necessary cultural change. Five diverse nonfiction writers will discuss their reasons for, challenges with, and approaches to weaving extensive research into their personal narratives.
The Language of Leaving: Puerto Rican Writers on/from the Diaspora (Claudia Acevedo-Quinones, Amina Gautier, Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón, Jerilynn Aquino)
In-person event
Puerto Rico has long been a rich source of stories for those within and without its borders. This panel, composed of writers of Puerto Rican descent working in fiction, memoir, and other creative nonfiction, will focus on the challenges of writing about home, sometimes in another language, from the perspective of an expatriate, during a time of economic and political upheaval in their native country.

The Loneliness of the Slow Essayist: On writing books that take forever (Chelsea Biondolillo, Silas Hansen, Lisa Nikolidakis, Helena Rho)
In-person event
Does it feel like your nonfiction book is taking too long to write? From the tenure committee to social media, from well-meaning friends to your own worst imagination—pressures to hurry up and write can easily overwhelm. What if you take so long your cultural criticism or memoir is no longer relevant? What if the fire burns out after years of research? Join 5 writers in the same boat as we create a space to explore and tackle some of the real vs imagined risks of the long-simmering book project.

The Many Roles of the Black Writer: An Appreciation of Calvin C. Hernton (Lauri Scheyer, Tyrone Williams, David Grundy, Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, Kathy Lou Schultz)
In-person event
Calvin C. Hernton (1932-2001) is renowned as an anti-racist sociologist, literary critic, champion of Black women, and a founder of Umbra, which was a model for the 1960s Black Arts Movement. He is less well-known as a poet but recent attention has generated much acclaim. Based on new appraisals of his stature as a major poet, this panel will reveal him as an overlooked but very important figure who insisted on combining the roles of critic, teacher, poet, race theorist, and social commentator.

The Page Blinks Back :: Image, Text & Screen (Sarah Minor, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Sarah Rose Nordgren, Douglas Kearney, Tisa Bryant)
In-person event
As literary publishing adapts to the rise of literary comics, visual essays, and intermedia fictions championed by indie presses and online magazines, editors are selecting for more writing that moves visually. But what makes a multimedia text? And what makes a good one? Which strategies make visual elements inextricable from rather than extraneous to text? On this panel, five writers discuss a wide range image-text forms, and demonstrate how they are thriving on pages and screens.

The Power of Collective Impact in Elevating Black Women’s Voices (Tiffany Huff, Nakeena Hayden, Shallegra Moye, Shauntaya Hester, Kaya Raines)
In-person event
During this panel discussion, contributing Authors from The Scenes From a Single Mom Book Project will share best practices, lessons learned and their journeys to becoming Authors & Entrepreneurs through a cohort style, collective model. Each Author is a contributing Author in one of the six memoir style anthologies about single motherhood, who were able to cross the finish line because of the power of support of the hosting organization, sisterhood & collaboration with two local universities.

**The Publishing Process and Interventions for Equity & Inclusion** (Nikesha Williams, Jennifer Baker, Maya Marshall, Aricka Foreman)
In-person event
Over the past decade, authors, organizations, and literary adjacent areas have been more outspoken about the disparities and lack of transparency within the book industry. This presentation highlights the four quadrants of publishing (Creation, Production, Distribution, and Reception) alongside an in-depth discussion from publishing professionals and writers demystifying areas of impact and progress at every stage of the publishing process.

**The Stages of Writing & Publishing Memoir** (Ofelia Montelongo, Anabelle Tometich, Hyeseung Song, Margaret Lee, Sarah Chaves)
In-person event
There is no correct or unique way to write or publish memoirs as fragments of our lives. The memoirists in this panel will discuss their diverse processes in the publishing industry. From cooking-themed to realistic-paintings and borderlands memoirs — this group of writers brings a collage of stages of writing by discussing how one can start crafting a memoir or a nonfiction piece. How to know when it should be fiction or CNF? Why are our stories relevant? And how can they be published?

**The Trans Fantastic: Craft, Themes, Reception** (Alina Boyden, Maya Deane, Izzy Wasserstein, Megan Milks, Nino Cipri)
In-person event
Literary realism has treated trans stories with skepticism, flattening trans lives to fit hostile narratives or excluding them completely. Trans writers have responded by embracing the fantastic. Join a panel of trans fantasists to discuss the uniquely transformative nature of our craft, themes, and readership in a time of artistic flowering and mounting danger.

**The Writer-Mom: How Motherhood Changes and Influences Writing Habits and Subject** (Laura Leigh Morris, Christine Stewart-Nuñez, Michelle Ross, Neema Avashia)
In-person event
Four writer-mothers, working in different genres and mothering circumstances, describe how motherhood influences their writing practices and subjects. From returning to the page after becoming a mother to parenthood’s place on the page to how their children’s life stages affect their writing, these four writer-mothers explore how their writing continues to evolve as their roles as mothers evolve and how they manage—or don’t—to make the two work in tandem.
Theatrical Adaptation: Writing a Play or Musical Based on an Existing Work (Dolores Diaz, Doug Wright)
In-person event
How do you translate the immersive world of a literature work into a living, breathing piece of theatre? As the theatre industry is embracing the novel to play adaptation more and more – we are excited to discuss this trend with authors who have experience doing so. This conversation will explore the difference between the two mediums of storytelling, tips to consider, and how some dramatists have approached this with their own works. In addition to craft, we'll also explore business logistics.

There’s No Normal in Publishing: Stories from 2023 Young Adult Debuts (Jenna Miller, Edward Underhill, Ellen O’Clover, Trang Thanh Tran, Krystal Marquis)
In-person event
From Twitter discourse to private group chats to varying successes, Young Adult publishing can feel like the Wild West. We oftentimes hear “there’s no normal in publishing,” but what does that mean? Is the journey from idea to publication really that different between houses? Five Young Adult authors from a range of background, genres, and publishers discuss their experiences as 2023 debuts. We'll tackle the myths and shine a light on what happens behind the scenes from a writer’s perspective.

Thinking Beyond the Page: Reaching & Creating Community (Marina Budhos, Tanuja Desai Hidier, Helen Elaine Lee, Christina Chiu)
In-person event
This panel features writers who create programming and events that expand our impact beyond the boundaries of the literary world. Participants will share their experiences with programs that reach new communities or develop community in inclusive and nurturant ways. Our presenters, for example, have initiated creative writing in prisons; collaborated with a theater company bringing reader’s theater into schools; and worked with a literary arts organization devoted to developing young writers.

TikTok Isn’t Just For Dancing: An Undergraduate Perspective on #BookTok (Emily Hizny, Ellie Pasquale, Maggie Mauro, Amber Watkin, Sarah Ledet)
In-person event
As seen by the ‘BookTok’ tables in Barnes & Noble, the effect that TikTok has on the literary landscape is undeniable. Using their experience growing up online, these undergraduate students explain why you should care about the platform currently rewriting the industry, and how to use it to market your work. From the generation largely responsible for TikTok’s reach, the panelists will tackle the beginnings of BookTok and its effects on the future of the publishing industry.

'Til Death (or Edits) Do Us Part: The Significant Other in Creative Nonfiction (Sandra Beasley, Angie Chuang, Krys Malcolm Belc, Davon Loeb, Sarah Viren)
In-person event
Recreating our lives in creative nonfiction includes depicting our romantic partners. How do approaches vary in choosing what to include or omit? What are the ethics of documenting conversations, including arguments, and asking permission? What happens if a lover becomes an ex—sometimes midway through the publication process? Five authors of memoir and personal essays discuss the challenges of sharing intimate relationships on the page, and give the audience takeaway tips for their own projects.

“To Confirm a Thing and Give Thanks”: Rereading May Swenson (Brian Brodeur, Sara Eliza Johnson, Randall Mann, Nancy K. Pearson, Malachi Black)
In-person event
Though more widely acknowledged in her lifetime, May Swenson is now something of a “poet’s poet,” loved and admired by a select readership but generally overlooked by the wider public. This panel aims to elevate Swenson’s work, articulating the dynamics behind her richly varied oeuvre—lush, exploratory, imaginative, poised—and arguing for a 21st century return to this unduly neglected master and pioneering queer poet.

To Doctorate or Not? Creative Writers on Earning a PhD (Courtney Kersten, Nicholas Goodly, Nathan Osorio, Erika Luckert, Adriana Socoski)
In-person event
Doctoral programs that incorporate creative writing elements to their program (such as PhDs in Creative Writing or PhDs in Literature with a creative writing dissertation) have become increasingly popular. Yet, as ever, the merits and challenges of earning a doctoral degree are fiercely debated. Is it worth the time and investment? Does the academic environment support creative writers? Panelists will share their experiences earning a PhD and discuss the pros and cons of completing a doctorate.

Together, Along the Divide: Writing the New Borderlands (Alma Garcia, Daniel Aleman, Ofelia Montelongo, Alejandra Oliva, Yasmin Ramirez)
In-person event
The U.S./Mexico border has long been a rich source of literature as well as a place of cultural convergence; it can also be a place of friction, division, and disagreement about who belongs where. Five writer-insiders from both sides of the border will share their work, discussing their inspiration and what they view as the most important new issues, themes, perspectives, and metaphorical possibilities for contemporary literature set at the border—and where this literature might go next.

Too Small For the Patriarchy: Getting Girlhood Stories Past the Gatekeepers (Chaitali Sen, Natalia Sylvester, Rose Smith, Magdalena Bartkowska, Toni Ann Johnson)
In-person event
Who has the right to grow up in American literature? On this panel, authors discuss the joys, challenges, and importance of writing and publishing diverse narratives about American girlhoods. Getting these stories past the gatekeepers, who often misunderstand and reject them for being “too quiet” or “too small,” requires courage and persistence. When our own inner
critics tell us such stories don’t truly matter, how do we push beyond our doubt and continue writing on a path to publication?

**Toward a Poetics of Tenderness: Hegemonic Masculinity & The Poetic Imagination** (Hayan Charara, Matthew Olzmann, Taylor Johnson, Ross Gay, Issam Zineh)

In-person event
The culturally dominant conceptualization of masculinity is characterized by intermale dominance, relentless competition, emotional inexpressivity, and attendant violences (interpersonal, ecological). This damaging, hegemonic masculinity impacts every aspect of daily life, from the personal to the geopolitical. This panel confronts masculinity narratives, explores craft strategies to subvert destructive notions of “manhood,” and considers what it means to embody a poetics of tenderness.

**(Trans)cend: Trans Poetics in the Age of Anti-transness** (KB Brookins, K. Iver, Evelyn Berry, Kay E. Bancroft, SG Huerta)

In-person event
The world doesn’t know what to do with us. Publishers, politicians, etc — everyone is wondering what transness is, why it exists, & projecting fears onto trans people in the process. So what is the role of a trans writer, & how can we be free today? On this panel, trans writers discuss gender/genre, theme, tokenization, & how audiences do/don’t engage with trans writing. Through performance & conversation, this panel explores the state of trans lit to get to a future where trans people live.

**Transcending Trauma: Avoiding the pitfalls of sentimentality and reductivism** (Lucian Childs, Richard Mirabella, Danny Ramadan, SJ Sindu)

In-person event
Childhood trauma is powerfully determinative over the course of a life. How do we use psychological damage as a narrative engine, while avoiding the pitfalls of sentimentality and reductivism: characters as symptom sets, cardboard cutout villains or would-be saviors? Through a queer lens, four authors share their experiences in humanizing the embodied memory of violence, homophobia, familial disruption and ethnic and political dislocation to create fiction that is brutally honest, yet hopeful.

**Transfigured Flesh: Shapeshifting, Embodiment & the Nonhuman in Trans Narratives** (Zeyn Joukhadar, Rivers Solomon, Bishakh Som, Andrea Lawlor)

In-person event
Trans writers have long been aware of the power of the animal, the nonhuman and the monstrous—whether jinn or mycelium—not only as metaphors but as kin. This panel brings together four trans authors whose genre-bending work interrogates the boundaries between human and nonhuman to resist the narratives that would erase those who live in their margins. We will discuss the craft of writing about embodiment and what can only be revealed by dissolving the boundary with the more-than-human world.
Transformation: Creating Change Through Collaboration (Noriko Nakada, Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera, Nikia Chaney, Sarah Rafael Garcia, Ryane Nicole Granados)
In-person event
Inspired by Helena Maria Viramontes’s AWP 2020 keynote address, Women Who Submit’s third anthology, TRANSFORMATION, centers work that speaks to the ways writers and other artists can promote change in the world. By focusing on generosity and collaboration, shared leadership and mentorship, and inclusive partnerships, panelists discuss how Women Who Submit makes this change a reality not just in the writing they publish but in the ways they edit, publish, and promote their writers.

Transforming the Imagination: Asian American Poets Redefine Hybrid Poetry (Tina Chang, Victoria Chang, Mai Der Vang, Cynthia Dewi Oka, Sahar Muradi)
In-person event
Hybrid poetry embraces cross disciplinary work, combining poetry, prose, plays, visual art, collage, documents, to address and challenge dominant narratives. This panel focuses on the ways in which Asian American poets have invigorated hybrid forms to respond to uneven distributions of power, relay experiences of marginalization, oppression, and injustice as well as uphold joy, kinship, and devotion through the examination of cross genre and interdisciplinary work as a practice of survival.

Transgender Nonfiction: Memoir and Essays Beyond the Transition Narrative (Mel King, T.L. Pavlich, Meredith Talusan, Niko Stratis)
In-person event
For decades, the transition memoir was the only readily available transgender nonfiction. The mainstream publishing world has been slow to catch up, but contemporary trans and nonbinary writers are breathing new life into nonfiction. These writers are telling their nuanced true stories beyond a linear transition narrative. This panel will bring together five transgender and nonbinary memoirists and essayists for an engaging discussion about trans stories and the future of trans nonfiction.

Translation as Advocacy with/in Poetry's Multilingual World (Martha M. F. Kelly, Rachel Galvin, Aaron Coleman, Vitaly Chernenetsky)
In-person event
As a privileged global language, English provides a powerful tool for centering diverse voices who can speak in new ways into English-language cultures. This panel brings together translators who understand their work in part as advocacy for poets writing in languages other than English. Our panelists translate from French, Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian, and from cultures across the globe: from the African diaspora in the Americas to the post-Soviet sphere and its diasporas.

Translation as Poetics, Sponsored by ALTA (Soleil Davíd, janan alexandra, Samandar Ghaus, Amanda L. Andrei, Xiao Wen Li)
In-person event
This panel focuses on the generative links between translation and the writing process—two joint crafts that each inform the other. We are particularly interested in considering how the act of translation is in and of itself an act of creative writing, and how our work as poets, playwrights and interdisciplinary artists is expanded and enhanced by our practices in translation.

Two-Year College Creative Writing Caucus (Stephanie M. Lindberg, Marlys Cervantes, Sean Chambers, Courney O’Banion Smith, Joe Baumann)
In-person event
Do you teach at a two-year college? Interested in job opportunities at two-year colleges? Join us for our annual networking meeting. With almost half of all students starting at two-year colleges, and increasing numbers of MFAs landing two-year college teaching jobs, the future of creative writing courses and programs at our campuses looks bright. We will discuss teaching creative writing at the two-year college, hold a short business meeting, and provide tangible resources.

Una Mujer Peligrosa: Celebrating the Queer Work & Life of tatiana de la tierra (Olga Garcia, Carribean Fragoza, Karleen Pendelton Jimenez, Amelia María de la Luz Montes, Myriam Gurba)
In-person event
tatiana de la tierra (1961-2012) was a Latina lesbian writer & trailblazer. In the 90s, she co-founded Esto No Tiene Nombre & Conomoción, magazines featuring Latina Lesbians in the U.S. & abroad. She later authored her iconic For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology. In 2022, Redonda y radical: antología poética de tatiana de la tierra was published in Colombia (Sincronía Press). This panel features some of tatiana’s literary co-conspirators to discuss her dangerously delicious life & works

Unlearning What You Learned Just Now: Writing Strategies After Your First Book (Juan Martinez, Julie Iromuanya, Jimin Han, Ted Wheeler)
In-person event
We want to believe that writing is cumulative—that we benefit from habit and repetition—and it’s true, the more we write, the more we know about writing. But what works on one project might not translate to the next. Much of the work we need to do is unlearning, a willingness to go back to not knowing, so we can explore the possibilities of not being fully sure of ourselves. In this panel, four novelists discuss their unlearning and what they left behind as they embarked on new projects.

Unraveling the Prophetic: Gerald Stern’s Oeuvre Revisited (Mihaela Moscaliuc, Chase Berggrun, Kimiko Hahn, Matthew Rohrer, Alessandra Lynch)
In-person event
In October 2022, the National Book Award–winning Jewish poet Gerald Stern passed away at the age of 97. This panel of Stern’s friends and students will reflect on the impact of his work—from his breakout book Lucky Life to his last book I., a mischievous refraction of the biblical book and figure of Isaiah. The conversation will celebrate his life, delve into the Jewish valences
of his work, and explore what his troubling of the prophetic mode reveals about his intertwined politics and poetics.

**Voices of Resilience: Celebrating the Strength & Resilience of BIPOC Communities** *(Ricardo Ruiz, Jose Olivarez, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Salaam Green, Eugenia Leigh)*

In-person event
This panel of five BIPOC poets will share work that celebrates the hard-won strength that comes with facing adversity, then engage in a dialogue about the ways their poems and their platforms have become tools for confronting and navigating challenges such as systemic oppression, marginalization, and cultural erasure. This panel seeks to honor and uplift stories of resilience while showcasing the transformative power of poetry as a means of self-expression, healing, and social change.

**Wait...I Can Use "Cunt" in a Poem?** *(Sonia Greenfield, Sam Sax, Dustin Brookshire, Angelique Zobitz, Jonah Mixon-Webster)*

In-person event
“Twat,” “cock,” and “motherfucker” too. You can say anything in a poem—use any word, broach any topic, and be obscene as you please, but what are you trying to blow up with your F-bombs? Such language functions as the repudiation of a lingual and cultural hegemony, so the question is whether the poem earns the use of such language. In this panel, poets known for their engagement with the taboo will read their work and discuss their use of the profane as a means of subversion.

**We Belong: People of Color Accessing, Critiquing, & Reshaping Artist Residencies** *(Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Faith Adiele, Elmaz Abinader, Casandra López, Leia Penina Wilson)*

In-person event
Indigenous, womanist, and queer/trans people of color share strategic insights into applying to, critically re-envisioning, and transforming artist residencies within and beyond the U.S. How can residencies positively impact our intersectional projects and creative careers? What program/site variables must we consider to ensure best fit? What crafted components render applicants competitive? How can residencies be Indigenized, decolonized, queered, engendered, made more accessible, transformed?

**We Belong: Queer and Trans SWANA Writers on Negotiating Space & Navigating Self** *(Mahru Elahi, Nancy Agabian, Tracy Fuad, Bobuq Sayed, Pınar Banu Yaşar)*

In-person event
Featuring queer and trans SWANA (Southwest Asian North African) writers, this multiple genre panel centers a discussion of how we build bridges, defying orientalist narratives by writing into the complexities of our hybrid identities. At a time when our communities continue to be marginalized in the US, we will focus on the tension between homeland and diaspora, the power and violence of myths, and our need to queer form to represent ourselves, breaking convention and narrative in the process.
What Authors Need to Know about Generative AI and Copyright (Rachel Brooke, Dave Hansen)
In-person event
The meteoric rise of generative AI technology like ChatGPT has generated a flurry of legal questions. Are images and text these programs produce copyrightable? Will using them in your work affect your rights? Is training data for AI infringing? Drawing on our expertise in the field of copyright and AI, Authors Alliance leads an interactive session explaining what authors need to know about how copyright and AI fit together, and how AI can serve both as a creative tool and potential disruptor.

What Bookshelf Do I Belong On? The Challenges of Literary Categorization (Grace Loh Prasad, Joy Castro, Simon Han, Jan Stinchcomb)
In-person event
For a book to make it to market, it must be assigned to a recognizable genre or category. Writers of unconventional stories that blur genres/integrate disparate subject matter face an uphill battle within the mainstream literary ecosystem (agents & publishers) that tends to reject projects that defy labels as they’re considered unmarketable. If you’ve ever found your book shelved in the wrong section; had trouble finding comps; or been advised to rewrite in another genre—this panel is for you.

What Did I Know?: The Poetry of Black Fatherhood in Theory and Practice (Iain Haley Pollock, Nathan McClain, Quintin Collins, Geoffrey Davis)
In-person event
Black poets who are fathers are currently asserting their voices against historical silences. Examining poetic theory and practice through the lens of Black fatherhood, this panel examines the effect of a poet’s race, gender, and parental status on poetic form, content, and process. How do Black father-poets reflect on and speak back to generations of denigrating rhetoric surrounding Black masculinity and fatherhood to carve out healthier, more joyful spaces for their families and themselves?

What Exactly Do You Do?: Jobs as Guides into Our Characters' Worlds (Tim Horvath, Rebecca Makkai, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Joy Baglio)
In-person event
In Other People's Trades, Primo Levi describes his "vagabond and dilletantish curiosity" about jobs other than his own. This panel features writers who have thought deeply about what their characters do for work—at times fulfilling, at times dangerous, occasionally invented, and usually calling for arcane knowledge, skills, and habits of mind. From sponge diver to film professor, physicist to umbrologist, our characters' professions afford us uncanny access into their inner and outer worlds.

What I Wish I Would Have Known: Considerations for First Books and Far Beyond (Wendy J Fox, Gregory Spatz, Leland Cheuk, Addie Tsai, Aisha Sharif)
In-person event
How do you find the right publisher—and what happens next? Five writers who’ve published in different models, genres, and eras will discuss in frank terms what they wish they would have known on the publishing journey. Topics include relationships with publishers, how the money works, and will encompass how to manage expectations against realistic outlooks. With an overall goal of transparency, this panel will help writers at every stage ask questions that will best serve their projects.

**What Is an Author--Off the Net?** (Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Lisa Lewis, Ralph Burns, Laura Minor, Clemonce Heard)
In-person event
In 2000 three members of this panel presented "What Is an Author--on the Net?" at AWP. The landscape has changed, and the question is different too. Online publishing is more inclusive and accessible, with greater outreach than a print-dominant approach tied to top-tier creative writing programs, and most writers, especially poets, make use of both. How has this changed the aesthetic standards of the poetry world? How has it changed the way poets approach their writing and careers?

**What We Don’t Talk about When We Talk About (or To) Agents** (Sarah Bowlin, Annie Hwang, Lucy Carson, Danya Kukafka, Mariah Stovall)
In-person event
You’ve finalized your manuscript and perfected your query letter, but now what? How do you know the etiquette or strategy to approach finding the right agent? And what comes after you’ve found the dream fit? Five seasoned literary agents offer insight about what they’re looking for, how they work with authors, and why you should never ever pitch them in the bathroom. The conversation will approach the agent/author relationship with transparency, candor and care.

**When Every Word Is A Spoon: Disabled Writers on the Accommodations We Need** (Jaclyn Rachel, Eshani Surya, Jess Silfa, Sylvia Chan, Cat Ingrid Leeches)
In-person event
Disabled and chronically ill writers are writing vital work, especially in lieu of the COVID-19 crisis. But the writing world, through its in-person events, MFA programs, and tireless publishing expectations, often does not accommodate our needs—meaning that our voices are all too easily lost. Join us as we discuss how disabled writers can protect themselves from the industry’s ableism, as well as how the larger writing community can better support and uplift disabled writers.

**When the Land Speaks: How We Strive to Listen for Language While Out in Nature** (Allen Gee, Petra Kuppers, CMarie Fuhrman, Renata Golden, Sean Hill)
In-person event
What do we as poets and essayists listen to and experience while out in nature to create the metaphors and language for our writing? What do our known landscapes bring out in our work that nowhere else does? How do we best learn about new wilderness areas? Our panel will
share different ways to nurture inspiration through how we speak on the page against the issues of our times, such as climate crisis, preservation, endangered species, historical and racial controversies, and overpopulation.

**When the Old Names Fail Us** (Kimbery Priest, Octavio Quintanilla, Lynn Melnick, Dianelly Antiqua, Matt Miller)
In-person event
Language evolves. Words both gain and lose power with social movements, cultural expectations, and personal transformation. Sometimes vocabulary evades inspiring a search for a new expression to hold all our meanings. In this panel, five poets will consider the role of poetry in the process of naming and renaming as personal, social, and cultural evolution demands shifts in how we speak about ourselves and contemporary themes.

**When We River: IN-NA-PO Poets & Hydro-poetics** (Annie Wenstrup, Kimberly Blaeser, Kalehua Kim, Aimee Inglis, Cassandra Lopez)
In-person event
Native relationships with water involve complex cultural beliefs. Likewise, Indigenous Hydropoetics has many tributaries. This panel will begin with a collaborative video poem and then consider how cultural traditions and place-based experience influence poetic form and content. We will discuss our efforts to write with rather than about water—to enter into dialogue on the ways reciprocity informs our writing, living on and off the page, including as eco-activism and multi-media expressions.

**Where the Living Sit Talking about the Mostly Dead** (Kristen Arnett, Brandon Hobson, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Kaveh Akbar, Marie-Helene Bertino)
In-person event
During the pandemic, the world shared a collective experience of loss. Death is ubiquitous, yet the topic is often avoided on the page and in life. What do we fear? Five acclaimed authors who think alongside death in genre-transcending ways that manifest as martyrs, poem-films, and conversations with the dead, will share examples and discuss why reckoning with the topic is crucial; its responsibilities, humors, and joys. Their combined perspective includes taxidermists, poets, and a death doula.

**Whose Line Is It Anyway? The Ecstasy & Agony of Collaborative Books** (Rochelle Hurt, Cynthia Arrieu-King, W. Todd Kaneko, Sophie Klahr, Vi Khi Nao)
In-person event
Collaboration is a deeply enriching, inspiring, and challenging experience for writers seeking creative connection and growth. The exchange of ideas and trust within a collaborative book project is intimidating, but it can have transformative effects on writers' voices and visions. In this panel, five authors of collaborative books across a range of genres will shed light on the process of writing, editing, and publishing collaboratively.
Why Take/Teach Kid Lit? Craft Arguments for Writers & Programs (Shana Youngdahl, Alexandra Villasante, Julie Schumacher, Nova Ren Suma, Laurel Synder)

In-person event
Courses in writing for Children and YA are expanding across the country. Why? They teach writers valuable skills! Panelists will discuss the craft benefits of this coursework and the program benefits of offering them. Attendees will develop a new appreciation for YA-MG education in Creative Writing as author-teachers discuss voice, audience, writing for a contemporary, changing market, and witnessing their students’ growth.

Women Reclaim the Page: Generative Writing to Beat Burnout (Emma Hudelson, Yalie Kamara, Melissa Fraterrigo, Amy Shearn, Lisa Low)

In-person event
In creative writing, the focus is product over process. Producing pages for publication is necessary, but when that goal takes over, what is lost? For women especially, writing solely to publish can lead to burnout. Generative writing might be an answer. These panelists, women who work in both academic and community spaces, champion writing for writing’s sake. Their interactive panel will reclaim writing as a process of discovery and invite attendees to try a few favorite generative prompts.

Women’s Caucus
More information is coming soon.

won’t you celebrate with me: BIPOC Women on Crafting the Personal Narrative (Darien Hsu Gee, CMarie Fuhrman, Anastasia-Reneé Tolbert, Preeti Parikh, Karina Agbisit)

In-person event
How do we tell the stories of our lives? Five contributors from the award-winning anthology, Nonwhite and Woman: 131 Micro Essays on Being in the World, will discuss how personal narratives offer powerful testimonies as women of color owning their place in the world. The conversation will include discussions of identity, memory, otherness, ancestral heritage, place, and writing craft. Discussion and Q&A in the end.

Working-class Jews: A Poetics of American Assimilation (Jeffrey Wolf, Kim Brooks, Yelena Akhtiorskaya, Dan Alter)

In-person event
For decades, the struggle of American identity has played out in the literature of Jewish immigration. Collisions of class and culture, personal and economic sacrifices made for survival. What does it mean to forge this identity on the page? How do we continue telling these familiar yet necessary stories? Do we resist or embrace pressures to assimilate? In this conversation, panelists of varying genres, and varying generations from the Old Country, discuss writing the Jewish experience.

Write On! Literary Centers on Fostering Sustainable Youth Communities (Susan Deutsch, Jessica Grace Kelley, Travon Godette, Joe Kane)
In-person event
How do we balance agency and boundaries within youth writing programs? How do we create, or allow our students to create, sustainable creative youth communities? Panelists from Grubstreet, The Muse Writers Center & The Porch will discuss the nuances of creating spaces that balance teen writers’ growing need for creative and personal autonomy with the need for guidance & boundaries, as well as the importance of giving students the tools to create their own creative communities post-graduation.

Write Through It, Write To It: Finding Community in Adversity (Anna V. Q. Ross, Molly Sutton Kiefer, Nadia Colburn, Hyejung Kook, Julie Choffel)
In-person event
The past years have upended how and who we think of as community. Locked down in our homes and tethered to Zoom, suddenly writers several continents and time zones away were as close as those next door. As poets, essayist, teachers, and editors we’ll explore the creation of community through difficulty. How do the exigencies of today’s convergent crises and new technologies put pressure on and also invigorate communities? We’ll discuss ways to persevere and find restorative and lasting exchange.

Writers Making Comics and Collage: How Changing Mediums Changed Our Writing (Kelcey Ervick, Naoko Fujimoto, Nick Potter, Lauren Haldeman, David Lee)
In-person event
Our panelists are writers who started making comics and collage to explore new ways of seeing the world—and our work. Our poems have exploded into collages; our characters speak in balloons; our metaphors are multi-sensory. Learn how graphic literature has energized our creative practices and clarified our voices and style. We’ll share our processes, materials, techniques—and drawing tips! Attendees will come away with strategies for transforming their own writing through comics and collage.

Writers Who Drag (Wo Chan, Addie Tsai, Elizabeth Hoover, Gabe Montesanti)
In-person event
This queer, multigenre panel focuses on the art of drag, and the ways in which concepts of hyperbole, metaphor, lyricism, and musicality can be directly applied to literary work. Panelists will discuss their work as drag artists and the way it informs their writing practice, or the ways in which they participate in linguistic drag to render categories of gender and genre malleable. Focuses will include what drag can teach writers about persona, considering an audience, and "erotic havoc."

Writing a Play or Musical on a Real Person (Jessica Lit, Doug Wright, Dolores Diaz, Robert Maesaka, Roger Q. Mason)
In-person event
Forums of entertainment are often times wonderful ways to learn about the fascinating lives of real people all throughout history. In the event that you are creating a play or musical based on the life of a real person, have you ever wondered how to get permission before proceeding?
Join the Dramatists Guild exploring business and craft, such as basic concepts of Right to Publicity, Right to Privacy, and relationship between the subject and their public image in commercial use.

**Writing About Addiction: Privacy, Anonymity, Ethics, & Truth-Telling** (Christie Tate, Laura McKowen, Laura Cathcart-Robbins, Eilene Zimmerman, Jonathan Jones)
In-person event
Addiction is a reality for many writers and their loved ones they write about. For memoirists who want to tell their stories, how they handle writing about their own and other people's addictions can be a tricky ethical minefield. Some writers must navigate issues of anonymity, a cornerstone of 12-step recovery programs. Others must consider how their stories may raise issues of legal liability. How can we share these stories ethically? How can we balance truth-telling and privacy?

**Writing about Your Trauma without Re-Traumatizing Yourself** (Elizabetj Kleinfeld, Lisa Cooper Ellison, Athena Dixon, Margo Steines, Libby Kurz)
In-person event
Writing about trauma can be therapeutic, but revisiting painful subjects can also take a toll on the writer. Beyond therapy, what can a writer do? This panel of essayists, poets, memoirists, teachers, and coaches will share how they’ve structured their writing practices to integrate support and healing, strategies for delving into traumatic memories without deteriorating psychologically, and their reasons for choosing to write in the face of pain.

**Writing and Intellectual Disability: An Inclusive Panel** (Melissa Hart, George Estreich, Amy Silverman, Laura Estreich, Sophie Stern)
In-person event
Each of the published writers on this panel has written about a family member with Down syndrome, and each of us will speak to the ethical and aesthetic complications of that process. But our panel will also include two of those family members: Laura Estreich and Sophie Stern, who will discuss their lives and advocacy. With this shared approach, we hope to trace links between advocacy, activism, and writing, showing that all can spring from—and foster—a common wish for connection.

**Writing and the day job: How writers maintain a living outside of academia** (Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Mina Hamedi, Josh Riedel, Eshani Surya, Mark Galarrita)
In-person event
There’s an old lie about the arts: if you can’t live off your passion, you teach. This adage was true for writers who also built a life as professors in academia, but with tenure-track jobs shrinking, and stable writing jobs low, how can one maintain a healthy life, writing career, and plan for the future? In this panel, five published authors in various genres discuss their different career paths in law, tech, nonprofits and other fields while also writing.
Writing and Translating the War in Ukraine (Peter Burzynski, Ana Božičević, Valzhyna Mort, Olena Jennings, Matvei Yankelevich)
In-person event
Five Eastern European Poets discuss how the war in Ukraine has transformed purpose in our work. Each participant will read 1-3 poems and then offer a brief discussion about poetry and/or translation of poetry as it pertains to the war in Ukraine. Panelists offer perspectives from each of their unique home countries/cultures with Croatia, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and The Russian Federation represented, respectively.

Writing Fictional Children (Brianna Avenia-Tapper, Marisa Crane, Kai Harris, Rachel Yoder, Jacinda Townsend)
In-person event
Children have so much narrative potential. They see the world with fresh eyes, use language in fascinating ways, and often feel more deeply than adults, who have been desensitized to the injustice and heart-break of our world. At the same time, children are easy characters to flatten and idealize, and they change on a different time scale than adults do. How do we write dynamic, authentic, fully-fleshed-out children? This panel will discuss strategies for writing strong fictional children.

Writing for the Ear: How To Create, Launch, and Grow a Podcast (Jia Wertz, Annmarie Kelly, Maggie Freling, Laura Joyce Davis)
In-person event
When it comes to podcasting, writers have a distinct advantage: they already understand the power of voice. But how do you move from writing on the page to writing for the ear? Four podcast producers--a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, Forbes writer, Stanford podcasting lecturer, and humor author--share the secrets that made their shows successful. From crafting story arcs to growing an audience and winning awards, these four women writers pull back the curtain on creating top-ranked shows.

Writing Freely in Florida: Thirty years of the MFA at the University of Miami (Jaswinder Bolina, M. Evelina Galang, Andrew Boryga, Chantel Acevedo)
In-person event
For the last thirty years, the creative writing faculty at the University of Miami has remained steadfast in our mission to celebrate diversity and promote freedom of expression. Join a panel of faculty and recent alumni as we discuss how the MFA program at UM fosters an environment that encourages multilingual writing, explores the immigrant experience, and engages with histories rooted in race, gender, and sexuality, proposing how other programs might achieve similar goals.

Writing in Written-Off States: Literary Nonprofits on Advocacy & Outreach (Ed Southern, Meg Reid, Ashley M. Jones, Becka Oliver)
In-person event
In our charged political climate, representatives from literary nonprofits located in so-called “red states” will discuss their pitfalls and their triumphs in literary programming. This panel will discuss the importance of nonprofit literary arts organizations in states with often-hostile political climates, what problems (from funding to program security) they face, and their current initiatives and future goals to foster a more inclusive community and uplift marginalized voices.

**Writing Interracial Narratives** (Erik Gleibermann, Alexandra Chang, Mira Jacob, Cleyvis Natera)
In-person event
All American literature might be read as intrinsically interracial because of how race thoroughly pervades our social realities. The writers on this racially diverse panel, representing both fiction and memoir, consciously interrogate interracial realities. How can we write stories to achieve relational depth and sensitivity? How do we address our challenges and limitations in portraying characters of other races? Which writers, past and present, offer us models for navigating the craft?

**Writing is Not Therapy: Using Craft to Contain the Uncontainable** (Megan O'Laughlin, Kelly Sundberg, Maggie Smith, Alexander Chee, Ashley Ford)
In-person event
Though writing about trauma can be therapeutic, it is not therapy. Too much discussion of writing about trauma focuses on the traumatic events themselves rather than the craft, form, and structure of the writing. Panelists will discuss techniques to help contain the unruly nature of traumatic experiences and consider how writers can stay grounded when confronting some of their most difficult experiences.

**Writing Life As A Long Game: From Emerging to the Established Writer** (Denne Michelle, Carmen Rivera, Candice Mays, David Mura, Jubi Arriola-Headley)
In-person event
“Stay focused and stay in love with what it is that you are doing.” — Dianne Reeves, NEA Jazz Master. Writing is a lifelong journey. Often a writer’s success is measured by publication, accolades, and sales. But with all the ups and downs of the writing life—emotional, financial, physical, etc.—what motivates writers to continue sitting in the chair to do the work? And what sorts of habits are needed to create meaningful art for the long haul?

**Writing Life Post-MFA: Unearthing the Realities** (Jessica Nirvana Ram, Tyler Anne Whichard, Nishat Ahmed, Susan Nguyen, Aurielle Marie)
In-person event
Is life after your MFA not what you thought it would be? Do you have nausea, heartburn, and indigestion about your future post-degree? We’re told to aim for traditional expectations. When this doesn’t happen it is easy to despair. But the truth of what success can look like after receiving your degree varies from person to person. This candid panel covers a range of perspectives on what life can offer in the next chapter. What opens up when you change your preconceptions of what’s possible?
Writing Miscarriage, Child Loss, and Complicated Childbirth in the Post-Roe Era (Kate Gaskin, Joanna Solfrian, Leila Chatti, Niina Pollari, Kwoya Fagin Maples)
In-person event
What new urgency does the fall of Roe v. Wade create for writers who experience miscarriage, child loss, and childbirth? How does the use of form and persona complicate and elucidate these topics? What can be gained by exploring racist and sexist institutions of reproductive care through poetry? How can poetry order the chaos of this kind of grief into art? Five poets will discuss their process of writing reproductive elegies, from individual poems to chapbook and full-length collections.

Writing Poetry in English as a Second, Third, Etc Language (Ae Hee Lee, Andrea Jurjević, Alonso Llerena, Siwar Masannat, Lena Zycinsky)
In-person event
What poetry can emerge from writers working in languages that are not their mother tongues? How is language and meaning metamorphosed through translingual verses, creative translation, disruption, resistance, distances, experimentation, and/or play? The poets in this panel will discuss their experiences cohabiting with the languages in their lives, their relationship with English, and how these have informed their approach to craft throughout their careers.

Writing the Literary Sex Scene: Dethroning the Male Gaze (Quinn Rennerfeldt, Caro De Robertis, Rita Mookerjee, Andrea Lawlor, Jasmine Mosher)
In-person event
Sex in writing has often been seen as taboo. On the occasions sex appears in literary works, it is often written through a white/straight/cis-male lens. This narrow gaze has dictated what types of sex scenes are “acceptable” in literature, and how intimacy can be described in a “literary” way. This panel aims to subvert the notion that sex is smut, and answer, through craft, the question: What might the description of beautiful bodies and radical acts of love look like when we change the gaze?

Writing the Multilingual Poem: Code-switching Across Cultures (Sylvia Chan, Gabriel Dozal, Geramee Hensley, José Olivarez, Jake Syersak)
In-person event
Poets who engage in more than one language consider why and when they switch into non-English languages. Equally important is how the poet negotiates between their languages while keeping in mind possible readers, and how the multilingual poem can deconstruct a monolingual American culture. Poets and translators who work in Chinese, French, German, Spanish, and Tagalog discuss their code-switching process and future in navigating the ethical burdens of serving as a medium between cultures.

Writing to Change the World Through Live Storytelling: Craft Meets Catharsis (Christine Wolf, Nestor Gomez)
In-person event
Two live storytelling champions who first met as competitors team up to discuss the craft and catharsis of sharing writing with live audiences. This discussion -- between a writing coach managing PTSD, anxiety, and depression and a formerly undocumented immigrant -- illuminates how they write and perform stories that heal, empower, open eyes, break down barriers, and change the world -- one performance at a time. Performer or not, this session will help to clarify your own writing.

**Writing Trans Sex** (A.E. Osworth, Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Aureleo Sans, Meredith Talusan, Isle McElroy)

*In-person event*

It is dangerous to be trans in the United States—in our present political climate, what does it mean to portray the trans body ecstatic with pleasure? What does it mean to both cis and trans readers? How do authors balance the pressure to perform both their own marginalization and their own joy? Join trans authors across genre as we discuss what good sex writing is, what sex writing is good for and the craft (and importance!) of writing trans sex. Buckle up: we’re reading the steamy scenes!

**Writing Trauma: Nonlinear Challenges of Survival. A Perspective of Women Writers** (Claudia Morales, Britta Stromeyer Esmail, Jo Cipriano, Devi Laskar)

*In-person event*

As survivors of traumatic events, writers often engage with the art of writing as a form of therapy. What is the relation between testimonial writing, the craft of producing a text that connects with readers, and the praxis of healing? To explore this question, a panel of women writers will discuss about memory and healing. Through their stories, they will challenge biased assumptions about the seemingly harmonious relationship between writing and healing.

**Writing Under the Influence: Accessing the Unknown through Divination** (Michele Battiste, Kristen Nelson, Hoa Nguyen, Megan Kaminski, Teresa Carmody)

*In-person event*

Divination and writing are both processes that draw from archives of knowledge, but divination opens us up to sources often difficult to access: ancestral, somatic, elemental, natural, spiritual, unconscious, silenced. By accessing these sources to inform and guide writing, our writing, in turn, generates meaning and connections that alter the archives in structure, content, and accessibility. We will explore how divination creates new paths to hidden ways of knowing and writing.

**Writing within the Diaspora: on Persian and Armenian Displacement and Literature** (Arthur Kayzakian, Pantea Amin, Armen Davoudian, Aram Mrjoian, Maryam Shadmehr)

*In-person event*

The Armenian and Persian diasporas of the eighties had an indelible effect on the populations that were displaced. Much like any people that have lost, or were removed from their homelands, a generation of children have grown and matured seeking the words to describe what they experienced, and continue to experience. This panel explains how artists have used
their experiences, not as trauma fodder, but instead to examine the core of existence and reclaim their own agency.

**Writing Your Way Through a Major World Event** (Sasha Vasilyuk, Katya Apekina, Jasmin Iolani Hakes, Cecilia Rabess, Lena Zycinsky)
In-person event
How does a writer walk the tightrope between story and history when tackling a major world event, historical or contemporary? How do they make it their own? Four novelists and a poet discuss their unique approaches to describing Hawaii's colonization, the Russian Revolution, World War II, the 2016 election, and the current war in Ukraine. From balancing fact and fiction to creating a narrative that feels fresh, we will share our experiences whipping reality into a literary shape.

**“Yes, And”: A Bisexual Exploration of Genre** (Katie Schmid Henson, Zaina Arafat, SJ Sindu, Rachel Cochran, Katharine Coldiron)
In-person event
The publishing world uses genre to classify creative output. As useful as these classifications can be, they also create silos within the literary world, systems that rely on exclusionary criteria. Bisexual writers—whose sexuality is shaped by a rejection of exclusionary rhetoric—may feel hemmed in by traditional genres and driven to experiment across genre boundaries by hybridizing aesthetics and subverting convention. This panel will explore the approaches bisexual writers bring to genre.

**You Say 'Narrative' Like it's a Bad Thing** (Sonia Greenfield, Chloe Martinez, Abby E. Murray, Felicia Zamora, Amanda Moore)
In-person event
The term "narrative" has sometimes been used pejoratively to describe poetry that is lacking in innovation, just as "feminine" has been used to describe language that is indirect or internal. This panel challenges these notions, exploring narrative as a radical poetic technique that gives voice to complexity and to the lived experience of women. Panelists will discuss how they use storytelling in their poetry; will suggest approaches to narrative poetics; and will read from their work.

**Young Adult Literature: The Essentials** (Chris Crowe, Ann Dee Ellis, Sharlene Swan, Spencer Hyde)
In-person event
What's YA Literature--and What's Not? Discusses genre traits of YA literature by sharing innovative texts that have stretched the boundaries of the field. Writing the YA Novel. Explores the differences between middle grade and YA novels, how to craft an authentic voice, and writing exercises and assignments. YA Graphic Novels. Discusses essentials of writing graphic novels, their potential as champions of diverse voices, and how to engage student writers in a comic-based curriculum.
Autistic Writers On The Inaccessibility Of Professional Writing Spaces (Chris Martin, Khaya Osborne, Zaji Cox, Julia Lee Barclay-Morton, Stephanie Kaylor)
Virtual event
5 Autistic writers consider what it means to be excluded from professional writing spaces. Many Autistic people struggle with sensory overwhelm; this issue is exacerbated by large gatherings of people. Writing is the easy part for Autistic minds. Networking, public events, relationships – these present major hurdles for people whose minds work differently. The panelists will share their experiences navigating the inaccessible world of literary spaces. How can these spaces become more accessible?

Excavating the Past: Writers and Characters Who Research (Sarah Tomlinson, Sara Sligar, Alex Segura, Steph Cha, Katie Gutierrez)
Virtual event
The perfect telling detail can bring heroes and locales to life. It’s crucial for writers to not only know where and how to conduct research, but also, what constitutes a juicy factual find. Five novelists at varied stages of their careers—who have all penned historical fiction with a pop culture bent, often with protagonists who must themselves excavate the past—reveal their research secrets.

Ghostwriting 101: Insights and Advice for Those Seeking a Lucrative Career (Kate St. Vincent Vogl, Hope Edelman, Isidra Mencos, Kate Hopper, Pauleanna Reid)
Virtual event
“No one wants to hear from the ghostwriter,” says the ghostwriter of Prince Harry’s Spare. Except those wanting to know the secrets behind this lucrative way to support a creative career. Discover how to break into ghostwriting. Learn the nuts and bolts needed for a wheelhouse of services. Find out what to consider in taking on clients and what worked and what didn’t in seeing a project through. We’ll reveal the form’s challenges and joys and how it shaped (for good or bad) our writing journeys.

Haunting, Healing, and Female Voice: Women who Write Horror (Lauren Brazeal Garza, Jenn Givhan, Erika T. Wurth, Hailey Piper, Erin E. Adams)
Virtual event
This multigenre panel explores ways in which women writers of horror, at various stages of their careers, uniquely interact with haunting, dread, healing, and conceptions of femininity in their work. Focuses include how “horror,” “haunting,” and “healing,” intersect in each panelist’s writing, and in what ways the ever-changing female experience plays a role in her work. Panelists will also offer insight into how writers of any genre might approach haunting, horror, and dread in their writing.

How to Talk to a Writer: The Dos and Don’ts of Giving (and Receiving) Feedback (Joni B. Cole, Juan J. Morales, Emily Bernard, Tim Horvath, Gary Jackson)
Virtual event
For years, “brutal honesty” was the standard for feedback in writing programs and critique groups. Today, we hear talk of “feedback sandwiches” and the power of positive feedback, but how do these approaches serve? Our panel of instructors and authors will offer insights on how to give feedback in a way that serves and supports students across genres and backgrounds. Attendees can also expect insights on how feedback recipients themselves can manage the process to make the most of this resource.

**Legends in Modern Storytelling** (Dani Hedlund, Madeline Miller, Dan Chaon, Rebecca Roanhorse, Alix E. Harrow)
Virtual event
Despite our temporal distance from the mythologies of the past, authors continually reconnect and weave our cultural legends together, contemporizing age-old tales and finding the roots where our shared human experience is most honest, urgent, magical, and intertwined. Our diverse panel of three fiction authors and a literary journal’s editor-in-chief discuss how legendary tales influence their writing and publication. Together we explore how stories of old speak to the pressing issues of today.

**Lessons from Louis K. Lowy: How to Build Legacy, Foster Community, and Navigate** (John Dufresne, Omar Figueras, M.J. Fievre, Hector Duarte, Jr.)
Virtual event
Join us for an enlightening and practical discussion on the life and work of Louis K. Lowy, a beloved Miami writer whose passing left a significant void in his local community. Through an exploration of Louis's prolific writing, mentorship, and friendship, panelists, including friends and fellow writers, will offer actionable insights and tips on how to build a lasting legacy, foster a supportive writing community, and navigate the emotional landscape of loss.

**Poetry as a Means of Healing and Transformation in Times of Trauma and War** (Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, Octavio Quintanilla, Candice Daquin, Olena O'Lear, Volodymyr Tymchuk)
Virtual event
In the tapestry of human existence, where life entwines joy & sorrow, there lies a profound art, a sublime expression that transcends time & space. Poetry, like a true companion and friend beckons us to embrace and offers solace & healing in times of unspeakable trials—moments of trauma, war & eventual peace. The event will explore how poetry bares wounds and echoes the weight of our collective suffering and communicates with those who contribute to our trials to bring transformation & healing.

**Shame, Fear, and Rage in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction** (Rhoni Blankenhorn, Emily Simon, Imogen Xtian Smith, Lynn Xu, Asa Drake)
Virtual event
Much as Walter Benjamin defines the politicization of aesthetics (in which art becomes a tool for perpetuating institutional power), so too has emotion become politicized and commodified. We are accepted and praised when we function efficiently, and when we conform to known categories. But our less palatable emotional tenors are essential to understanding the
complexities of human experience. What new political frameworks and social possibilities might arise if we embrace emotional outbursts?

**Toward a Romani Women’s Canon** (Glenda Bailey-Mershon, Oksana Marafioti, Caren Gussof-Sumption, Rachael Dosen, Lynn Hutchinson Lee)

Virtual event

Romani women writers share their rich experiences and provide valuable insights into the representation and misrepresentation of “Gypsies” in literature and beyond. The panelists come from various backgrounds, exemplifying a diverse range of Romani subgroups, including queer, disabled, and non-neurotypical writers, all working across multiple genres, from literary to speculative and mainstream literature and poetry. Panelists will share engaging multimedia presentations and bibliographies.

**When Essays Become Books: the Ins and Outs of Creating Collections** (Patrice Gopo, Grace Talusan, Theresa Okokon, Leslie Contreras Schwartz, Randon Billings Noble)

Virtual event

Essays are a popular genre, and sometimes essayists consider turning their work into a collection. The thought of taking essays and forming a book can feel daunting and perhaps intimidating. What order and structure? Which essays belong? Do I have enough essays for a book? What about previously-published work? Is there pressure to categorize essay collections as memoir? In this session, panelists will discuss the ins and outs of creating essay collections—from initial idea to published work.

**Writing Queer Stories for the Stage** (Jordan Stovall, Derek McPhatter, Charlie Meyers, Doug Wright, Roger Q. Mason)

Virtual event

Theatre has long been a gathering place where folks share stories in the hopes of seeing their own narratives, hopes, and dreams reflected back to them. For those who live in parts of the country becoming increasingly more hostile toward queer lives, it can also become a safe haven and beacon of hope for community and identity. Join the Dramatists Guild in conversation with a group of writers doing the work to share stories celebrating and uplifting the queer experience.

**Writing the Resonant Recent Past** (Sarah McCraw Crow, Jennifer Savran Kelly, Ava Homa, Daisy Florin, Karen Dukess)

Virtual event

Writers set their novels in the recent past (late 20th, early 21st centuries) for many reasons—to understand social change, to give voice to long-ignored voices, even to enhance plotting (no cell phones!). But what makes such novels resonate with the present? How can focusing on the recent past give us a clearer lens on our current era? And what considerations should writers keep in mind when writing about a time period that’s familiar, but also irrevocably different?
Writing, Translating, and Publishing Queer Ukrainian Literature (Oleh Kotsyuba, Alexander Averbuch, Vitaly Chernetsky, Ivan Kozlenko, Iryna Shuvalova)
Virtual event
Russia's war against Ukraine brought a realization that the global literary community had limited knowledge of Ukrainian literature past and present, and also a keen interest to learn more. Obscured by centuries of imperial discrimination and entrenched prejudicial stereotypes, Ukrainian literary voices are finally beginning to be heard. This roundtable spotlights Ukrainian queer literary voices and the challenges of bringing Ukrainian queer texts to English-language audiences.

Discussion Rooms

Art Belongs to Everyone: Giving Literature and Art a New Voice (NaBeela Washington, Dorian Nash, Mel Sherrer, Morgan Christie)
In-person event
The arts should belong to everyone. Lucky Jefferson is excited to present research from ongoing focus groups and the surveying of Black-identifying writers and artists residing in Chicago. With support from Illinois Humanities, this research is a step towards advancing creative communities of color by raising awareness about the harms that continue to exist in publishing. Participants will be able to learn, offer insight(s), and co-partner with us to develop new communities of practice.

Family Secrets: Balancing Love, Culture, and the Stories We Can’t Ignore (Susan Kiyo Ito, Roberto Lovato, Leslie Absher, David Mas Masumoto, Angie Chuang)
In-person event
Writing about family requires balancing loving portrayals with exposure of more difficult truths. How do nonfiction writers balance an ethics of care and a freedom to tell their truths when the story involves family? How can we manage disclosures and input or lack thereof before and after publication? What unique pressures do writers from immigrant, LGTBQI and families of color face? This interactive discussion features a diverse panel of writers who have grappled with writing family secrets.

How Food Invokes Poetry (Kashiana Singh, Amy Baskin, Jen Karetnick, Zeina Azzam, Tresha Faye Haefner)
In-person event
Poetry is witness and what better location to witness than at the kitchen table. It is an invocation of all five senses. The synesthetic aura leads to readiness for nourishment and a spiritual setting enables gratitude. Ingredients, recipes, and rituals of honoring are a celebration and a meditation. Mealtimes hold us, as well as history. Every morsel is an activation process; nothing is as evocative as food. Stories have been buried within our pots and pans. Flavors of beginnings and endings.
Indian Writers Challenge State Violence (Aruni Kashyap, Suchitra Vijayan, Shastri Akella, Torsha Ghosal)
In-person event
In the popular depictions of India circulating in the US, we rarely see the stories that the nation’s jingoistic governments have shoved under the carpet, stories of massive human rights violations committed by the Indian state in the country’s margins: military violence and Hindu fundamentalist oppression - nearly absent in the vast array of widely read work about India available in English in the US. The panelists will discuss how they represent this in their work and the challenges associated

Mental Health for the Black Academic (Len Lawson, LeConte Dill, Tyree Daye, Natalie J. Graham)
In-person event
African American professor-writers can experience microaggressions and even racism at their colleges and universities while they pursue tenure and promotion along with being present and available for their students. This panel will discuss the mental health challenges of black academic writers from collaboration with colleagues to exchanges with administration and how this affects their writing craft. Panelists will discuss how they cope with these issues while delivering excellence.

Poetry to Empower Beyond Academia: The Oklahoma Example (Grant Matthew Jenkins, Quraysh Ali Lansana, Lindsey Smith, Timothy Bradford)
In-person event
How have poets in Oklahoma, a bastion of conservative politics and low socio-economic indicators, been using poetry to serve diverse, marginalized communities outside of usual academic channels to effect positive social changes? And how can these strategies be employed elsewhere as well as improved in Oklahoma? This discussion room will be led by poets working with, in, and/or through literary non-profit organizations, artist collectives, radio shows and other media, and prisons.

Protect Your Soul and Sanity: Self Care Practices While Writing From The Margins (Diana Diaz, Connie Pertuz-Meza, Natalia Sylvester, Edmund Gunawan, Daniel Marcellus Givens)
In-person event
“Being healed is about feeling the appropriate emotions at the appropriate times and still being able to come back to yourself.” — Stephanie Foo. How do we create art that is both necessary and cathartic without sacrificing the artist? What can we do as writers to stay grounded when writing heavy subject matter? Writers share how they protect their mental wellbeing, calm their nervous system, and feel safe in their bodies to write through grief and wounds to create art.

Space, Lines, and Mattering: The journey of discovery through spoken word (Eddie Vega, Adam Henze, Dasan Ahanu, Boris (Bluz) Rogers, Andrea Vocab Sanderson)
In-person event
As the intersection of literary form and performance art, spoken word engages underserved and marginalized communities through accessible language and culturally relevant subject matter. It is this accessibility that is affirming to both poets and audiences. Our discussion will explore the possibilities in coordinating and developing programs while considering effective collaborations and best practices and dream of what we more we can accomplish in our communities.

**Story to Game** (Brandon Pollock, Santiago Marquez, Josh Reidt)  
In-person event  
Story to Game is an immersive experience where attendees submit their original stories for a chance to have them transformed into a live tabletop role-playing game (TTRPG) session. Our team of actors and Dungeon Master collaborate to bring these stories to life, creating a dynamic gaming experience full of audience participation. This event is a celebration of creativity, collaboration, and the magic that happens when narratives merge with gameplay, letting us enjoy the joy of storytelling.

**Supporting Small-Press Authors** (Chrissy Kolaya, Vi Khi Nao, Hilary Plum, Seth Brady Tucker)  
In-person event  
It can be challenging for small-press books to find their way to readers. Four small-press authors will share why supporting other small-press authors is important to them and how they do it, but the bulk of the event will provide participants with a chance to connect and to brainstorm generous, creative ways to support small-press authors. For the purposes of this event, we’re defining “small press” as anything other than Big 5 or self-publishing.

**The Long and Winding Road: How to Persevere When Your Book Takes Forever** (Susan Ito, Terry Tierney, Susanne Pari, Sejal Shah, Sari Botton)  
In-person event  
How does a writer maintain hope, energy and belief when their book takes longer than they ever expected to complete and publish? This panel of “long-haul” fiction and nonfiction writers will discuss how they persevered in the face of industry obstacles and everyday life, and share how and why they didn’t give up and ultimately succeeded. Audience members are encouraged to share their own challenges and solutions in a moderated conversation with panelists who kept going until publication.

**Where is the Door? What Can We Carry Inside?** (Charlotte Teague, Hannah Sawyerr, Tommy Mouton, Dominique Holder, Mohamed Tall)  
In-person event  
To continue the work we began at AWP23, expanding access to AWP for aspiring writers associated with HBCUs. This event focuses on aspiring creatives from marginalized writing communities. Students burning with words to write are outside the constellation of channels like AWP. The discussion will cover the continuum of issues facing writers of color and student writers of color—from "genius moments" as creatives to "unaware & invisible" looking for opportunities. Open discussion is the goal.
# Pedagogy

**A Writer in Art School: Fostering Meaningful Interdisciplinary Experiences** (Catherine Black, Lillian Allen, Ian Keteku, Jada White)

In-person event

This panel will examine methodologies that foster exploration in interdisciplinarity, outlining projects and practices undertaken in the first four years of OCADU’s creative writing BFA program, including in-class experiences and exercises, public projects, curricular intersections, and student-led initiatives and publications, all of which encourage writing that seeks new spaces for text and engage with the precepts, materials, and processes of art and design practices.

**Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Creative Writing Workshops at Community Colleges** (Shinelle L. Espaillat, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Rashaun Allen, Brenda Squires, Keith O’Neill)

In-person event

How do panelists center voices of students from underrepresented groups, and teach published work from underrepresented groups. Panelists will share best practices and discuss the mechanics of leading anti-racist discussions within the academy. Discuss the tensions between art for art’s sake and art that’s socially conscious. What are the challenges? What are the rewards? What do panelists consider when creating the course?

**Artificial Intelligence & Real Creativity: AI in the CW Classroom** (Rebecca Pelky, Allison Adair, Jordi Alonso, Kate McIntyre, Christopher Salerno)

In-person event

This panel will explore the possibilities of working with AI technology in creative writing classes, rather than fighting against its growth in popularity, by teaching students how to use AI as a tool for inspiration instead of a replacement for original human thought. Writers at the level of post-doc, assistant, and full professor, teaching across all genres at both liberal arts and STEM-focused institutions, will discuss research-based and practical approaches to using AI in their CW classes.

**Be Gay, Do Crime: Teaching queer & trans poetics in dangerous times** (Meg Day, Oliver Bendorf, Donika Kelly, Ching-In Chen, Melissa Crowe)

In-person event

Given our nation’s latest investment in suppressing both bodies & books, what is at stake—newly, historically—in the teaching of queer & trans poetics? Five seasoned poet-educators—working inside the classroom, libraries, & community centers—gather to discuss navigating threats on the poems they teach, the poems they make, & the bodies they occupy as they do both. Panelists will offer experiential commentary & strategies for protecting, generating, & sustaining queer & trans people & poems.

**Beyond Composition: Creative Action in First-Year Writing Courses** (Jayson Iwen, Ewa Chrusciel, Darci Schummer, Steve Nelson)
In-person event
While writers may consider teaching FYW courses tangential to their creative pursuits, working with these students can benefit instructors by providing them with insights into their own artistic visions and processes. Creative writing experiences can also promote meaningful change for students by helping them identify and mitigate unconscious bias. Panelists will share practical advice on using creative writing techniques in FYW classes and discuss the benefits for both them and their students.

**Collaboration in the Creative Writing Classroom** (Joanna Luloff, Kate McIntyre, Katy Didden, Evan Williams, Dionne Irving Bremyer)
In-person event
Writing is often considered a solitary—even lonely—act. Years of Covid lockdown and Zoom classrooms exacerbated this sense of isolation for many students. This panel will demonstrate how multi-genre, collaborative writing exercises can build community and unlock new creative possibilities through shared process, dialogic risk taking, and experimentation. Panelists will share their favorite collaborative exercises and discuss how their own work has been shaped by artistic partnerships.

**Everything is Awful: Sustaining Through Shitstorms and Systemic Obstacles** (Rachel Simon, Seth Michelson, Juan Morales, Tara Plachowski)
In-person event
How do you teach in the days after incidents of racial trauma, another mass shooting, deportation threats for your students, legislation targeting the rights of trans youth, limited abortion access, white supremacy, and so much more? This panel will offer practical strategies for sustaining yourself as a writer, a person, and a professional to avoid burnout and set clear boundaries so we can support our students, selves, and our community.

**Exhausted & Overwhelmed: Attempting Queer Joy in 2024** (Rachel Simon, Donika Kelly, Noah Arhm Choi, Melissa Faliveno, Melissa Febos)
In-person event
It is so much more than recommending queer texts to inspire students, as queer educators we’re called on to do much more than our colleagues. As a population that isn’t raised by our own (we mostly have straight cisgender parents) we’ve had to create our own narratives, and are called on by our students to help them invent theirs. This is made more difficult by attempts to limit bodily autonomy and ban our stories. This panel is for folks seeking to thrive and find queer joy.

**Experiential Learning, Multimodality, & the Publishing Classroom, Oh My!** (Saul Lemerond, Kimberly Southwick-Thompson, Jim Coby, Jason McCall)
In-person event
Given the demands of the current job market, the importance of experiential learning cannot be overstated. Creative Writing instructors are tackling this challenge by bringing publishing and its many multimodal facets into the classroom. From founding to production to print, our panel will
discuss best practices in organizing, editing, and promoting published work. We will address the need for print and digital literary journals as well as other publishing venues on campus and beyond.

**Fostering Digital Literacies through Creative Composition** (Tara Propper, Matthew Kelly, Michelle Whittaker)
In-person event
This panel will discuss how to foster digital literacies within creative writing projects. The goal of this panel will be to explore the following questions: in what ways can digital projects enhance creative writing students' rhetorical awareness of the unique author-audience interactions facilitated by online-multimodal platforms? How can this rhetorical awareness invite students to locate connections between their creative composing strategies and professional aims?

**Generative Workshops: Take ‘Em or Teach ‘Em** (L.J. Sysko, Maya C. Popa, Kim Addonizio, Flower Conroy, Sandra Beasley)
In-person event
A generative workshop can get you there or help you break through. This panel addresses best practices from both teacher and student points of view. Teachers: structure a generative workshop and deploy methods beneficial to and inclusive of a wide variety of workshoppers. Students: identify strategies for framing expectations and seek definitions of success beyond yielding a few solid drafts. Panelists will address their own experiences as teachers, students, and the blurred role between.

**Getting Non-Writers to Write: Teaching Outside of the English Department** (Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, Deb Olin Unferth, Elline Lipkin, Mihaela Moscaliuc, Sabrina Orah Mark)
In-person event
"I'm not good at writing," "I don't know what to write," and "My English isn't good enough,"--working with creative writers outside English departments requires shifts in expectations, approaches and consciousness. This panel gathers those working in a variety of non-traditional settings: libraries, prisons, hospitals, and teacher certification programs. Each panelist addresses challenges they've encountered and strategies for success to teach with courage, creativity, and care.

**In Praise of Legacy: Writers of Color and the Challenge of the Canon** (Enzo Silon Surin, Nathan McClain, Kenzie Allen, Michael Mercurio)
In-person event
The word “canon” in literary studies was intended to refer to humanity’s greatest writings — those which all "educated" people should know. Thanks to the work of critics and scholars of color, however, we are now able to recognize the exclusions, the silences, and the gaps that exist in the traditional concept of the canon. The four poets/professors on this panel will read poems and discuss how to explore, expand, and explode the literary canon in one's work and in the classroom.
Inside Out, Outside In: How Teaching in Prison Affects Creative Pedagogy (Ravi Shankar, Jen Fitzgerald, Anna V.Q. Ross, Shreerekha Subramanian, Brandon Dean Lamson)
In-person event
Prison writing programs often focus on the knowledge and expertise instructors bring to those who are incarcerated. In this panel, we consider the other pole: what insights and practices do teachers and practitioners gain, and how can working inside be a fertile creative, scholarly, and restorative practice for all involved? Panelists have taught classes in such facilities as Rikers Island, MCI-Concord, and Texas State prisons, and will discuss their experiences and share their work in response.

Intro Forever: Mapping the Creative & Pedagogical Terrain of Community Colleges (Jessica E. Johnson, Janice Lobo Sapigao, Shannon Gibney, Tomas Moniz, Megan Savage)
In-person event
Though community colleges typically enroll around 40% of U.S. undergraduates, they are seldom discussed as sites of knowledge production or expertise. Panelists—active writers and community college professors—will talk about the pedagogical and creative implications of open access and community immersion; the knowledges, processes, and forms that emerge from teaching introductory courses; and career sustainability with heavy course loads and limited or non-existent research support.

It’s a Crime! Genre Fiction’s Bad Rap (Sheet) in Academia’s Mean Streets (Richie Narvaez, Edwin Hill, Cynthia Kuhn, Art Taylor)
In-person event
Crime fiction has often struggled to be taken seriously in literature classes and creative writing workshops, even as the students themselves are avid fans of suspense, thrillers, true crime podcasts, and more. Professors who teach crime fiction as literature (class, race, and social justice as thematic cores) or use it as models for aspiring writers (plotting, pacing, getting readers to turn the page) explore the genre’s strengths for academia and offer tips on bringing it into the classroom.

Life as Laboratory: Using Creative Play As Activism (Celeste Chan, Gretchen Cion, Hasti Jafari, May-lee Chai)
In-person event
In the age of increasing hate attacks, systemic oppression, pandemic isolation, and AI, how can writer-teachers strike back with creative interventions? From scavenger hunts to social media to comics, we’ll dive into divergent resources to creatively resist and harness the power of play as both teachers and writers. In this generative session, we’ll invite the audience to collaborate and create a map of creative teaching resources.

Low-Stakes Creative Writing in a High-Stakes School: Upper Story (Piper Abernathy, Ben Christian, Nathan Gehoski, Luisa Muradyan, Jim Young)
In-person event
Explore one KCMO independent high school’s dedicated week of creative writing where in all English classes, across all grade levels, students engage in professional and peer-led workshops, craft talks and readings, and have time and space to write--without a grade attached. Low-stakes creative writing experiences, especially in post-Covid years, are a way to develop social-emotional bonds, imagination, and writing skills. Learn about how to design and implement a program like this at any level.

**Opening the Book on Publishing Pedagogy** (Sakinah Hofler, Erin Hoover, Megan J. Artlett, Lisa Bickmore)
In-person event
Studies in publishing appeal to student writers eager to share their own work or who want a writing-adjacent career, but few resources exist to prepare educators to teach in this dynamic field. Instructors with a range of experiences will offer advice to build publishing into writing courses, propose new courses and programs, and oversee student publications. Topics include strategies for mentoring, teachable moments, and addressing less obvious aspects like circulation and community engagement.

**Reimagining the Writers Workshop** (Laura Cronk, J. Mae Barizo, Mira Jacob, Brando Skyhorse)
In-person event
Audre Lorde wrote, “We cannot fight old power in old power terms only.” How can we attempt a different, better model of the writing workshop that honors participants unique storytelling traditions? A reimagined workshop imparts a pedagogy of deep listening while honoring sidelined narratives of people of color, differently abled and LGBTQ writers. These authors and educators discuss how to foster a community of kinship that empowers writers while honoring their diverse influences.

**Start Here (Or There): Teaching First Drafts in the Creative Writing Workshop** (Jameelah Lang, Barney Haney, Alexandra Kleeman, Shonda Buchanan, Christopher Coake)
In-person event
This panel will focus on teaching drafting in the creative writing workshop as an exploratory process. Panelists will provide techniques to uncouple generation from notions of linear progress that limit inquiry-driven creation and creative life. Instructors from small liberal arts colleges to HBCUS to large state universities will discuss different modes and levels of workshops, from graduate to introductory. We will draw upon a range of pedagogical approaches, from traditional to innovative.

**Story Mode 2.0: Exercises for Writing Narrative Video Games** (Eric Freeze, Julialicia Case, Salvatore Pane, Julian Whitney)
In-person event
This panel will present exercises for writing narrative video games from the introductory to the advanced level. We will cover a variety of topics such as character/avatar creation, plot/structure, and world building, as well as technical tools or AI generation that you can use in the creative writing classroom or in constructing your own narrative-driven video games.
Teaching Literary Editing and Publishing in a Creative Writing Curriculum (Michael Dumanis, Sally Keith, Srikanth Reddy, Hasanthika Sirisena, James Allen Hall)
In-person event
How can coursework in literary editing and publishing, combined with hands-on experience working on a national publication, best support an undergrad or graduate creative writing curriculum? Five editors of literary journals who teach editing share strategies to engage students in questions of collaborative literary assessment, aesthetic judgment, representation and equity, and distinctive curation as they become stronger readers and writers through the discussion of manuscript submissions.

The Braided Essay as Change Agent (Candace Walsh, Nicole Walker, Anna Chotlos, Sarah Minor)
In-person event
How is the braided essay form innately subversive, in realms of interiority, the classroom, society? It can be a "social justice action" for marginalized/minoritized writers; an assertion of queer lives’ complexities; a feminist refusal of linear hero’s journeys; and a way for students to weave empowering threads (i.e. memoir, research, cultural critique) together in one piece. Three innovative essayists who also teach will showcase braided essays' dynamic, hegemony-undermining possibilities.

The Impact of Denying DEI (Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes, Fayeza Hasanat, Kevin Meehan)
In-person event
This panel explores the impacts of legislative restrictions on academic freedom by sharing productive classroom assignments that encourage critical/creative thinking and writing in various genre amidst a hostile environment. One panelist recounts the impact of incorporating anti-DEI legislation into the classroom. Another's intro students selected a controversial work to study/discuss, regardless of perceived threats. The third panelist considers the dangers of policing creative expressions.

The Kentucky Black Writers Collaborative (Z Jackson, JC McPherson, Claudia Love Mair, Lucy Jayes)
In-person event
The staff at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, a literacy nonprofit located in Lexington, KY, realized supporting the Black community meant more than putting a BLM sign in the window. The staff and board begin to query their policies and practices, centering the question: are we doing enough for the Black community? The answer was an honest no, and in the fall of that year, out of the ashes of the uprising, the Kentucky Black Writers Collaborative was born.

The Life-Changing Power of Memoir: Welcoming Learner's Voices (Marion Winik, Joseph Bathanti, Tyrese Coleman, Wayetu Moore, Jamie Brickhouse)
In-person event
Guiding others on their memoir journey is an act of profound importance for social change and inclusion, with the potential to end silences and heal individuals and communities. In sharing
the art of creative nonfiction with students of all ages and identities around the world, the writer/educators on this panel have transformed their personal creative processes into conceptual frameworks and powerful prompts that illuminate the path for others. Attendees receive a packet of exercises discussed.

**The Mean Season: Intolerance and Threats in the Classroom** (Luanne Smith, Cherise Pollard, Dawn Reno Langley, Yalonda JD Green, Emily Chiles)

In-person event
Faculty, particularly women and marginalized groups, are facing escalating misogyny, racism, intolerance and outright threats in creative writing classrooms. In courses designed for self-expression, the current cultural climate is bringing out the worst in some students, causing a contentious and fearful behavior. Often, institutions offer no support as first amendment rights come into play. This panel is a grassroots effort to spotlight this growing issue and offer possible ways forward.

**The Sound and the Future: Teaching Podcasting to MFA Students** (Whitney Terrell, V.V. Ganeshananthan, Saul Lemerond, Leigh Camacho Rourks, Jared McCormack)

In-person event
Podcasting classes are an exciting addition to the MFA curriculum but teaching them can be a pedagogical challenge. How do you explain sound editing to poets? What are the best narrative podcasts for essayists? Our panelists include the authors of Podcasting in the Creative Writing Classroom and co-hosts of the Fiction/Non/Fiction Podcast. They’ll outline how they created first-of-their-kind podcasting courses and how these classes can open up new vistas for MFA students and enrich their work.

**To Keep or Not to Keep: Shifting Models in the Post-pandemic Workshop** (Sarah A Chavez, Ever Jones, Ching-In Chen, Rochelle Hurt)

In-person event
This panel explores inclusive innovations in creative writing workshop learned from remote instruction during the pandemic. Since "getting back to normal," an assumption has been made that we can and should return to previous pedagogical models. But should we? Has the traditional workshop model successfully served the growing diversity in classrooms? From varied subject positions & range of courses taught, panelists will elaborate on ways that workshop practices can & have shifted toward equity.

**Uniquely Portable Magic: Empowering Students to Read as Writers** (Joanna Eleftheriou, Heather Kirn Lanier, Silas Hansen, Cherita Harrell, Marco Wilkinson)

In-person event
Marveling at the magic of words once spurred readers to write. Yet in our utility-obsessed, AI-influenced culture, today’s students can find reading passive, unproductive, even indulgent. This panel will re-establish the importance of time “spent” reading as an integral part of a writer’s education. Addressing the BA, MA, and MFA levels, five diverse faculty will reflect on challenges
to student reading and reinvigorate colleagues with approaches that help students love reading as writers.

**Vision & Re-Vision: Teaching Revision in University & Community Workshops** (Sarah Browning, Maya Marshall, Matthew Salesses, Allison Joseph, Sara Henning)
In-person event
The revision process can feel mysterious, even terrifying, to new writers. Panelists who write in multiple genres and employ a variety of teaching strategies will ask questions of each other and the audience, as they work toward new teaching models. How can we encourage students to identify their work’s aesthetic and rhetorical purpose and revise toward it? How do we encourage play – the practice of invention and reinvention – as a route to discovery, given the workshop’s time constraints?

**We can’t all marry rich: Teaching creative writing students professional skills** (Rajpreet Heir, Sam Ashworth, Robbie Maakestad, Daniel Hoyt, Monica Prince)
In-person event
Most students don’t become professors, yet the only professional skill most creative writing programs prepare students for is teaching. In this panel, we will share methods for teaching the skills and knowledge—like publishing, freelancing, marketing, etc.—that students need to persevere as working writers outside the ivory tower. Panelists will share practical strategies and assignments for instructors so that when your students graduate they can answer the toughest question of all: “Now what?”

**Workshop Feedback: An Unmanageable Labor of Love?** (Dustin M. Hoffman, Anne Valente, Brad Modlin, Traci Brimhall, Misha Rai)
In-person event
Crafting useful feedback for student writing in workshops is one of our most important duties. However, poring over student drafts can be arduous and time consuming. How much should we comment at the macro and line level? How to inspire and encourage writers while also challenging them to revise? Five teachers across multiple genres will discuss sustainable best practices for providing feedback and why workshop comments are so unique in academia and worth the momentous efforts.

**The Anti-Ableist Writing Workshop** (Tyler Darnell Lewis, Celeste Schueler, Christie Collins, Julia Lewis, Said Shaiye)
Virtual event
Many writing beliefs are ableist in nature, geared toward the neurotypical. Too often, writers who are neurodivergent, disabled, or suffer from chronic illnesses are marginalized. While this applies to all writing spaces, this panel will focus on the writing classroom. Our experienced panelists will share their own struggles with navigating the workshop as well as offering lesson plans, writing prompts, and/or teaching tips geared toward creating more inclusive writing workshops/classrooms.
Weaving comics pedagogy into a multi-level creative writing program (Sarah Leavitt, Taylor Brown-Evans, Eve Salomons, Emily Chou)
Virtual event
Comics classes form an integral part of the UBC School of Creative Writing's multi-genre approach, from large undergraduate lectures to small graduate seminars. Comics instructors from the school will share their scaffolded approach to pedagogy within the undergraduate and graduate programs and explore how comics classes connect to other genres taught within the school. The students on the panel will discuss the impact of the school's comics pedagogy on their comics and writing practice.

Readings

A Gift, a Cage, or ... Something Else? Writing about the Body across Genres (Dani Hedlund, K-Ming Chang, Exodus Oktavia Brownlow, Robert James Russell)
In-person event
Our bodies, whether we feel empowered or trapped by them, rule over us. Our sex. Our skin color. Our weight. Our height. Our ableness. Our health. They can create a pigeonhole that determines how we interact with the world, and how the world interacts with us—but writing about the body gives us the chance to reframe this interaction as we write on our own terms. Three authors read and discuss their body-themed nonfiction and fiction work with F(r)iction's editor-in-chief.

A More Perfect Union in Extreme Times: Kansas Poets Laureate (Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Huascar Medina, Kevin Rabas, Denise Low, Wyatt Townley)
In-person event
Kansas has a tradition of serving as a bellwether, showing the country and the world where we are headed, especially in difficult times. Listen to five past Kansas poets laureate talk about how the experiment of U.S. democracy encompasses advocacy for and through poetry and involves diverse communities and actions, including how to grow the arts in extreme political environments. "When something's going to happen in this country, it happens first in Kansas," says writer William Allen White.

Ages on the Issues: An Intergenerational Poetry Reading (Lucille Lang Day, Noelia Cerna, Joan Gelfand, Mary Mackey, Jaylan Salah)
In-person event
Poets ranging in age from 36 to 79 will read poems that address environmental issues and social justice. In addition to being multigenerational—Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, and Millennials—the poets reading are multicultural, bringing Latin American, Middle Eastern, European American, and Native American perspectives to some of the most important issues challenging humanity today. This diverse group of poets will create a conversation to inform, inspire, and provide insight for all of us.
Bad Immigrant Daughters in Fiction and Nonfiction (Grace Loh Prasad, Monica Macansantos, Lisa Chiu, Lindsay Wong, Madhushree Ghosh)
In-person event
Oops—you married outside your race, didn’t get a high-status job, botched family traditions, moved far away, forgot your mother tongue, spilled family secrets, got divorced, can’t cook, didn’t have children. The list of sins is endless for immigrant daughters who walk a tightrope between assimilating enough to succeed while being judged by the values of their parents’ generation and homeland. These writers reject the Model Minority Myth and portray the drama and humor of living across cultures.

Beyond Borderlands: Celebrating Essential Latinx Poetry from Texas Presses (Maria Maloney, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Luivette Resto, Adrian Cepeda, Vincent Cooper)
In-person event
FlowerSong Press and Mouthfeel Press are just a small representation of the Latinx-owned independent presses creating vibrant work in the Borderlands. Both founded in Texas, these presses publish new, emerging, and established writers who’ve historically gone underrepresented, but whose words hold the power of resilience and transformation. This poetry reading celebrates contemporary Latinx poets and their books of struggle, truth, and hope as a call to elevate diverse voices and spread cultura.

BkMk Press 50+ Anniversary Reading (Patricia Cleary Miller, Amin Ahmad, Patricia Lawson, Dara Yen Elerath, Laura Minor)
In-person event
BkMk Press, Kansas City’s oldest literary press, began in a public library print shop. It later operated under university sponsorship for almost 40 years. When COVID budget cuts ended this support, it became a free-standing nonprofit once again. This reading features BkMk authors from Kansas City and beyond who published a book during the pandemic era and celebrates the resilience of all who published during this time.

Black History in Poetry and the Visual Archive (Tyree Daye, Niki Herd, Alison Rollins, Ashley Wynter)
In-person event
How do we think of ourselves in history, and when we do, what do we see? Three innovative poets consider how personal and public histories—Black histories in particular—are intertwined, and how the combination of poetry and images can invigorate our exploration of their complexities. Examining the use of both archival materials and personal photographs alongside numerous poetic forms, this reading and conversation will encourage brave new ways of grappling with who we are and how we got here.

Body Terrorism: Poems of Resistance, Defiance, and Survival (Jennifer Martelli, K. Iver, Chavonn Williams Shen, Subhaga Crystal Bacon Bacon)
In-person event
In the US today many of us are under constant attack by both the state and individuals. Anti-black, -indigenous, -woman, -trans, and -Queer violence; bans on gender-affirming care for adults and youth, bans on abortion; systemic racism, sexism, and fear-based decision-making at all levels of our communities cause degrees of harm physically and psychically. This group of poets will read and speak to these and other forms of body terrorism. We use poetry to speak out, speak up, and speak truth.

**Bridging the Diaspora: A Bilingual Reading by Letras Boricuas Fellows** (Cezanne Cardona, Carmen R. Marín, Urayoán Noel, Amina Lolita Gautier, Vanessa Mártir)
In-person event
Among Puerto Rico’s great cultural traditions is literature, yet Puerto Rican writers past and present lack visibility in the U.S. and continue to face the effects and legacy of colonialism. Five award-winning recipients of the Letras Boricuas Fellowship share poetry and fiction that spans topics of identity, language, and climate disasters, among others. The presenters, from both Puerto Rico and the U.S. diaspora, offer readings in Spanish and English. ASL interpretation provided.

**Celebrating 30 Years: Furious Flower Poetry Center Reading** (L. Renée, Camille T. Dungy, Joel Dias-Porter, Lauren K. Alleyne)
In-person event
Join Furious Flower Poetry Center, the nation’s first academic center dedicated to educating, celebrating, and preserving Black poetry, for a 30th anniversary poetry reading and conversation! Camille T. Dungy, Joel Dias-Porter, and Keith S. Wilson, who participated in Furious Flower’s conference held in 1994, 2004, and 2014, will share their work and experiences. Executive Director Lauren K. Alleyne will forecast the 2024 conference in September and Assistant Director L. Renée will moderate.

**Celebrating Four Decades of the Affrilachian Poets: A Multigenre Reading** (Amy M. Alvarez, Kelly Norman Ellis, Ricardo Nazario y Colon, Crystal Wilkinson, Marta Maria Miranda)
In-person event
Since 1991, the Affrilachian Poets—a multicultural group of writers who consider Appalachia home—have defied the stereotype of the region as rural and racially/religiously homogenous. Join members of this diverse collective for a multigenre reading of new and selected work that connects intersectional identities to family roots, culture, and deep connections to the land.

**Dazzling Multiplicity of the Actual: Nonfiction Hybridity & Intersectional Form** (Jen Soriano, Julie Marie Wade, Constance Collier-Mercado, Marco Wilkerson, Barrie Jean Borich)
In-person event
Conventional approaches to nonfiction emphasize single stories, linear revelations, and verifiable facts, but pressure to conform to these familiar narrative modalities can silence those who write from marginalized and non-normative perspectives. In this panel, five writers of hybrid and intersectional nonfiction discuss how their work disrupts norms, shatters singular
narratives, and complicates facts—embracing instead the power of blended genres, multiple identities, and prismatic points of vi

Diasporic Poetics: A Reading by Debut Asian Diasporic Poets (Jay Gao, Megan Pinto, Jimin Seo, Simon Shieh, Emily Lee Luan)
In-person event
Join four award-winning Asian diasporic poets for a celebratory reading of their debut poetry collections. Whether excavating linguistic lineage; reckoning with masculinity and violence; questioning the role of faith and belonging; complicating the translator’s agency—these unique poets question and challenge what it means to write as part of the contemporary Asian American diaspora. Their reading will be followed by a conversation about their writing journeys and publishing as a debut poet.

Emerson MFA at Forty: Celebrating Four Decades of Writing and Publishing (Rebecca Morgan Frank, Ciera Burch, Shuchi Saraswat, Kenan Orhan, Madeline Sneed)
In-person event
The Emerson MFA program, located in the heart of the Boston Literary District, celebrates its 40th anniversary with readings from five alumni writers from Texas, DC, Chicago, Boston, and Kansas City. The panelists discuss how their work in publishing—founding journals; founding transnational literature series; and advocating for inclusive children’s lit—informs their writing. Readings showcase work they have published across genres: poems, essays, stories, novels, YA, and translation.

Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry (Christopher Nelson, Lisa Dordal, Donika Kelly, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Paul Tran)
In-person event
This reading features four poets from Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry (Green Linden Press, Feb. 2024), which includes 102 poets who illustrate the brilliant range of poetry being written today: Frank Bidart, Jericho Brown, Franny Choi, CAConrad, Natalie Diaz, Mark Doty, Nikki Giovanni, Joy Harjo, Ocean Vuong, and many others. The Essential Voices series aims to make less insular the various poetries of the world and to correct mis- or underrepresentation in the broader culture.

First Generation Creative Writers on Voice, Place, and Belonging (Rachel M. Hanson, Diamond Forde, Danielle Cadena Deulen, Natalie Lima)
In-person event
Four writers and poets read their original works and discuss the challenges of being first generation college students, all of whom went on to earn advanced degrees and become published authors and professors. Specifically, the panel will present work relating to feelings or notions of being behind and struggling with a sense of belonging, while also finding joy in cultivating their own writerly voices despite these challenges.
From the French but not from _France_: A Bilingual Reading of Francophone Poems, Sponsored by ALTA (Conor Bracken, Nancy Naomi Carlson, Hélène Cardona, Todd Fredson, Kareem James Abu-Zeid)
In-person event
Many of the poets who claim the French language and handle it in expansive ways come from non-French cultural backgrounds. Five translators of francophone poetry will read and discuss their translations of poets from Syria, Haiti, Algeria, Palestine, and Côte d’Ivoire who use French (and, through translation, English) and inflect it with a wider diversity of non-French cultural, exilic, and decolonial concerns, among others.

Honoring Our Grandmothers—Indigenous Writers Reclaim History (Debra Earling, LeAnne Howe, Susan Power)
In-person event
Authors read and discuss new works that reimagine significant experiences in American history—narratives previously dominated by non-Indigenous writers. Debra Magpie Earling paints a more authentic portrait of iconic figure, Sacajewea, in The Lost Journals of Sacajewea; Mona Susan Power explores the devastating Indian Boarding School experiences of her family in A Council of Dolls; LeAnne Howe recounts the tale of her grandmother’s survival of a pandemic in her poetry collection: 1918.

Hybridity and the case of the active reader (Clara Burghelea, Felicia Zamora, Lauren Brazeal Garza, Jennifer Militello, Sam Moe)
In-person event
Contemporary writers turn to hybridity to grapple with social upheaval and political uncertainty at this critical time. This panel looks at how poets hybridize their work and teach their readership to dissolve genre borders, while asking for a curious and active response from their audience to the way poetry blurks, disrupts, and alters genres. Authors of recent poetry collections will gather to read work that negotiates hybridity as a creative space through linguistic innovation and inquiry.

I Published My First Book After Age 50: A Reading and Conversation (Anne Elliott, Karen Schubert, LeTonia Jones, Louise Marburg, Jimin Han)
In-person event
The publishing world can be discouraging for middle-aged beginners or vocational pivoters—but also for those who’ve been writing diligently for a long time and still don’t have a book. This panel will showcase four writers who published their first book after age fifty, with a short reading of these debut works (poetry and fiction) followed by a discussion of the advantages/challenges of debuting as an older writer.

In the Tempered Dark: Contemporary Poets Transcending Elegy (Lisa Fay Coutley, Prageeta Sharma, torrin a. greathouse, Muriel Leung, Chloe Honum)
In-person event
The forthcoming anthology, *In the Tempered Dark*, conveys the wide range of grief deemed urgent by contemporary poets from diverse backgrounds, at all career stages, exploring loss, trauma, addiction, marginalized bodies, the climate crisis, inter alia, through various styles and forms. As grief needs, from villanelle to epistle to golden shovel to erasure, these contributors’ poems show visceral links between unique bodies of/in grief and the shapes poems take on the page, transcending elegy.

**Navigating stormy waters: telling your tales when they’re hard stories to tell** (Juanita mantz, Laurie Markvart, Toni Ann Johnson, Nikia Chaney, Hannah Sward)

In-person event

How do you write your tale with compassion and love when it is a hard story to tell? These five writers will read from their works of memoir and autobiographical fiction touching on their own stories and their family stories of addiction, mental illness, trauma, neglect and chaos. After, they will talk about how they were able to navigate the choppy waters of truth telling in their books and how they use their voices for change and to highlight their own stories of redemption and forgiveness.

**Nepali Anglophone Writing: Five Writers from the Nepali Diaspora** (Khem Aryal, Rohan Chhetri, Pushparaj Acharya, Samyak Shertok, Saraswoti Lamichhane)

In-person event

The event will feature five Nepali immigrant anglophone writers writing in the US & Canada: Rohan Chhetri, Khem Aryal, Samyak Shertok, Pushpa Raj Acharya, Saraswati Lamichhane. Spanning genres from poetry, fiction, & non-fiction, they will discuss the challenges of writing Nepali diasporic lives in North America drawing roots from Nepal and India, and their role as translators and anthology editors in building a robust & complex representation of Nepali literature in English and in translation.

**Nobody’s Mother: Writing Through the Decision to Parent** (Casey Bell, Stacy Gnall, Keturah Kendrick, Erin Swan)

In-person event

This reading will focus on ways of writing about (non)motherhood. The participants will share work (including nonfiction, fiction and poetry) that thinks through the various and difficult questions, concerns, griefs, and hopes of choosing—or not having the freedom to choose—whether or not to become a mother. Through sharing their writing, these authors will present possibilities for considering (non)motherhood in diverse genres and forms.

**Queer As In: A Reading of Debut Trans and Nonbinary Poets** (Sebastian Merrill, Jennifer Conlon, Tennison Black, jason b. crawford)

In-person event

Experience the transformative power of five trans and non-binary poets in a poignant reading of debut poetry collections. Amid rising anti-trans legislation and violence, these writers navigate the complexities of identity, resilience, and self-discovery. With vulnerability and strength, their diverse voices challenge societal norms and inspire change. Join us to celebrate and amplify
marginalized perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding in a time when existence itself is a radical act.

**Queer Parenthood and Family-making: A Reading** (Nomi Stone, JP Howard, Meg Day, Sunu Chandy, Keetje Kuipers)
In-person event
What forms do poets summon to wrestle with and queer kinship? In this reading, five queer poets of diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and poetics will share recent work on their experiences of parenthood and family-making: reckoning with questions of adoption, genetics, belonging, community, and fertility technologies. World-building beyond discrimination and across differences of class, race, and orientation, these poems offer alternate dreams of futurity.

**Readings From Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Reimagine the Verse of Phillis W** (Artress Bethany White, Danielle Legros Georges, Tara Betts, Kiki Petrosino, Evie Shockley)
In-person event
Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Reimagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters (fall 2023) edited by Danielle Legros Georges and Artress Bethany White represents a celebration and reconsideration of Wheatley’s 18th-century poems by 20 award-winning Black contemporary poets. This anthology, meant to enhance the poet’s legacy for today’s readers, contains a selection of Wheatley Peters’s original poems, translations/re-inscriptions of those poems, and a short reflective essay by each poet.

**Rebel Voices Only** (Deborah Taffa, G’Ra Asim, Lamya H, Gabe Montsesanti)
In-person event
Hear from writers who pen “the voice of resistance.” Poet Alice Notley has famously said, “It’s necessary to maintain a state of disobedience against . . . everything.” Essayist Phillip Lopate has identified “the curmudgeon.” There are many reasons to be disobedient in memoir, essays, and criticism—to raise awareness, to shine light on buried histories, to give voice to impassioned appeals. But if the objective is to connect, how do we make our defiance work for a broader audience?

**Reimagining Kansas: Anarchy, Islamic Hope, Family Dysfunction, and Godly Plains** (Chloe Chun Seim, Farooq Ahmed, Becky Mandelbaum, Daniel A. Hoyt)
In-person event
Join four authors who have written about Kansas in new and imaginative ways, fleshing out the Sunflower State in their own innovative literary strokes. This innovation comes in the form of alternate histories injecting Islamic folklore into the plains and the metanarrative of a could-be Lawrence bomber, the tender story of an animal-loving family in repair and the dark tale of a supernaturally-touched farming family in decline.

**Reimagining Place: New Voices from the Midwest** (Kathryn Kysar, April Gibson, A. E. Wynter, Halee Kirkwood, Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto)
In-person event
As “fly-over country,” the Midwest is imagined as corn fields and snow drifts, not the nexus of vibrant, innovative poetry. This diverse group of BIPOC poets from Chicago, Lincoln, Minneapolis, and Onigamiising will interrogate Midwestern stereotypes by breaking boundaries of language, image, and form. As Indigenous, Queer, immigrant, Black, nonbinary, and multinational writers, they will reimagine the concepts of place, space, and the intersectional landscapes that reside in us all.

Reproductive Writes: Writing About Reproductive Choice, Loss, and Justice (Jacqui Morton, Erika Meitner, Carla Sameth, Maria Novotny, Robin Silbergleid)
In-person event
How do writers use poetry and nonfiction to explore reproductive choice, health, and loss? What are the unique challenges and risks raised in the act of writing about reproductive topics, including infertility, miscarriage, and abortion? How does the stigma of discussing the intimate emotional and bodily aspects of reproduction carry over to the page? How do these issues change across genre? Writers with a range of experiences and backgrounds will read from their work and engage these issues.

Riven Past, Wounded Present: Writers from Kansas City and Tulsa (Rilla Askew, Whitney Terrell, Desideria Mesa, Glenn A. North, Quraysh Ali Lansana)
In-person event
Writers from Kansas City and Tulsa whose work cuts to the heart of two Midwestern cities with parallel wounded histories and contemporary divisions. From the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre to Kansas City's storied history of racism and segregation to the 2023 KC shooting of Ralph Yarl, a Black teenager who rang the wrong doorbell, the work of these award-winning poets and fiction writers scours politics, contradictions, injustices, and inequalities in their cities' riven pasts and divided present.

Say Gay Today: Writing & Existing in the Backward Climate of Anti-LGBTQ+ Legisla (J.D. Isip, Nicole Tallman, Chen Chen, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, Dior J. Stephens)
In-person event
Join queer poets Chen Chen, Nicole Tallman, Dior J. Stephens, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, and J.D. Isip for a discussion and reading focusing on the importance of voicing our existence in the face of recent anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the nation (and the world). Come add your voice to the discussion and to the chorus of queer voices who refuse to go quietly into another age of erasure.

Scarlet Tanager Books: 25th Anniversary Poetry Reading (Lucille Lang Day, Anne Coray, Ruth Nolan, Kurt Schweigman, Georgiana Valoyce-Sanchez)
In-person event
Scarlet Tanager Books, founded in 1999, publishes work by West Coast authors. The press has a special interest in environmental writing and Native American literature. The 25th Anniversary Poetry Reading will feature poets who celebrate the beauty and warn of the fragility of
landscapes from Southern California to Alaska and will include editors of Scarlet Tanager’s groundbreaking anthologies Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California and Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California.

**Shaking Up the Memoir from Middle America** (Taylor Brorby, Camille Dungy, Toni Jensen, Gabe Montesanti)

In-person event

Four diverse memoirists come together for a discussion of the joys and perils of writing timely memoirs from the middle of the country, exploring issues related to voice, persona, research, and tension in developing a well-constructed memoir.

**Singing Our Joy: A Reading by Neurodivergent Poets** (Nathan Spoon, Addie Tsai, Leslie McIntosh, Angela Peñaredondo, Shannon Hardwick)

In-person event

Neurodivergent poets face many challenges and still we hold joy. Our different rhythms are too often viewed as wrong, bad, inappropriate, uncaring, lazy, childish, pointless, and more. With our whole selves we disagree, and with our poems we resist and dismantle such negative framing. We sing our joy. This event features five neurodivergent poets who will be reading toward the depths of neurodivergent joy.

**Sound & Color: Poets and Visual Artists in Exquisite Exchange** (Emily Van Kley, Maya Jewell Zeller, Claudia Castro Luna, Sun Yung Shin, Vi Khi Nao)

In-person event

Over the course of ten days, five pairs of poets and visual artists from varied backgrounds exchanged work in the style of a cross-disciplinary exquisite corpse. The resulting collaborations are premiered in this panel, with reflections on the process by poets (in person) and artists (by statement or video) exploring the potential of ekphrastic exchange to nurture relationships, urge work in new directions, and expand our understanding of sound, color, and other tools of our respective crafts.

**Split/Lip Press 10th Anniversary Reading** (Mila Jaroniec, Anurag Andra, Devon Capizzi, Jillian Danback-McGhan, Jared Yates Sexton)

In-person event

Split/Lip Press is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2024! For this reading, five authors from our catalog will read from their books. Split/Lip Press is proud to publish innovative, boundary-breaking prose; we’ve helped launch the careers of some of today’s most exciting prose writers of the last decade.

**Ten Years of a Literary Series: Stories from the UPK New Poetry & Prose Series** (Lisa Williams, Rion Amilcar Scott, Manini Samarth, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Serkan Gökemli)

In-person event

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the University Press of Kentucky (UPK) New Poetry & Prose Series, which features award-winning books by unique voices, four authors will read from
their short-story collections in the series. Set in diverse locales from Africa to Middle East and North America, and ranging from realist to surrealist, their lyrical stories about ethnicity, gender, immigration, race, and sexuality highlight some of the stunning writing this acclaimed series has published.

The Unsung Masters Reading (Kevin Prufer, Niki Herd, Michael Peterson, Kazim Ali, Dana Levin) In-person event
Each year, the Unsung Masters Series publishes a book devoted to the life and work of a great but little known author. Volumes include large selections of the author's work printed alongside interviews, articles, drafts, photographs, and ephemera. This reading brings together the editors of four recent volumes who will read from the work of poets Shreela Ray, Tom Postell, Bert Meyers, and Laura Hershey. This event should lead to great discoveries for those who attend.

This is Nebraska: Appraising the State We're In (Theodore Wheeler, Chris Harding Thornton, James Han Mattson, Moisés Delgado, Britny Cordera) In-person event
Writers across generations and genres read their work and discuss what it means to be an author from the Great Plains at this moment. Inspired by the public radio series "This is Nebraska: Books That Tell Our Story," this panel will delve into what it's like to write, live, and persist in a place that's considered culturally homogenous “flyover” country but whose diverse population is often polarized and marginalized. How do we engage the region's traditions? How do we push back against them?

Under Control: Writing Motherhood in Dark Times (Hannah Michell, Minna Dubin, Amanda Montei, Katie Gutierrez, Allison Yarrow) In-person event
Modern motherhood is a daily exercise in relinquishing control. But how do we mother when the supports that keep us and our families safe and cared for become increasingly elusive? And how do we write about motherhood in an era of fear and state-control? These writers will read from their latest works that examine the body, pregnancy and postpartum, maternal anger and anxiety, and mothers searching for truth and solid ground when they don't know who or what they can trust. Q&A to follow.

Wings of a Bird in Flight: Poets of the Cuban and Puerto Rican Diasporas (Malcolm Friend, Jennifer McCauley, Yesenia Montilla, Leslie Sainz) In-person event
In 1893, when Lola Rodríguez de Tió wrote, “Cuba y Puerto Rico son / de un pájaro las dos alas, / reciben flores o balas / en el mismo corazón,” she acknowledged the two island territories’ shared fates—from Spain’s final Caribbean colonies to early testing grounds for the US’s evolving empire. This event brings together poets from Cuba and Puerto Rico’s collective diasporas to read from their work and discuss how diaspora and the politics behind it inform their poetics.
Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education; Celebrating 10th Anniversary (Daisy Hernández, Yalitza Ferreras, Celeste Mendoza, Jennifer De Leon, Gail Dottin)

In-person event
Contributors to the International Latino Book Award-winning creative nonfiction anthology will read from personal essays that explore the range of Latina experiences in college and share their reflections since the groundbreaking collection was published a decade ago. These compelling narratives provide crucial insight into the complex intersection of race, class, and educational issues, dispelling myths and showcasing the diversity of this community’s experiences in higher education.

Women of New Fabulism and Speculative Literature: A Reading (Sarah Kain Gutowski, Carolyn Oliver, Nic Anstett, Aimee Parkison, Chloe Chun Seim)

In-person event
Fabulism and speculative literature have long employed the bizarre, unexpected, and impossible to better reflect human experience. Recent political and societal changes, such as anti-trans laws, the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, and the attack on no-fault divorce make the seemingly impossible much more expected, and these genres feel increasingly relevant and prescient. Join us for a reading by writers who use the weird to reflect on what it means to be female in an increasingly fraught world.

Writing and Translating “The Other”: New Fiction from Frayed Edge Press (Alison Lewis, Areg Azatyan, Laura Nagle, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub)

In-person event
Reading, particularly in translation, allows us insight into others' lives, cultures, and experiences. This event presents three books with cross-cultural themes, each set on a different continent. Originally published in Yiddish, Armenian, and French, all are newly available in English in their entirety for the first time. These works illustrate their authors' and translators' efforts to respectfully portray the "other"—those of a race, gender, culture, and/or time period other than their own.

Writing with Fire: Poetry and Mental Illness (Stevie Edwards, Marlin Jenkins, Eugenia Leigh, Danez Smith, Leila Chatti)

In-person event
This panel will explore representations of mental illness in poetry and the complex relationship between mental illness and the artistic temperament. While the “mad poet” archetype is flawed, a poet’s mental state and the poetry they produce are inextricably linked. After reading a sampling of their own work, panelists will share their experiences with writing about mental illness, including a discussion of craft, therapeutic benefits, destigmatizing mental illness, and intersectionality.

Yes We Exist, America: Queer South Asian Stories & Why They Matter (Shastri Akella, Bushra Rehman, Sarah Matthews, Aruni Kashyap, Neel Patel)

In-person event
The panel brings together queer writers of diverse South Asian origins: Pakistan-American, Omani-Indian, Assamese, diasporic, and southern Indian. We read from their fiction, share the unique challenges we faced between writing our books and publishing them, and talk about how queer South Asian fiction is in dialogue with queer writing being read in the US, even as they tell unique stories rooted in the specificity of historical, cultural, and postcolonial legacies.

**Climate Fiction: African-Diaspora Ecology** (Linda Masi, Osahon Ize-Iyamu, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Aya De Leon)
Virtual event
Climate Fiction is gaining popularity in African literature among indigenous African writers and those who reside in the diasporic. As a genre, this event aims to shed light and explore how the works of various writers engage with pressing ecological problems in Africa or the diaspora. To accomplish this, writers will have the opportunity to read either an excerpt of a long work or a short work. After which, there will be a panelist discussion facilitated by an appointed moderator.

**Embracing the Body: A Journey of Illness and Celebration** (Maria Maloney, Carolina Monsiváis, Elisa Garza, Katherine Hoerth, Laura Cesarco Eglin)
Virtual event
Throughout our lives, we encounter various health challenges and gender expectations on our bodies that test our physical and emotional well-being. However, there is beauty to be found in celebrating our bodies. This panel of poets shares and discusses poetry of resilience and celebration of our bodies to find meaning and perspective. The panel explores the transformative power of writing that honors the courage it takes to embrace the diversity of our bodies.

**Letters of Love: Proclaiming the Voices of Sanity and Humanity Amidst the War** (Lyudmyla Khersonska, Halyna Kruk, Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, Anita Nahal)
Virtual event
The reading event will feature three female poets from Ukraine and the USA, who will read from their latest poetry collections on the war in Ukraine. "Today is a Different War," a short collection by Lyudmyla Khersonska (Arrowsmith, 2023), "A Crash Course in Molotov Cocktails," by Halyna Kruk, translated by Amelia Glaser and Yulia Ilchuk (Arrowsmith, 2023), and "Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava" (River Paw Press, 2023) by Kalpna Singh-Chitnis will offer fresh perspectives on War in Ukraine.

**Queer & Trans Asians Writing as Rebellion by Asian American Writers' Workshop** (Kay Ulanday Barrett, Kirin Khan, Zeyn Joukhadar, River Ying)
Virtual event
The Asian and Arab community has been fraught with public and political violence directly enacted by colonization, displacement, and policing. What does it mean to uplift Queer Asian writers in a time of upheaval and resistance? What does it mean to rejoice queerness in the cusp of difficulties? How do we reframe narratives to compose transformation for our
communities? Writers will share nuanced approaches to writing as they present complex, multi-ability, queer, and anti-colonial writing.

**Unmasking Grief: Writers Confront the Illusion of Post-Pandemic Recovery** (Jan Steckel, Terry Tierney, Amaranthia Sepia, Claire Jones, Suchandrima Banerjee)
Virtual event
Is the pandemic over? And if so, for whom? Is a 9/11’s worth of death a week in the US simply the new normal, and is that because we undervalue most of the currently ill/dying: the elderly, the chronically ill and the disabled? Literature is a way to process our grief, isolation, fear, anger, and the tremendous cost of what happened. We’ll read work about what and whom we lost and what we felt. We will also urge the literary world to maintain the disability-inclusive aspects of virtual events.

**Writing Beyond Bone: Black and brown Disabled Poetics** (Kay Ulanday Barrett, Saleem Hue Penny, Walela Nehanda, Joselia Rebekah Hughes)
Virtual event
This event convenes sick and disabled poetics to center celebration, climate, and critical social justice in writing that pushes against devastation in our daily lives. Here, disabled Black and of color poets discuss nuanced and intricate connections to disability and their writing practice. In this event, we will showcase a vast and complex sick and disabled poetics that center dynamic approaches to collective creativity. This reading and dialogue aims to expand poetry amidst a U.S. landscape.