

#AWP24

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

KANSAS

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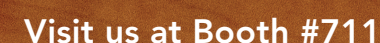
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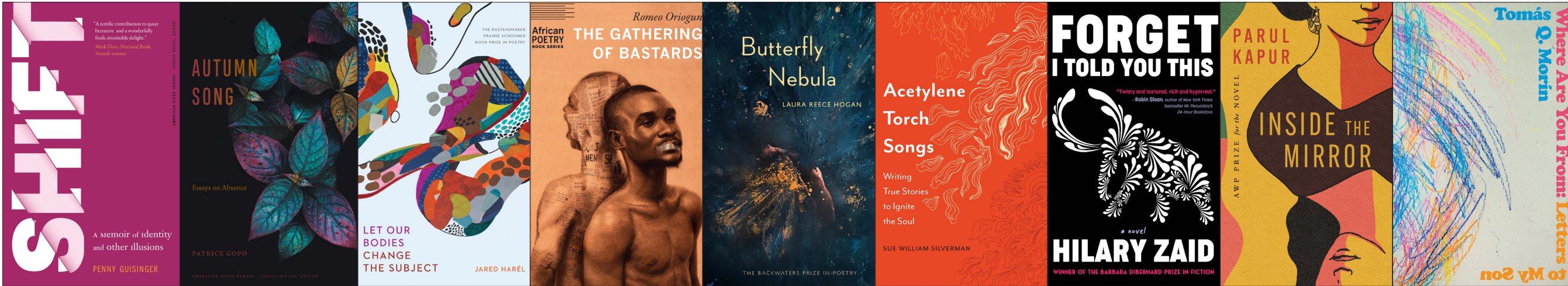
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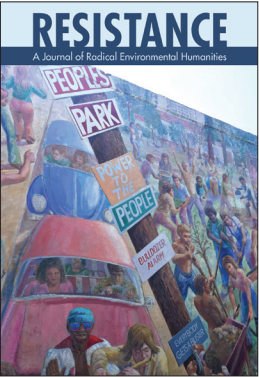


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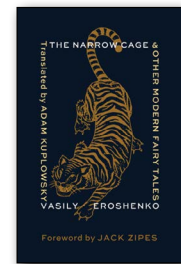
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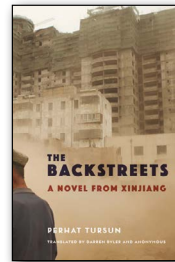
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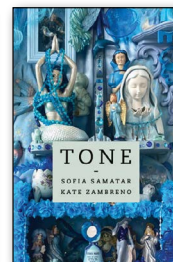
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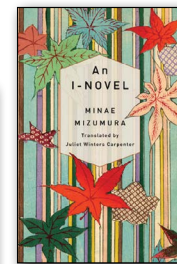
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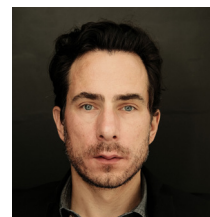
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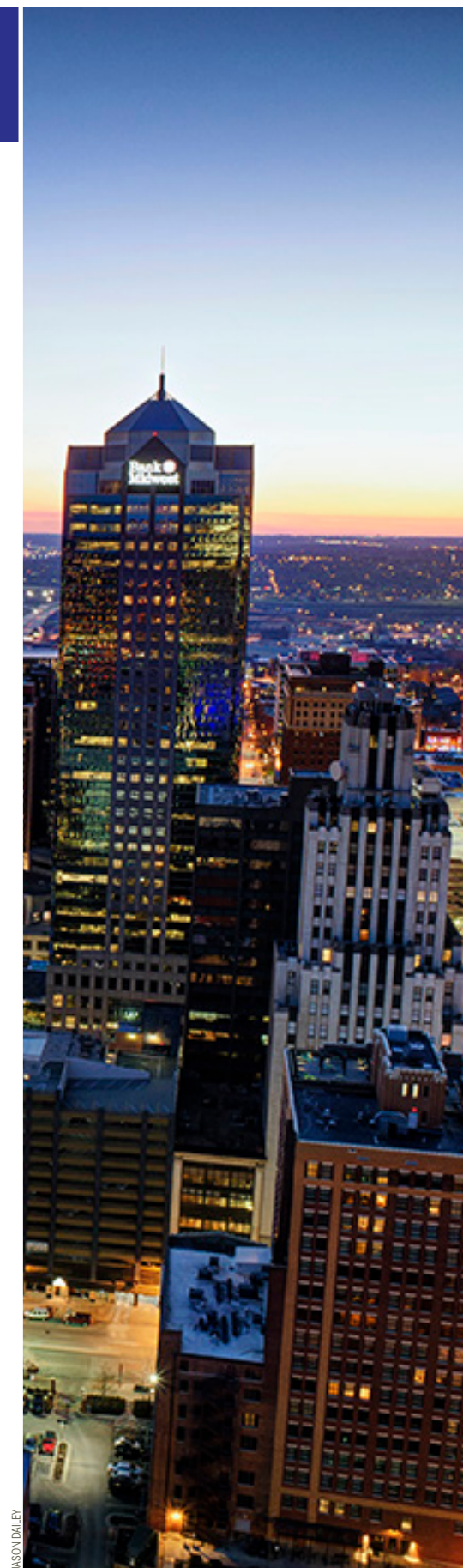
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Your guide to using social media at the conference

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<https://bit.ly/AWP24KCevent>

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Use social media to share your experiences and connect with fellow attendees. Take advantage of the free Wi-Fi at the bookfair, live tweet your favorite events, and follow the discussion online or through the #AWP24 mobile app. As you use social media, please consider these tips:

- Tip 1. Walk the red carpet.** We are excited to have you here! When first entering, use the entry columns decorated for #AWP24 in Kansas City to take a selfie. Share your photos on social media using #AWP24. We just may share your photo!

**Tip 2. Use the official hashtag everywhere.** You will find shared discussions, images, and other content by searching for “#AWP24” on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media channels.

**Tip 3. Tweet creatively.** Tweet photos of things you encounter, such as flyers for off-site events, bookfair exhibit sales or specials, or bits of poetry and prose that inspire you. Be sure to also tweet what you think about each event you attend.

**Tip 4. Because event titles are long, use an event number hashtag when live tweeting an event.** Find the correct event number in your conference program, the online schedule, and the #AWP24 mobile app.

**Tip 5. Give credit.** When you quote a presenter, be sure to include their name and social media handle.

**Tip 6. Visit the Help Desk for immediate assistance.** The AWP staff is ready to help you, but during the conference we unfortunately cannot respond to every question asked on social media. For the quickest answer to an urgent question on-site, find the AWP Help Desk located in the registration area in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3. If you have an accessibility issue, please contact the Accessibility Desk (in person, by phone, or by email). See the Accessibility Services section of this program for more information.

**Tip 7. Stay connected and safe.** You can use social media and the #AWP24 mobile app to connect with others. Use #AWP24 in your posts to follow up with presenters, exhibitors, and fellow attendees. Stay safe by staying informed. In the event of an emergency, we will notify attendees with alerts on social media and on the #AWP24 mobile app.

Be sure to follow @awpwriter for conference news! This is AWP’s handle for Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok. It is the best way to get updates at the conference. Staff will be replying and retweeting whenever possible throughout the event. Be sure to like us on Facebook too!



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- January Gill O'Neil
- Givens Foundation
- Miriam Herman
- James Hill
- Michael Khandelwal
- Kathryn Kysar
- Joanne Leedom-Ackerman
- Jerod Santek
- Stephanie Vanderslice

### \$50 - \$499

Alexander Abreu • Kamesh Aiyer • Alex Alberto • Annette Allen • Nathalie F. Anderson • Hilary Ipatia Apostolides • Hilary Appleman  
Kendra Atkins-Boyce • PL Bandy • Mark Bannon • Jeffery Bartone • Sarah Beauchemin • Herman Beavers • John Beebe-West  
DeMisty D. Bellinger • Ann Beman • Emily Besh • Lisa Bickmore • Eileen Bjorkman • Sheila Black • Sandy Bredt • Therese Broderick  
Nic Brown • Jerry Brown Schwartz • Sarah Browning • Heather Bryant • Cindy Buhl • Nancy Bunge • Jenny Burkholder • Leslie Campbell  
Monika Cassel • Amy Chambers • Stephanie Chandler • Lan S Chang • Sarah Chang • James Chapin • Sarah Clemens • Michael Cohen  
Desiree Cooper • Kimberly Crecelius • Sonja Curry-Johnson • Suzannah Dalzell • Mary Davis • Lucille Lang Day • Lenora Desrosiers  
Tamara Diaz Garcia • Ruth Dickey • Jean Dowdy • George Drew • Carleton Eastlake • Emily Eddins • Tricia Elliott • Angela Elson  
Marian Exall • Kaerla Fellows • Boak Ferris • Melissa Flores Anderson • Frederick Foote • Judith Ford • Seth Foster • Karen Franck  
Robert Gamble • Donald Garrett • Jim Gearhart • Michelle Geoga • Steve Gerin • Katharine Gilbert • Jenny Gillespie Mason  
Nancy Glass • Philip Graham • Robert Granader • Laura Green • Molly Gross • V. Hansmann • Paul Harding • Kathleen Haun  
Gail Hatkoff • Mallory Hellman • Kristen Henderson • Sharon Hennessy • Robert Hoffman • Cynthia Hogue • Molly Hollenbach  
Sarah Imbach • Ron Jolliffe • Sheron Jones • Lisa Kastner • Elizabeth Kauffman • Ellen Kazimer • Douglas Kearney • John Keene  
Kalehua Kim • Brian Koester • Sussy Komala • Travis Kurowski • Milree Latimer • Stacy Lawson • Sydney Lea • Sandra LeDuc  
Amy Lemmon Bowen • Lora LeMosy • Jessie Lendennie • Tucker Lieberman • Elizabeth Logan Harris • Conley Lyons  
Rebecca Mabanglo-Mayor • Ruben Martinez • Micheal McDermott • Kathleen McGuire • Donna Miele • Pamela Mills  
Chris Naff • Lya Osborn • Keli Osborn • Katherine W. Oxnard • Nicie Panetta • Debra Pappler • Elise Paschen • Ellen Peckham  
Pamela Pesconsolido • Leslie Pietrzyk • Kenneth Post • Hilda Raz • Mickey Revenaugh • Suzanne Richardson • James Richardson  
Paula Ristuccia • Sara K Ritter • Erin Robertson • Jane Rosenberg LaForge • Jerod Santek • Paul Sarvasy • Cindy Savett  
Robin Schauffler • Timothy Schaffner • Lee Scheingold • Kathleen Schmidt • Christine Schrum • Olivia Sears • Beth Shamaingear  
Yohanah Sheikh • Patricia Shepherd • Cynthia Sherman • Deborah Sherman • Evie Shockley • Sharon Y Sim • Gene Smith  
Luanne Smith • Parker Smith • Patricia Smith • Rose Smith • Raymond Soto • Aline Soules • Elaine Spooner • Vimla Sriram  
Lynn Stansbury • Terence Stevick • Sebastian Stockman • Adam Strassberg • Tari Stratton • Nina Strellov • Woods Stricklin  
Daniel Tamulonis • Tony Thayer • Jeanne Thorton • Kristen Tracey • Irene Turner • Sharon Van Epps • Ryan Vandehei  
Debbi K Vanselow • Barbara Varanka • Margaret Wagner • Kate Walbert • Ebonya Washington • Krystyna Wasny McClain  
Marla Weeg • Cynthia White • Jane Wieder • Amanda Williamsen • Carletta Carrington Wilson • Laura Wolfson • Joseph Wright • John Yau



pride haven

Pride Haven is a low-barrier shelter and resource center with deep roots in the Kansas City community, serving transition-aged LGBTQIA+ youth.

AWP has partnered with Pride Haven for #WritersServe to aid their mission to “provide a safe and welcoming overnight shelter for all Kansas City LGBTQIA+ youth aged 18-24.”

Stop by **Pride Haven** at Booth 631 to learn more, drop off journals or books (available for purchase at Rainy Day Books or on Bookshop.org), or make a direct donation or online wish list purchase.



The #WritersServe program is an initiative created by AWP to give back to the literary community of the region hosting the annual conference. #WritersServe aims to uplift, equalize, and provide resources to groups and organizations in need of assistance. We hope to leave the surrounding community with a stronger bond to the literary arts.





# General Conference Information

## A Welcome to All

AWP welcomes diversity and the participation of individuals in its activities regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, socioeconomic status, age, disability, or religious or political belief. AWP encourages the contributions of all of its members and attendees at the conference and is proud to create an event that supports such inclusive participation.

## About AWP

Founded in 1967, AWP provides support, advocacy, resources, and community to writers, college and university creative writing programs, and writers’ conferences and centers. Our mission is to foster literary achievement, advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing.

## About the Conference

AWP’s first conference was held in 1973 at the Library of Congress and hosted six events and sixteen presenters. George Garrett, one of AWP’s founders, planned the first gathering with help from the National Endowment for the Arts. Presenters included Elliott Coleman, founder of the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University; Paul Engle, an early director of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop; poets Josephine Jacobsen and Miller Williams; and novelists Ralph Ellison and Wallace Stegner, among others. The conference grew steadily, and with the addition of the bookfair in the mid-1980s it became the foundation for what has become the largest literary conference in North America. This year’s conference will host over 375 events, 1,500 presenters, and more than 500 presses, journals, and literary organizations from around the world. Most conference events are organized by their participants and selected through a competitive submission process by AWP’s conference subcommittee. Featured events are organized and sponsored by member institutions, affiliated literary organizations, or AWP.

## Proposals for Our 2025 Conference in Los Angeles, California

AWP welcomes proposals for future conference events. Please visit [https://www.awpwriter.org/awp\\_conference/event\\_proposals\\_overview](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/event_proposals_overview) for information about proposing an event, literary partnership, or sponsorship for next year’s conference in Los Angeles, California. The deadline for event proposals will be later this spring.

## Conference Registration & Check-In

Attendees who have registered in advance, as well as attendees who have not yet registered, may pick up their registration materials in the registration area, located in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, level 3. Please consult the maps in the #AWP24 mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to check in or register at our senior rate. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement registrations.

## Registration Hours

Wednesday, February 7: 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 8: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 9: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 10: 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

## Need Help?

If you have problems registering or require assistance, please visit AWP’s Help Desk, located in the registration area in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, level 3. If you have a question about accessibility services, please visit the Accessibility Desk in the registration area, email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with “On-Site Accessibility” in the subject line, or call or text the on-site accessibility hotline at (240) 269-6635.

## #AWP24 Health & Safety Policy

We are aware that many attendees of #AWP24 may be immunocompromised, be in vulnerable medical or health situations, or have another condition putting them at a higher risk of contracting a severe case of COVID-19.

We also recognize that there are those who, at this stage of the pandemic, require flexibility with mask policies, those for whom wearing a mask for an extended period of time is difficult or prohibitive. Many people who may need to read facial and/or social cues, are D/deaf or hard of hearing, and/or have breathing conditions or disabilities, among other disabilities and conditions, have difficulty in masked environments. As is AWP’s practice with all accessibility arrangements, we do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation, including the personal choice of wearing or not wearing a mask per individual need or situation.

In order to accommodate as many attendees’ needs as possible, AWP strongly encourages attendees who can wear a mask safely to do so at all times while on-site in Kansas City. We encourage this practice even for those who are not particularly worried or vulnerable in service to those who are.

## Get Connected

Stay on top of everything happening at the conference by following AWP on Twitter (@awpwriter) and #AWP24 on all social media.

## Virtual Access

All in-person registrations include full virtual access and provide 40+ hours of virtual content for one month postconference. Starting the week of #AWP24, visit the Conference Overview page of the AWP website to access virtual conference content.

## Conference Mobile App

You can download the #AWP24 mobile app for both Apple and Android by searching for “AWP24” in your mobile device provider’s app store. The #AWP24 mobile app features the most up-to-date conference schedule and maps of the conference and surrounding areas. You can also use it to personalize your conference schedule, keep up with #AWP24 on social media, and connect with other #AWP24 attendees. Please note, if you still have the #AWP23 mobile app downloaded on your device, you may need to delete and redownload the conference mobile app to see updated #AWP24 information.

## AWP’s Bookfair

The AWP bookfair is located in Exhibit Halls D and E, Kansas City Convention Center, level 3. This year’s bookfair showcases more than 500 presses, journals, and literary organizations from around the world. Please consult the maps in the #AWP24 mobile app for location details.

## Find Us in the Bookfair

Stop by the AWP Membership Booth to meet with AWP board members during bookfair hours at the conference! Join us for coffee every day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and chat with senior publications editor James Tate Hill to learn more about the *Writer’s Chronicle* and the AWP Award Series. Also from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can meet with a member of the AWP membership team to discuss the many year-round benefits of AWP membership, such as the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, the Intro Journals Project, and the AWP Prize for Undergrad Lit Mags.

## Bookfair Concessions, Bar, & Lounge

Breakfast and lunch concessions are available inside the Exhibit Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center. Debit cards, credit cards, and tap to pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the #AWP24 mobile app for location details.

## Lost & Found

All found items will be turned over to the Kansas City Convention Center security team at the close of registration each day. If you have questions, please visit AWP’s Help Desk, located in the registration area of the Kansas City Convention Center.

## First Aid

First aid is located outside of Exhibit Hall D, Kansas City Convention Center, level 3. Please consult the maps in the #AWP24 mobile app for location details.

## Nursing Lounge

The nursing lounge is located in room 2213, Kansas City Convention Center, level 2 and is available for any nursing parent to use.

## Childcare Services

Your hotel concierge likely maintains a list of recommended local providers.

## Smoking

Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.



# Accessibility Services



Thank you for coming to the 2024 AWP Conference and Bookfair in Kansas City, Missouri. AWP is committed to making your conference experience accessible and comfortable. We were in touch prior to the conference to ask if any attendees would be needing an interpreter or an assistive listening device. In the event that you were unable to send us your requests, we are here for you and are keen to do everything we can to ensure your enjoyment of the conference. Please do not hesitate to call, text, email or visit us at the Accessibilities Services desk, the details for which are listed below.

## A Note to All Attendees & Presenters:

*AWP is committed to making its annual conference and bookfair accessible to all, and to doing everything we can to achieve this. As attendees and presenters, please take note of the following ways you can help create a comfortable and welcoming environment for everyone.*

- Please keep all designated areas and aisles clear for persons who may be using wheelchairs, canes, crutches, or motorized scooters. Space should be left around the doors and aisles at all times to allow access.
- Please be respectful of service animals; they are working animals and should not be distracted.
- As a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities, please refrain from using scented products.
- If you are presenting, please use the provided microphones. To help facilitate question and answer sessions, pass the wireless microphone provided in each meeting room.
- Also, if you are presenting, please reserve at least ten copies of your presentation in writing for audience members who have disabilities who wish or need to follow a written text. These copies should be in large-print (14-16 point), boldface format on white paper stock.
- Please be aware of those with invisible disabilities and do not question anyone's use of an accommodation.
- Please note that the Dickinson Quiet Space is intended to be a reprieve from the noise and bustle of the conference; it should not be used for conversations or meetings.

*Finally, we'd like to note that reporting an accessibility issue or barrier should not solely be the responsibility of those with disabilities. We encourage everyone to report any accessibility issues or barriers—such as A/V equipment left in an aisle, microphones not working, and chairs moved into space designated for wheelchairs—by calling or texting the Accessibility Hotline at (240) 269-6635, or by emailing [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with subject line “On-Site Accessibility.”*

## Accessibility Services

While at the conference, AWP will have an Accessibility Services desk located in the registration area in the Exhibit Hall E of the Kansas City Convention Center on Level 3. Please visit us for any accessibility needs, requests or concerns. But you do not need to visit this desk to speak with us about how we may be of assistance. You can call or text the on-site accessibility hotline at (240) 269-6635, or email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with “On-Site Accessibility” in the subject line.

You may also find accessibility resources on the #AWP24 mobile app and on our Accessibility Services webpage at [https://www.awpwriter.org/awp\\_conference/accessibility\\_overview](https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/accessibility_overview).

## Conference & Event Space

The Kansas City Convention Center is accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All rooms are wheelchair accessible and will have seats in the first row and back row marked as reserved for individuals with accessibility needs.

## Interpreters & CART

American Sign Language, Cued Speech Alliteration, and Computer Assisted Real Time Captioning (CART) translators have been scheduled to assist those who requested them prior to the conference, but if you were unable to do so, we would still love to do everything we can to try to coordinate with the translators for your assistance. Please call or text the on-site accessibility hotline at (240) 269-6635 or email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with “On-Site Accessibility” in the subject line.

During the conference, attendees will be able to meet up with their translators at the Accessibility Services desk.

## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

The Kansas City Convention Center has a limited number of assisted listening devices and receivers, which have been assigned based on requests. Please see the Accessibility Services Desk to see which event rooms have this technology installed.

## Service Animals

All service animals are welcome in all spaces at the AWP Conference & Bookfair.

## Attendants & Assistants

Complimentary registrations will be granted for all attendants or assistants accompanying a registered conference attendee. To receive a complimentary registration, please visit the Accessibility Services desk located in the registration area in Exhibit Hall E of the Kansas City Convention Center when you arrive.

## Hallway Seating & Quiet Space

Where possible, additional seating has also been provided in hallways and common areas at the Kansas City Convention Center.

In addition, you may also visit the Dickinson Quiet Spaces, which is dedicated space for attendees to collect their thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. We also have a low-light space where attendees may take a break from the fluorescent and LED lighting in a darkened space. Please check the Schedule of Events for location information.

## Scooter & Wheelchair Rentals

AWP provides fifteen scooters and fifteen wheelchairs at no cost to attendees available for pick up on-site in Lobby 2200 of the Kansas City Convention Center on Street Level. These scooters may be reserved in advance or picked up as needed on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a scooter or wheelchair, please email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with the subject line “On-Site Accessibility.”

## Other Services

For services not addressed above, please visit the Accessibility Services desk located in the registration area in Exhibit Hall E of the Kansas City Convention Center, email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) with “On-Site Accessibility” in the subject line, or call or text the on-site accessibility hotline at (240) 269-6635.



MIKE SINGULAR



D. MITCHELL



# Future AWP Conferences



#AWP25



2025 AWP in  
Los Angeles, California  
  
March 26-29, 2025

See page 20 for proposal  
information for the #AWP25  
Conference & Bookfair.  
Deadline: Spring 2024  
  
awpwriter.org  
#AWP25

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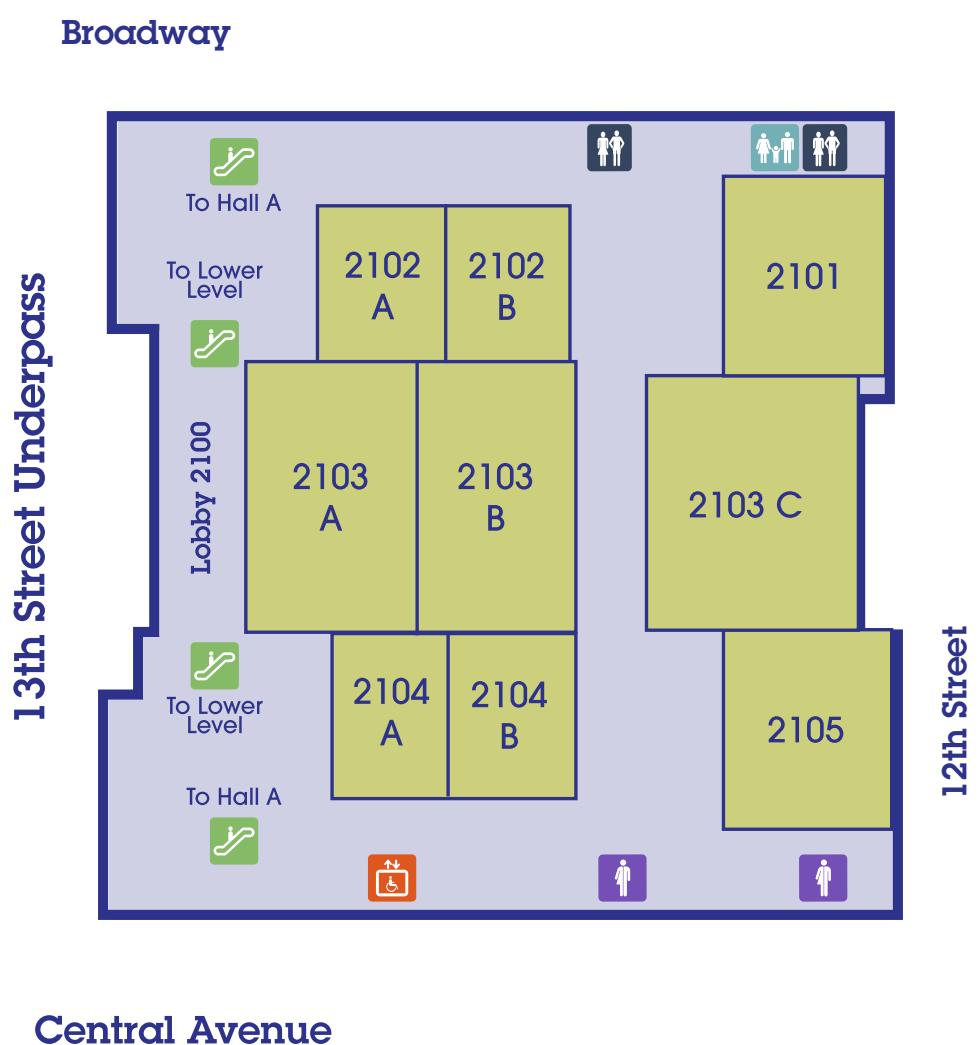
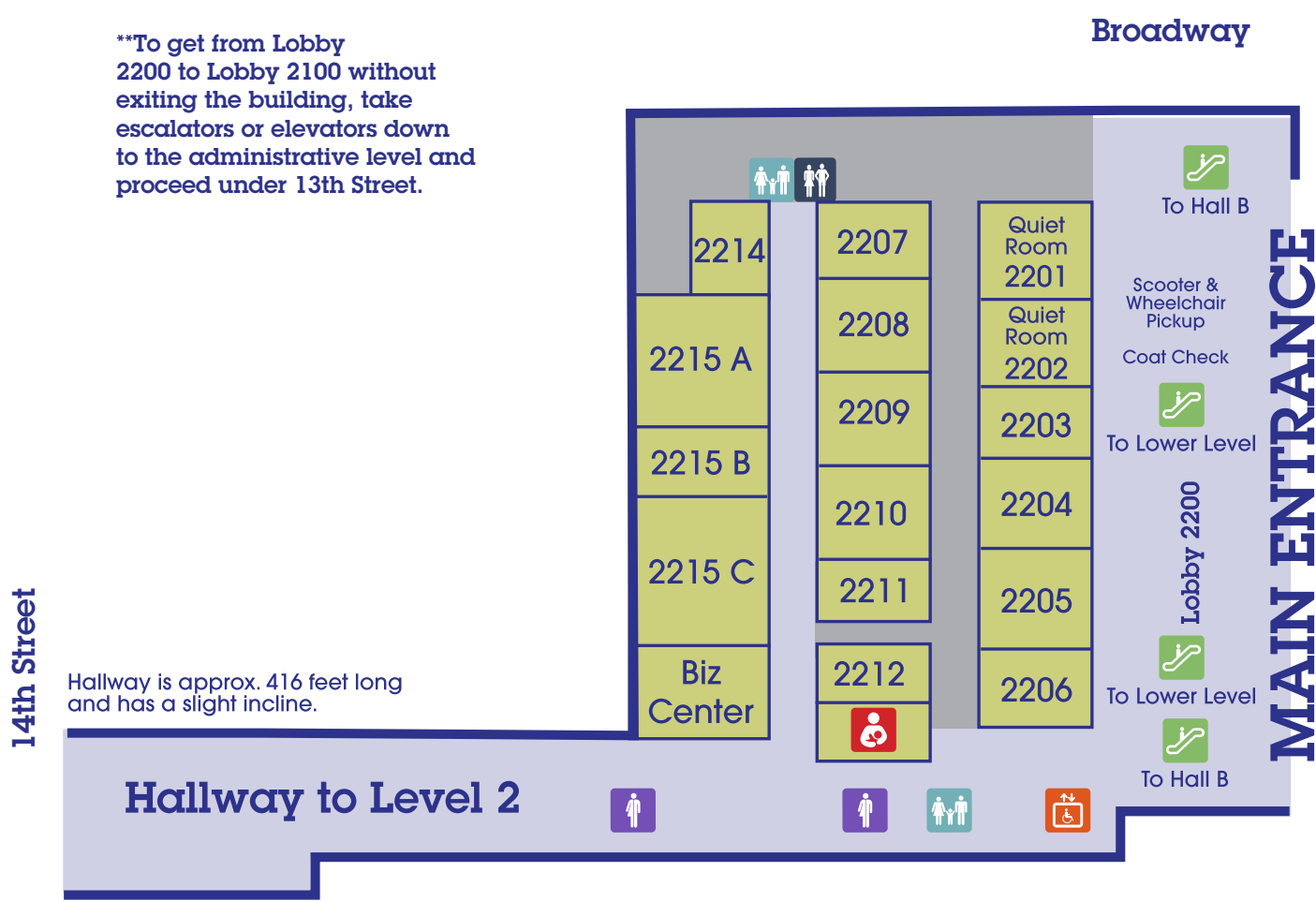
[Lasell.edu/mfa](http://Lasell.edu/mfa)  
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# 2024 Convention Center Maps

## Kansas City Convention Center STREET LEVEL

**\*\*To get from Lobby 2200 to Lobby 2100 without exiting the building, take escalators or elevators down to the administrative level and proceed under 13th Street.**





# 2024 Convention Center Maps

## Kansas City Convention Center LEVEL 2



Restrooms	Low-Light Room
All-Gender Restrooms	Nursing Lounge
Family Restrooms	Elevators
Escalators	EMT
Stairs	Food

## Kansas City Convention Center LEVEL 3

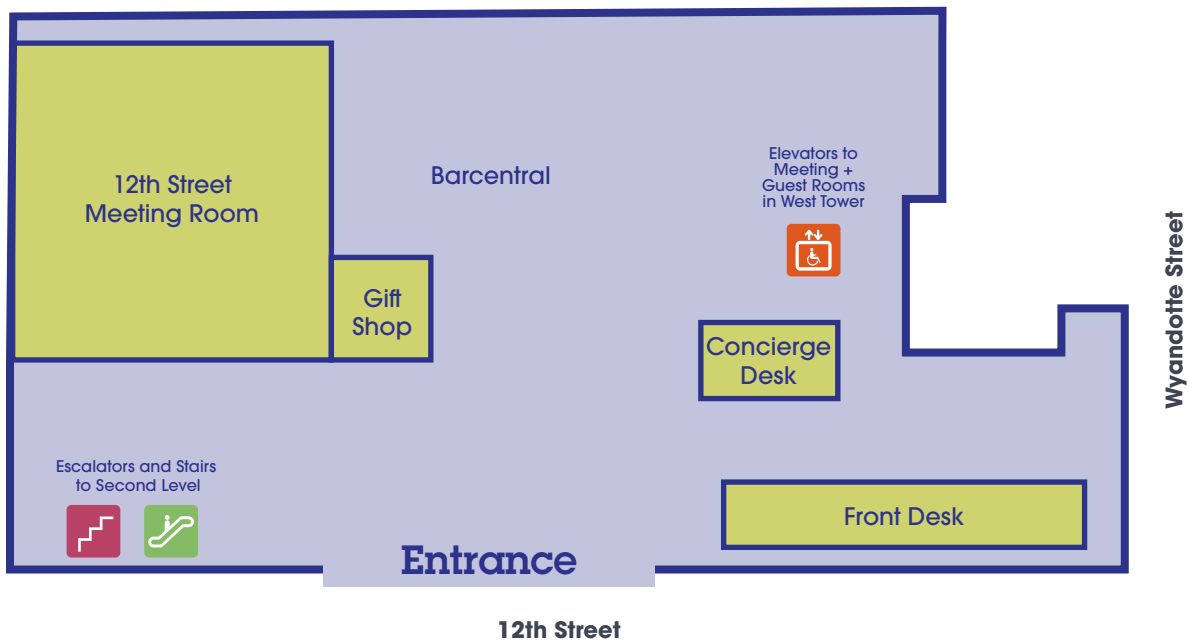


Restrooms	Low-Light Room
All-Gender Restrooms	Nursing Lounge
Family Restrooms	Elevators
Escalators	EMT
Stairs	Food

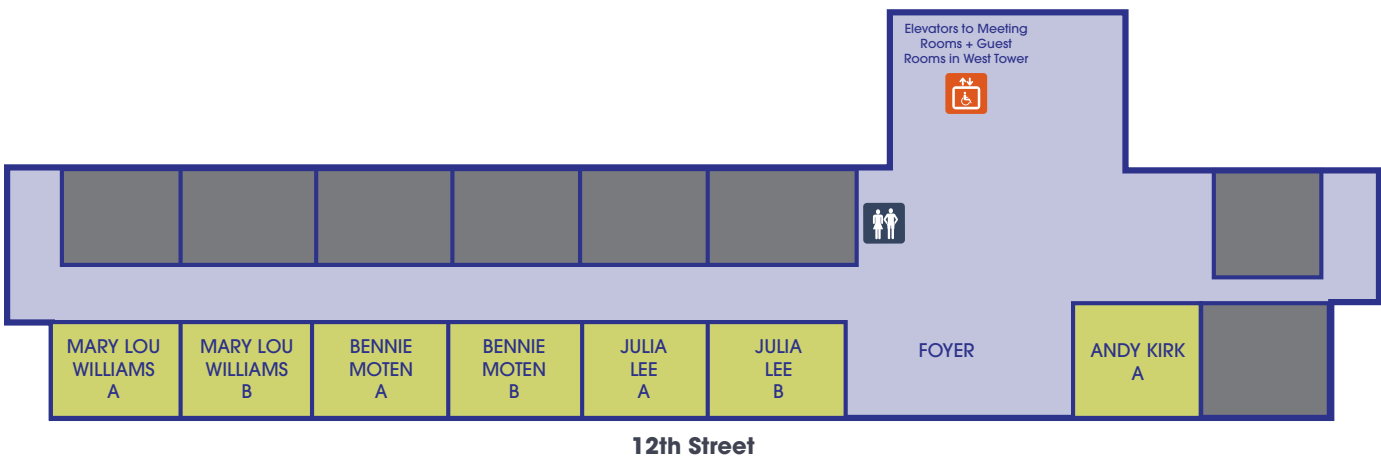


# 2024 Hotel Maps

## Marriott Kansas City Downtown Lobby Level - West Tower



## Marriott Kansas City Downtown Third Level - West Tower



## Marriott Kansas City Downtown Second Level - West Tower



\*Guest rooms in the Marriott are located in distinct west & east towers. Reception space is located in the West Tower. To access guest rooms in the East Tower, take the elevator to the second floor in the West Tower and proceed across the skybridge.

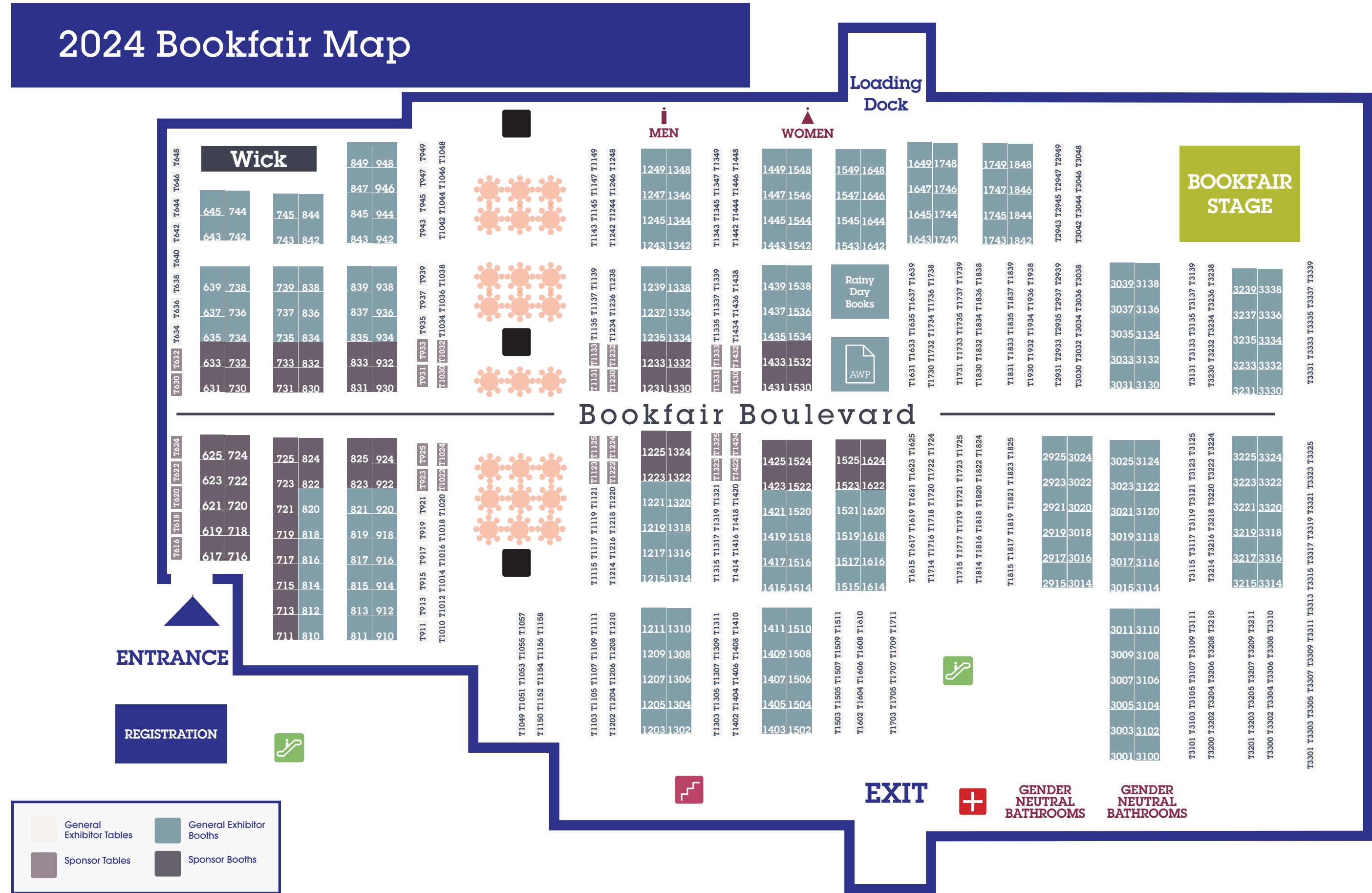




# 2024 Bookfair Map

AWP & Conference  
Information

AWP & Conference  
Information







THE AMERICAN  
LITERARY  
TRANSLATORS  
ASSOCIATION

ALTA47

Milwaukee, WI

Friday, October 25—  
Monday, October 28, 2024  
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

Join us for four days of panels, roundtables, and readings  
celebrating literary translation at our 47th annual conference.  
More info at [literarytranslators.org](http://literarytranslators.org)



# 2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
32 Poems	T1831
7.13 Books	T1109
Abode Press	T3335
Academy of American Poets	724
Accountability Workshops	T3117
Acre Books	910;912
Action Books	2917
Adelphi University	1523
Adi Magazine	T1715
Adroit Journal, The	3016
African Poetry Book Fund	1231;1233
After Happy Hour	T1036
Airlie Press	T1814
Alan Squire Publishing	3018
Alaska Pacific University	T1406
Alice James Books	930
Alice James Books	932
Allegheny Review	T3204
Alma College MFA	3132
Alternating Current Press	T1236; T1238
Alternative Milk Magazine	T3101
American Literary Review	T1107
American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)	822
American Poetry Review	1614
Andrews McMeel Publishing	711
Animal Heart Press / River Heron Review	T1210
Annulet: A Journal of Poetics	T1154
Another Chicago Magazine	T1820
Antioch University	825
Anvil Press	T1418
April Gloaming Publishing	T3038
Archipelago Books	T1731
Argos Books	3110
Arizona State University   The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing	T624
Arkana	T3232
Arkansas International	3003
Arts & Letters / Georgia College and State University MFA Program	625
Ashland Poetry Press	1647

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Aspen Words	T3222
Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)	1531
Atlanta Review	T1724
Atlas Projectos	T634
Atmosphere Press	843
Atticus Review	T1832
Author Bradley Carter	736
Authors Alliance	T931
Authors Guild	T925
Autofocus	814
Autumn House Press	1439
Ayin Press	T943
Baobab Press	T3042
Bardsy	1542
Barrelhouse	836
Barrow Street	936
Bat City Review	T1830
Beauty School Editions LLC	T1738
Belle Point Press	T1307
Belmont University MFA Program	T1020
Beloit Poetry Journal	T1837
Bennington Review	T616
Beyond Bars: A Journal of Literature and Art	944
Biblioasis Press	3100
Birds, LLC	T1819
Birmingham Poetry Review / NELLE	T1834
BkMk Press	T3302
Black Earth Institute, Directio	3330
Black Lawrence Press	645;643
Black Ocean	2915
Blair / Carolina Wren Press	739
Bloomsbury Publishing	1447
Blue Mesa Review	T3200
BNR Books	1547;1549
BOA Editions	1308
Book*hug Press	T1420
Bookshop.org	T1022
Booth	T3135

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!



2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Boston University Creative Writing Program	T1347
Boulevard	T2947
Brick Books	T1218
Brick, A Literary Journal	T1323
Brink Literary Journal	T3048
Broken River Books	T3214
Brooklyn Poets	3014
Bull City Press	1306
Button Poetry	844
C&R Press	T917
California Institute of the Arts MFA Writing Program	3019
Calumet Editions	1844
Cardiff University	1842
Carpe Librum	3237;3239
CavanKerry Press	T1730
Cave Canem Foundation, Inc.	719
Center for African American Poetry and Poetics	T1430
Center For Peace & Spirituality	3134
Center for the Art of Translation	1310
Center for the Study of the Southwest	T1156
Changes	T644
Chapman University / Tabula Poetica / John Fowles Center	733
Chax Press	1437
Cherry Tree: A National Literary Journal @ Washington College	617
Chestnut Review	833
Chicago Review	835
Cimarron Review / Oklahoma State Univeristy	T1633
CLASH Books	1618
Cleveland State University Poetry Center	1209
CLOCKHOUSE Journal	T1734
Coach House Books	1314
Coastal Carolina University	T1018
Collateral	T1321
Colorado Review* / Center for Literary Publishing	2925

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Columbia University School Of The Arts & Columbia University Press	922
Columbia University School Of The Arts & Columbia University Press	924
Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP)	824
Conduit	T1938
Conium Press	T1637
Consequence Forum	T2949
Coolest American Stories	T3230
Copper Canyon Press	1223
Copper Canyon Press	1225
Copper Nickel	T1818
Cornerstone Press	816
Corporeal Writing	3231
Cow Tipping Press	1342
Cream City Review / University Of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	3332
Creative Writing at The New School	3023
Creative Writing Department, San Francisco State University	T642
Creature Publishing	T3325
Cumberland University	T1709
CutBank Literary Magazine	3009
Cutthroat, A Journal of the Arts	3330
December Publishing	817
Deep Vellum Publishing	3102
Defunkt Magazine	T3335
Deluge	T644
Denver Quarterly	T3321
DIAGRAM / New Michigan Press	918
Diode Poetry Journal	T1602
Door Is A Jar Literary Magazine	T1137
Dorothy, a publishing project	T2943
DoubleCross Press	T1738
Drexel University	3217
Driftwood Press	T1038
Duke University Press	T1735
Dynamo Verlag	T1936
Dzanc Books	819
Eastern Washington University	T1444
EastOver Press	1508

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!

2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
EcoTheo Collective	T1402
Editorial Freelancers Association	T1732
El Portal, the literary journal of Eastern New Mexico University	T2935
ELJ Editions	T1509
Elk River Writers Workshop	1322
Emerald City	T1720
Emerson College Graduate Admission	T3121
Emerson College Redivider	T3125
Emerson College WLP	T3123
Epoch Literary Magazine	T1736
Eulalia Books	2921
EXCERPT Magazine	T638
F(r)iction	1620
Fairfield University MFA Program	T1608; T1610
Fairmont State University	T1739
Fairy Tale Review	1217
FC2 / Fiction Collective Two	823
Feminist Press	737
Fence	T2931
Fernwood Press	T1117
FICTION	T3308
Fine Print Press	1344
Finishing Line Press	1207
Five Points	944
Flamboyant Foundation	3338
Flexible Press	T3307
Florida Atlantic University/ Swamp Ape Review	T3030
Florida International University	3219
Florida Review & UCF MFA	T911
FlowerSong Press	T1051
Fonograf Editions	2919
Four Way Books	3024
Fourth Genre	T1714
Frayed Edge Press	T1635
Free State Review	T1723
Fugue / University of Idaho MFA	T3044
Furious Flower	1532
FUSE (Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors)	T3337

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!



# 2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Iskanchi Press	T1507
Johns Hopkins University MA in Writing Program	T1711
Johns Hopkins University MFA Programs / The Hopkins Review	T921
Johnson County Library	T3238
June Road Press	T1208
Kaya Press	838
Kelsey Street Press	3108
Kennesaw State University MAPW Program	T3309
Kenyon Review	1433
Kroll Creations	T3103
Kundiman	1330
Lake Effect	T1034
LandLocked / Cottonwood	T1048
Lanternfish Press	1245
Larksong Writers Place	T1014
Lasell University's Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program	T1030
Last Syllable / Point Loma Nazarene University M.A. in Writing	745
Laurel Review	T1825
Lesley University	T3224
Letras Latinas	830
Lightscatter Press	T3205
<i>Lily Poetry Review</i>	T1722
Listen To Your Skin Press	T1606
Little Engines	3001
LittlePuss Press	T1103
Imnl lit	1344
Longleaf Writers' Conference @ Seaside, Florida	639
Lost & Found: The Cuny Poetics Document Initiative	T1821
Lost Horse Press	1543
LSU Press	1745
Lynx House Press	1543
Madville	T1222
Main Street Rag Publishing Company	1411
Malarkey Books	T1503
Manoa/University of Hawai'i Press	T3313

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Mason Jar Press	T1716
Meadowlark Press	T1448
MER - Mom Egg Review	T1216
MFA of the Americas, Stetson University	T622
Miami University Press	T1719
Michigan Quarterly Review	T1432
The Mid-America LGBT Chamber, Joel Speaks Out, and the KC Rainbow Tour	731
Mid-American Review*	T939
Midwest Writing Center	T3137
Milkweed Editions	743
Milspeak Books	T1623
MindBuck Media Book Publicity	3221
Minerva Rising Press	T3317
Minnesota State University Mankato/Blue Earth Review	934
Mississippi Review	1221
Mississippi University for Women	T1248
Mistake House Magazine	T3107
Mizna	1431
Moon City Press	837
Moon City Review	839
Mouthfeel Press	3021
MTSU Write	T3333
Muse Literary	1423
Mystery Writers of America	T3319
n+1 Magazine	T935
Naked Cat Publishing	T3101
National Book Critics Circle	1624
National Endowment for the Arts	1530
Naugatuck River Review and Wordpeace	T1414
NEOMFA / Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts Program	T1424
New Delta Review	T1147
New England College MFA program	1320
New Letters Magazine / University of Missouri-Kansas City Friends of Creative Writing	1525
New Ohio Review	1504
new words {press}	T947
Nightboat Books	1516
Nimrod International Journal	T1220

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!

# 2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Ninth Letter/ University of Illinois	1205
Noemi Press	1449
Normandale Community College	820
North American Review	1544
Northwestern University Press	1316
Northwestern University Press	1318
Northwestern University SPS	T1133
Not a Cult	2915
Notre Dame Review	2917
Novel Slices	833
NYU Creative Writing Program	732
OAC Press	3005
Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora	T937
Ohio Northern University / Polaris Literary Magazine	T1119
Ohio State University Press / Mad Creek Books	1407
Old Dominion University	T3203
One Story	T1319
Oregon State University - Cascades	T1816
Our Type Love	3116
Oversound	T1833
Painted Bride Quarterly	1614
Pangyrus LitMag	T1049
Paranoid Tree	1342
Paris Review	1545
Passages North	T1149
PEN America	716
Pen Parentis - A Nonprofit for Writers Who Also Have Kids	T1115
Permafrost Magazine	1746
Persea Books	1235
Perugia Press	T1214
Pierian Springs Press	3136
Pinch Journal	1346
Pleiades Press	1415
PocketMFA	T1718
Poet Lore	T2937
Poetry Flash	721
Poetry Foundation Grantees	1522; 1524

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!



# 2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Roosevelt University MFA Program	T3311
Rose Metal Press	T1815
Rutgers University-Camden MFA / Writers House	T1224
SabbaticalHomes.com	3138
Saint Julian Press, Inc.	1502
Salmon Poetry	1324
Salt Hill Journal	T1055
Sam Houston State University MFA Program	713
Sam Houston State University MFA Program / Texas Review Press	717;715
Saw Palm: Florida Literature & Art	T1705
Santa Clara University/Santa Clara Review	1338
Santa Fe Writers Project	3124
Sarabande Books	725
Sarah Lawrence College MFA in Writing	1304
Saturnalia Books	1519
Savannah College of Art and Design	3215
Scarlet Tanager Books	721
SCRiB LAB	T1734
Scribente Maternum	T3303
Seeds of History	T3331
Send Me Press	T1154
Seneca Review	T3305
Sewanee Writers' Conference	1622
Singularity Press	3015
Sinister Wisdom	T1303
SLAB	834
Slant Books	916
Slippery Elm Magazine/ University of Findlay	T1119
Small Harbor Publishing	942
Small Is Smart	3223
Small Press Distribution (SPD)	1417
Smartish Pace	T1339
Solid Objects	T1317
Solstice: A Magazine of Diverse Voices	815
South Carolina Review	T1604
Southeast Missouri State University Press	2923
Southeast Review	T1234

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Southern Fried Poetry, Inc.	3120
Southern Humanities Review	T1717
Southern Indiana Review	1506
Spalding University	633
Spencer Printing and Graphics	T1150
Split Lip Magazine	T3105
Split/Lip Press	842
Sputnik & Fizzle	T634
SRPR (Spoon River Poetry Review)	T937
Stadler Center for Poetry and Literary Arts / West Branch / Bucknell Univeristy	T1631
Stalking Horse Press	T3131
Stanford University Creative Writing Program	3020
Stellar Story Company	815
Stenen Press	T1123
STORY	T1349
StoryStudio Chicago	T1737
Sublunary Editions	1409
Sundress Publications   Sundress Academy for the Arts   Best of the Net Anthology	T1111
Susquehanna University Press	T3337
swamp pink	T1345
Switchback Books	T1721
Taco Bell Quarterly	T1503
Tahoma Literary Review	1518
Tailwinds Press	T1046
Tender Buttons Press	T1639
Terrain.org	3025
Tertulia	T3201
Texas A&M University-Texarkana	T3301
Texas State MFA / Porter House Review	T1824;T1822
Texas Tech University Press	1211
The Amistad	T3310
The Banyan Review	T1204
The Center for Humans and Nature	T3208
The Cincinnati Review	910;912
The Common	1215
The Cupboard Pamphlet	T2933
The Gertrude Conference	T3119

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!

# 2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
The Gettysburg Review	938
The Good Life Review	T913
The Helix Literary Magazine CCSU	T3304
The Hellbender Gathering of Poets	T3208
The Journal	T1309
The MacGuffin	T1143
The Massachusetts Review	1742
The McNeese Review / McNeese State MFA	1744
The MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College	3225
The Milton Review	T1016
The Missouri Review	T1232
The New Territory Magazine	T646
The Permissions Company, Inc.	T1511
The Porch Writer's Collective	T1020
The Rainier Writing Workshop	811
The Rumpus	T1707
The Southern Review	1743
The Story Center at Mid-Continent Public Library	T3209
The Wax Paper	1249
The Word Works	946
The Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow	T1703
The Writer's Foundry MFA	T1311
The Writer's Mission Control Center	1243
The Yale Review	734
There's a Poem in That	T1042
Third Coast Magazine	T3202
Third Man Books	T1823
Tin House	1642
Tinderbox Poetry Journal	T3206
Tiny Spoon	T648
Tofu Ink Arts Press	T1139
Transformative Language Arts Network	T2939
Transit Books	1645
Trinity University Press	1239
Trio House Press	818
Troublemaker Firestarter	T1505
Tupelo Press	742

\*Visit these exhibitors to learn about their participation in the Intro Journals Project, and pick up an issue with the latest winners!

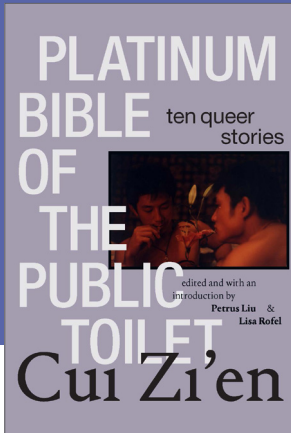
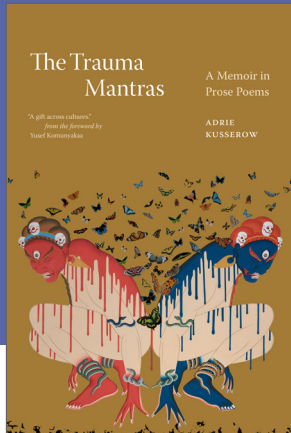
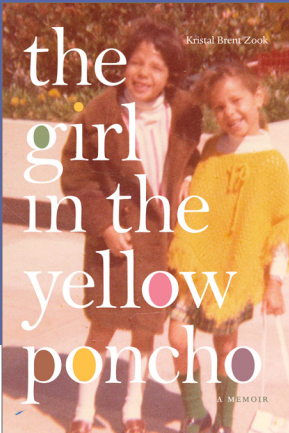
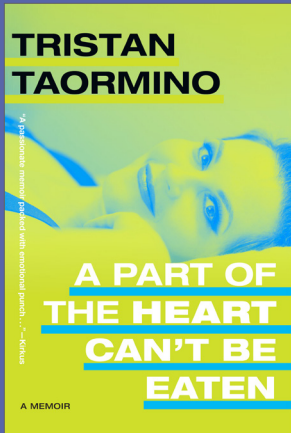


2024 Bookfair Exhibitors

AWP & Conference  
Information

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
University of Nebraska at Lincoln	T1230
University of Nebraska Omaha MFA/The Linden Review	730
University of Nebraska Press	1334
University of Nebraska Press	1336
University of Nevada, Reno-Lake Tahoe low residency MFA	T1206
University of New Hampshire	T3133
University of New Mexico	T3200
University of New Mexico Press	738
University of North Carolina Press	T1408
University of North Carolina Wilmington	T630; T632
University of Pittsburgh Press	1534
University of Pittsburgh Press	1536
University of San Francisco MFA in Writing Program	T1024
University of South Carolina MFA Program	T1010
University of South Dakota	845
University of Tennessee Chattanooga	T933
University of Wisconsin - Madison	637;635
University of Wisconsin Press	637;635
University Press of Kentucky	1403
Unsolicited Press	T3115
USC Dornsife	T618
Vanderbilt University / Nashville Review	723
Veliz Books	2921
Vermont College of Fine Arts	1332
Vermont College of Fine Arts	T1331
Vermont Studio Center	T1438
Vine Leaves Press	T1343
Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA)	T1404
Virginia Commonwealth University	T1131
Virginia Quarterly Review	T1121
VONA	3017
Vox Populi Sphere	T1222
W.W. Norton & Company	735
War, Literature & the Arts	T1617
Washington University in St. Louis MFA / Center for the Literary Arts	T620
Washington Writers' Publishing House	T3034

Bookfair Organization Space Listing	Location
Water~Stone Review + Runestone	T1335
Wave Books	T1932;T1930
Wayne State University Press	1219
Wayward Writers and Mountain Bluebird	T949
Weavers Press	T1244
Wesleyan University Press	3114
West Trade Review	T1012
Western Colorado University	1322
Western Connecticut State University	1419
Westview	T3218
Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Series / Michigan State University Press	744
Whiskey Tit	3124
Wichita State University	3022
WICK Poetry Center	649
Wildebeest Publishing Company, LLC	T3306
Wolfe + Wilder	812
Wolsak and Wynn Publishers	T1410
Words Without Borders	T3339
Wrath-Bearing Tree	T1321
Write On, Door County	1616
Writeaways	1538
Writers in Progress	T3220
Writers In The Schools Alliance (WITSA)	832
Writers.com	3235
Writing Institute at Sarah Lawrence College	T1305
WSC Press	810
WTAW Press	T1422
Yale University Press	734
Yellow Arrow Publishing	T3034
YesYes Books	1302
Yetzirah	T945
Your Part Time Controller LLC	T1032
Zephyr Press	1514
Zone 3 Press / Austin Peay State University	T3109
ZYZZYVA / McSweeney's	T1934



New from  
Duke University Press

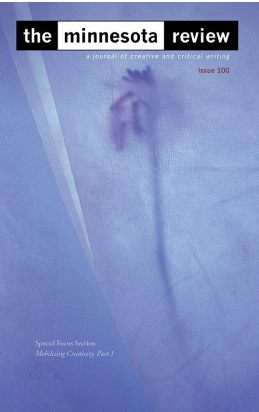
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Ten Queer Stories  
**CUI ZI'EN**  
**PETRUS LIU and LISA ROFEL, editors**  
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**dear elia**  
Letters from the Asian American Abyss  
**MIMI KHÚC**



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- **EcoTheo Review** | quarterly print + online journal
- **LOGOS Reading Series** | ritually-inflected poetry gatherings
- **Wonder Festival** | annual festival celebrating the intersection of poetry, art, justice, spirituality, and our relationship with the more-than-human-world
- **Starshine and Clay Fellowship** | annual collaboration with Cave Canem to center and amplify the work of two emerging Black poets
- **Lorca Latinx Prize** | semi-annual chapbook prize in collaboration with Letras Latinas to celebrate the work of one Latinx poet

Come visit us at Table T1402, and join us for:  
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February 9th, 7-9pm | Natasha Ria Art Gallery |  
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## #AWP24 Keynote Presentation

# Jericho Brown



Thursday,  
February 8, 2024  
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Kansas City Convention Center  
Grand Ballroom A, Level 2

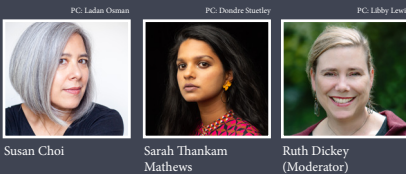




# Featured Readings & Panels

All featured events will take place in-person at the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed to all in-person and virtual registrants. These events will also be available on-demand until March 7, 2024 on the #AWP24 virtual platform. Starting the week of #AWP24, visit the Conference Overview page of the AWP website to access virtual conference content.

## #AWP24 FEATURED EVENTS



**National Book Foundation Presents: Crafting Coming-of-Age**  
Thursday, February 8, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Another Last Call: A Reading and Conversation with Sarabande Anthology Poets on Writing & Addiction**  
Thursday, February 8, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



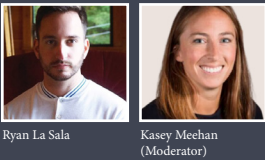
**Furious Flower Presents Nikky Finney, Anastacia-Reneé, & Malika Booker**  
Thursday, February 8, 3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



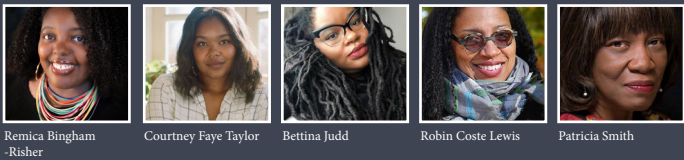
**Many Moseses, Many Promised Lands Unseen: A Lecture by Rion Amilcar Scott**  
Friday, February 9, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT  
Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2  
\*This event will not be livestreamed



**Language Back: A Reading & Conversation with Indigenous Poets, Sponsored by Indigenous Nations Poets**  
Friday, February 9, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**PEN Presents: Free the Books**  
Friday, February 9, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Black Women As (Keepers of) the Archive: Photographs, Hybrid and Historical Text, Sponsored by Cave Canem**  
Friday, February 9, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Meredith Talusan and Kai Cheng Thom in Conversation with Maya Shanbhag Lang, Sponsored by the Authors Guild**  
Friday, February 9, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Generations: A Reading & Conversation Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts & The Asian American Writers' Workshop**  
Friday, February 9, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Lead with Love: Queer Voices in Literature with Red Hen Press**  
Friday, February 9, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Personal Best: A New Kind of Canon, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press**  
Friday, February 9, 3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Where Is Literary Criticism Headed?, Sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle**  
Friday, February 9, 3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



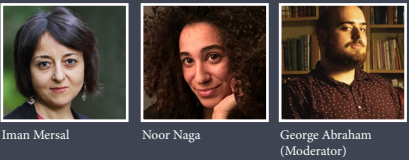
**AWP Award Series Reading & Celebration**  
Friday, February 9, 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.  
Ballroom D, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2  
\*This event will not be livestreamed



**Acts of Love: Brian Turner, Katie Farris & Major Jackson Read & Converse, Sponsored by Alice James Books**  
Saturday, February 10, 10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**A Reading by Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, & Nicole Sealey, Presented by the Academy of American Poets**  
Saturday, February 10, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Futures for SWANA Poetry: Mizna Hosts Iman Mersal & Noor Naga in Conversation**  
Saturday, February 10, 12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Literary Citizenship: Rigoberto González & Carmen Giménez In Conversation, Sponsored by Letras Latinas**  
Saturday, February 10, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT  
Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



**Kundiman 20th Anniversary Reading & Conversation**  
Saturday, February 10, 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT  
Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



Alice James Books at AWP 2024 in Kansas City

# ALICE JAMES EVENTS:

  
**BOOTH  
#930**

**FEB  
9**

## AJB X PERSEA: *Offsite Reading:*

*Casual Animal Brewing Co.*  
SARAH GHAZAL ALI | JANINE JOSEPH | INA CARIÑO | JEFFREY THOMSON | WILLIE LEE KINARD III  
JUBI ARRIOLA-HEADLEY | STACIE CASSARINO | CYNTHIA MARIE HOFFMAN | RAISA TOLCHINSKY  
7:00PM CT | *Casual Animal Brewing Co., 1725 McGee St, Kansas City, MO*

**FEB  
10**

## ACTS OF LOVE: *A Featured AWP Event:*

*Brian Turner, Katie Farris, & Major Jackson Read & Converse*  
BRIAN TURNER | KATIE FARRIS | MAJOR JACKSON  
10:35AM-11:50AM CT | *Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center*

# BOOK SIGNINGS BY:



**Omotara  
James**  
11AM-12PM



**Willie Lee  
Kinard III**  
1PM-2PM



**Ina  
Cariño**  
2PM-3PM



**Brian  
Turner**  
11AM-12PM



**Jeffrey  
Thomson**  
1PM-2PM



**Sarah  
Ghazal Ali**  
2PM-3PM

FEBRUARY 8  
**THURSDAY**

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FEBRUARY 9  
**FRIDAY**



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**Aimee Nezhukumatathil**  
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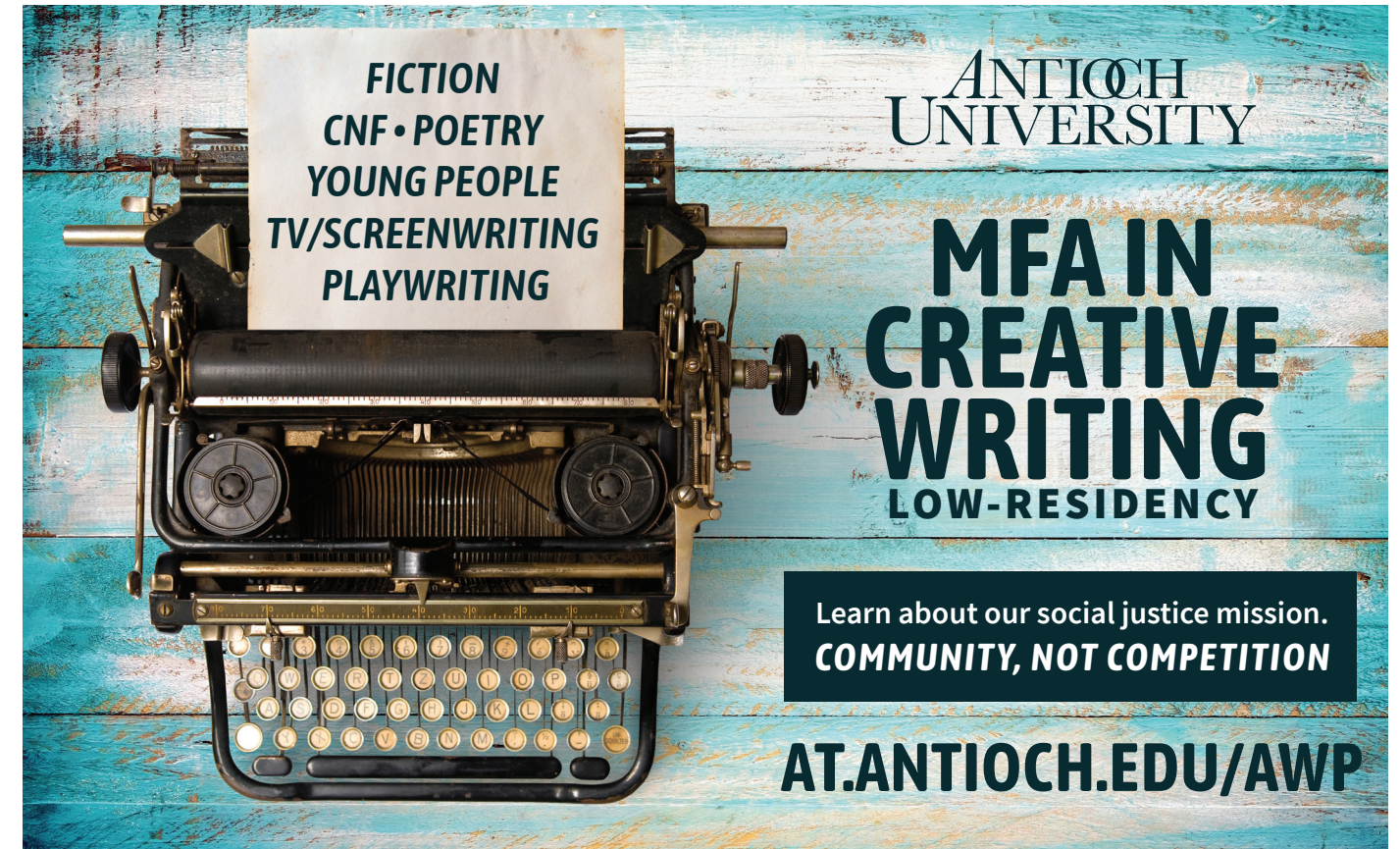
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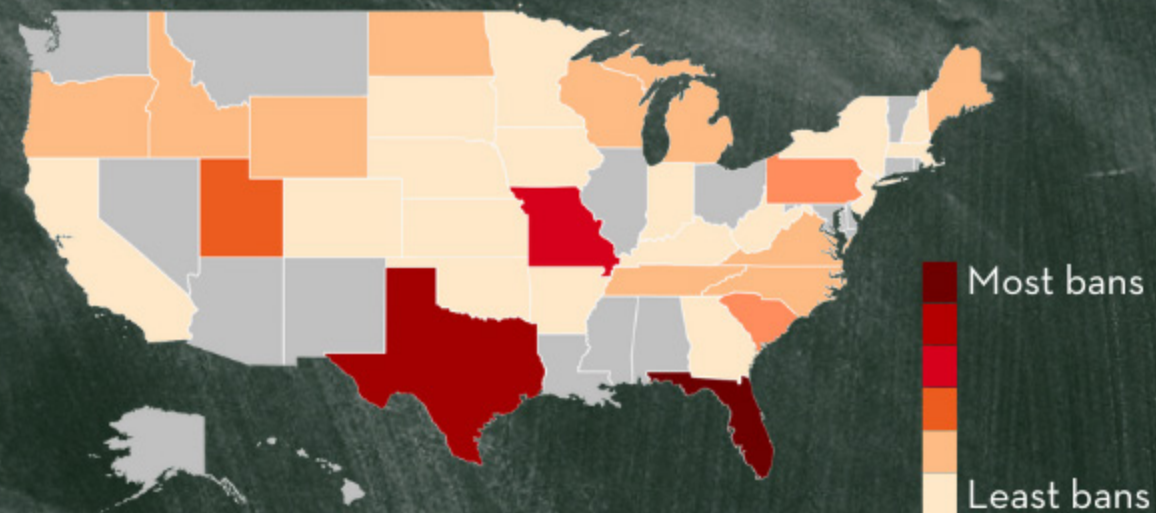
### Creative Writing Faculty:

Joy Castro [The Truth Book; One Brilliant Flame]  
Kwame Dawes [City of Bones; Sturge Town]  
Chigozie Obioma [An Orchestra of Minorities; The Road to the Country]

Timothy Schaffert [The Perfume Thief; The Titanic Survivors Book Club]  
Hope Wabuke [The Body Family; Please Don't Kill My Black Son Please]  
Stacey Waite [The lake has no saint; Butch Geography]

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1600 East 18th Street

Kansas City, MO 64108

## Cave Canem at the AWP24 Bookfair

*Kansas City Convention Center*

Booth # 719

**12:10 PM – 1:25 PM**

## African Diaspora Caucus

Kansas City Convention Center

Room 2401A, Street Level

**12:10 PM – 1:25 PM**

## Black Women As (Keepers of) the Archive: Photographs, Hybrid and Historical Texts

Remica Bingham-Risher, Courtney Faye Taylor,  
Bettina Judd, Robin Coste Lewis, & Patricia Smith

Kansas City Convention Center

Grand Ballroom A, Level 2

**10:35 AM – 11:50 AM**

## Cave Canem & The Importance of the Black Literary Archive

Tyehimba Jess, Dante Micheaux and Jes Neal

Kansas City Convention Center

Room 2215A



*Cave Canem's AWP events will be held at the Kansas City Convention Center. OFF THE CHAIN will be held at The Blue Room.*

Please use the QR code to the left or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @cavecanempoets for real-time conference updates and information.





# AWP 2024 EVENTS

 **RED HEN PRESS**  
Booths 619 / 621 / 623



## Off-Site Celebrating 30 Years: An Omnibus Reading and Celebration in partnership with *The Good Life Review*

Join Red Hen Press authors and contributors to *The Good Life Review* for an incredible celebration of literature! Featuring readings by Red Hen's Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 authors, plus contributors to *The Good Life Review*!

Friday, February 9  
6:00 PM–8:30 PM

Parlor  
1707 Locust St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108

## On-Site Lead with Love: Queer Voices in Literature

Queer voices in America continue to rise and share their stories despite continuous fearmongering and attacks on queer and trans rights. This panel of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ writers honors intersectional and intergenerational communities, the safe spaces we hold for each other, and the creation, expression, and celebration of their stories.

Friday, February 9  
1:45 PM–3:00 PM

Ballroom B, Level 2  
Kansas City Convention Center

We move together from darkness to light, from banning to expression, by opening doors and inviting diverse communities to the page and to the microphone to lead, speak, read, share, and celebrate with love.

FEATURING



Elizabeth Bradfield



Jenny Factor



Andrew Lam



H Warren



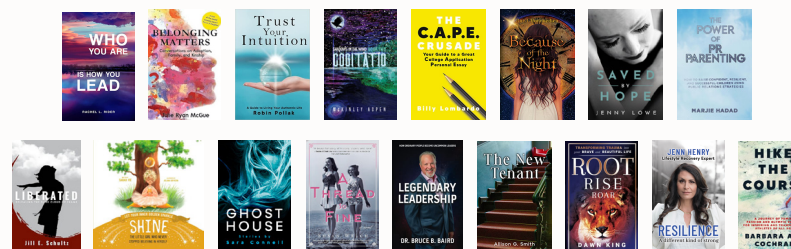
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# On-Demand Events

The following events were prerecorded and are available to watch on-demand until March 7, 2024! Starting the week of #AWP24, visit the Conference Overview page of the AWP website to access virtual conference content. All prerecorded events include closed captions.

### V101. Autistic Writers On The Inaccessibility Of Professional Writing Spaces.

(Chris Martin, Zaji Cox, Julia Lee Barclay-Morton, Stephanie Kaylor, Said Shaiye)

Virtual

Artistic & Professional Development

Five 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?

### V102. Climate Fiction: African-Diaspora Ecology.

(Linda Masi, Osahon Ize-Iyamu, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, Aya De Leon, Bibiana Ossai)

Virtual

Fiction Readings

Climate fiction is gaining popularity in African literature among indigenous African writers and those who reside in the diaspora. 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.

### V103. Embracing the Body: A Journey of Illness and Celebration.

(Laura Cesarco Eglin, Elisa Garza, Maria Maloney, Carolina Monsiváis, Katherine Hoerth)

Virtual

Poetry Readings

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.

### V104. Excavating the Past: Writers and Characters Who Research.

(Sarah Tomlinson, Sara Sligar, Alex Segura, Steph Cha, Katie Gutierrez)

Virtual

Fiction Craft & Criticism

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.

### Professional Track

### V105. Ghostwriting 101: Insights and Advice for Those Seeking a Lucrative Career .

(Kate St. Vincent Vogl, Hope Edelman, Isidra Mencos, Kate Hopper, Pauleanna Reid)

Virtual

Artistic & Professional Development

“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.

### V106. Haunting, Healing, and Female Voice: Women Who Write Horror.

(Lauren Brazeal Garza, Jenn Givhan, Erika T. Wurth, Hailey Piper, Erin E. Adams)

Virtual

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

### V107. How to Talk to a Writer: The Dos and Don’ts of Giving (and Receiving) Feedback.

(Juan J. Morales, Joni B. Cole, Emily Bernard, Tim Horvath, Gary Jackson)

Virtual

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

### V108. Legends in Modern Storytelling.

(Dani Hedlund, Madeline Miller, Dan Chaon, Rebecca Roanhorse, Alix E. Harrow)

Virtual

Fiction Craft & Criticism

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.

### V109. Lessons from Louis K. Lowy: How to Build Legacy and Foster Community.

(Hector Duarte, Jr., John Dufresne, Omar Figueras, M.J. Fievre)

Virtual

Tributes

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.

### V110. Letters of Love: Proclaiming the Voices of Sanity and Humanity Amidst the War.

(Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, Lyudmyla Khersonska, Anita Nahal)

Virtual

Poetry Readings

The reading event will feature three female poets from Ukraine and the United States, 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) and *Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava* (River Paw Press, 2023) by Kalpna Singh-Chitnis will offer fresh perspectives on War in Ukraine.

### V111. 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

Writers’ Conferences & Centers

In the tapestry of human existence, where life entwines joy and sorrow, there lies a profound art, a sublime expression that transcends time and space. Poetry, like a true companion and friend beckons us to embrace and offers solace and healing in times of unspeakable trials—moments of trauma, war, and 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 and healing.

### V112. Queer & Trans Asians Writing as Rebellion by Asian American Writers’ Workshop.

(Kay Ulanday Barrett, Kirin Khan, Zeyn Joukhadar, River 瑩瑩 Dandelion)

Virtual

Multiple Literary Genres Readings

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, multiability, queer, and anticolonial writing.

### V113. Shame, Fear, and Rage in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction.

(Rhoni Blankenhorn, Emily Simon, Lynn Xu, Asa Drake, Cindy Juyoung Ok)

Virtual

Poetry Craft & Criticism

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?

### V114. The Anti-Ableist Writing Workshop.

(Tyler Darnell Lewis, Celeste Schueler, Christie Collins, Julia Lewis, Said Shaiye)

Virtual

Pedagogy

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.



**V115. Toward a Romani Women’s Canon.**

(Glenda Bailey-Mershon, Caren Gussof-Sumption, Rachael Dosen, Lynn Hutchinson Lee)

**Virtual**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**V116. Unmasking Grief: Writers Confront the Illusion of Post-Pandemic Recovery.**

(Jan Steckel, Terry Tierney, Amaranthia Sepia, Claire Jones, Suchandrima Banerjee)

**Virtual**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

Is the pandemic over? And if so, for whom? Is a 9/11’s worth of death a week in the U.S. 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.

**V117. Weaving Comics Pedagogy Into a Multi-level Creative Writing Program.**

(Sarah Leavitt, Taylor Brown-Evans, Eve Salomons, Emily Chou)

**Virtual**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**V118. When Essays Become Books: the Ins and Outs of Creating Collections.**

(Patrice Gopo, Grace Talusan, Theresa Okokon, Leslie Contreras Schwartz, Randon Billings Noble)

**Virtual**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**V119. Writing a Play or Musical on a Real Person.**

(Jessica Lit, Doug Wright, Dolores Diaz, Robert Maesaka, Roger Q. Mason)

**Virtual**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**V120. Writing Beyond Bone: Black and Brown Disabled Poetics.**

(Kay Ulanday Barrett, Saleem Hue Penny, Walela Nehanda, Joselia Rebekah Hughes)

**Virtual**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**V121. Writing Queer Stories for the Stage.**

(Jordan Stovall, Doug Wright, Roger Q. Mason, Tabby Lamb, C.A. Johnson)

**Virtual**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**V122. Writing the Resonant Recent Past.**

(Sarah McCraw Crow, Jennifer Savran Kelly, Ava Homa, Daisy Florin, Karen Dukess)

**Virtual**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

Writers set their novels in the recent past (late twentieth, early twenty-first 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?

**V123. Writing, Translating, and Publishing Queer Ukrainian Literature.**

(Oleh Kotsyuba, Alexander Averbuch, Vitaly Chernetsky, Ivan Kozlenko, Iryna Shuvalova)

**Virtual**

*Translation*

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.

NEW JUNIPER PRIZE WINNERS

The Juniper Literary Prizes in creative nonfiction, poetry, and fiction are open for submissions from August 1 to September 30 annually.

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# In-Person Schedule of Events

## Wednesday, February 7, 2024

12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.

**W124. Conference Registration.**  
Registration, Exhibit Hall E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP’s registration area located in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check-in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to register at our senior rate. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

**W125. AWP Bookfair Setup.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

The exhibit hall at the Kansas City Convention Center will be open for bookfair setup. For safety and security reasons, only those holding a Bookfair Setup Access (BSA) registration, or those accompanied by an individual wearing a BSA registration, will be permitted inside the bookfair during setup hours. Bookfair exhibitors are welcome to pick up their registration materials in AWP’s registration area in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3.

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**W126. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**  
Room 2214, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a fifth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: in Adrienne’s Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$850.) Additional images: \$75/ea. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required: <https://am-photography.ticketleap.com/awp24/dates>

3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**W127. Accessibility Tour.**  
Accessibility Desk, Exhibit Hall E, Kansas  
City Convention Center, Level 3

Join AWP conference staff for a tour of the Kansas City Convention Center. This tour will cover main event areas of the Kansas City Convention Center and will be an opportunity to ask questions about conference accessibility. This tour is great for someone who would like to get a sense for the distances between meeting rooms and to plan easiest routes. If you are unable to make it to this 3:00 p.m. tour, please email [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org) to arrange for a different time.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**W128. CLMP Membership Meeting.**  
Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

This event is for all independent literary magazine and small press publishers: seasoned professionals, those just starting out, and all in between. Learn what we’re planning for the year and share your thoughts on how we can best ensure that our community thrives. Even if you’re not yet a member of CLMP, but would like to find out more, please feel welcome to join us.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**W129. AWP Literary Awards & Poetry as Reciprocity: Indigenous Nations Poets Celebrate Language Back.**  
Kansas City Public Library, 14 W 10th St, Kansas City, MO 64105

Join AWP in celebrating the contributions of those honored through its various award programs: the Intro Journals Project, the National Program Directors’ Prize, the Small Press Publisher Award, and the George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature.

Following the presentation of awards, join Indigenous Nations Poets Heid E. Erdrich (Ojibwe), Jake Skeets (Diné), and Kimberly Blaeser (Anishinaabe), along with moderator Elise Paschen (Osage), for a conversation and reading in which participants share how their languages inform a poetics of reciprocity both on the page and in their roles as teachers, mentors, leaders, and activists.

AWP is partnering with the Kansas City Public Library for this special event. RSVP to the event using this link: <https://kclibrary.org/events/poetry-reciprocity-indigenous-nations-poets-celebrate-language-back>

## Thursday, February 8, 2024

7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

**T100. Sober AWP.**  
Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**T101. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**  
Room 2214, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a fifth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: in Adrienne’s Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$850.) Additional images: \$75/ea. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required: <https://am-photography.ticketleap.com/awp24/dates>

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**T102. Coat Check.**  
2200 Lobby, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Coat check is available in Lobby 2200 on Level 2 of the Kansas City Convention Center. It is \$5.00 per item checked. ATMs can be found in Lobby 2200, next to Room 2207, and in the Conference Center, across the hall from Room 2501A.

**T103. Conference Registration.**  
Registration, Exhibit Hall E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP’s registration area located in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check-in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to register at our senior rate. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

**T104. Dickinson Quiet Space.**  
Room 2201 & 2202, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” -Emily Dickinson

**T105. Low-light Space.**  
Room 2525A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the convention center.

**T106. Nursing Lounge.**  
Room 2213, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

The nursing lounge is located in Room 2213 on the Street Level of the Kansas City Convention Center, and is available for any nursing parent to use.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**T107. AWP Bookfair.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

With more than 500 literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**T108. Bookfair Concessions, Bar, and Lounge.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Breakfast and lunch concessions are available inside the Exhibit Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center. Debit cards, credit cards, and tap-to-pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**T109. AWP Membership Booth.**  
Booth 1531, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Stop by the AWP Membership Booth to meet with AWP board members during bookfair hours at the conference! Join us for coffee every day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and chat with senior publications editor James Tate Hill to learn more about the *Writer’s Chronicle* and the AWP Award Series. Also from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can meet with a member of the AWP membership team to discuss the many year-round benefits of AWP membership, such as the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, the Intro Journals Project, and the AWP Prize for Undergrad Lit Mags.



**T110. The Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Makerspace.**

Exhibit 649, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

In celebration of the Wick Poetry Center’s fortieth anniversary year, the Traveling Stanzas Makerspace offers conference attendees an opportunity to creatively engage with themes of health and healing, social and racial justice, nature and environment, and peace and conflict. This interactive exhibit invites participants to share their voice using a suite of digital expressive writing tools, such as Emerge (an erasure poetry app), Thread (community-generated poems), and the Listening Wall (thematically-driven touch-screen poetry displays). Visitors will be able to choose a theme, follow a prompt, then print and share their responses. More information can be found at <http://travelingstanzas.com>.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**T111. Yoga for Writers.**

(Manisha Sharma)  
Room 2203, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**T112. A Magic of Pauses: Poetry Editors on Collaborative Writing and Editing Practices.**

(Srikanth “Chicu” Reddy, Anthony Cody, Cindy Juyoung Ok, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Bernardo Wade)  
Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**T113. Queering Kansas: LGBTQ+ Writers in the Heartland.**

(Laura Lee Washburn, Jericho Hockett, Fable Briggs, Dennis Etzel Jr)  
Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Five Kansas LGBTQ 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.

**T114. Stop Being So Dramatic!**

(Marcela Sulak, Jeannine Ouellette, Esteban Rodriguez, Sabrina Orah Mark, Debora Kuan)  
Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T115. Re-Membering Past and Present: The Practice of Documentary Poetry.**

(Tara Ballard, Philip Metres, Joseph Harrington, Michael Leong, Paisley Rekdal)  
Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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, decenter hegemonic or colonial narratives, and chronicle the now.

**T116. Social Justice on the Page: How Writing and Activism Feed Each Other.**

(Jen Soriano, Tijanna O. Eaton, Hans Lindahl, Karina Muniz-Pagan, Raychelle Heath)  
Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T117. DIY Your Lit Mag: How to Build a Literary Magazine From the Ground Up.**

(Ander Monson, NaBeela Washington, Steph Liberatore, Dorothy Chan)  
Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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 *DIAGRAM*, *Honey Literary*, *In Short*, and *Lucky Jefferson* will provide practical tips and advice for those looking to do-it-themselves.

**T118. Fictionalizing Marginalized Histories: India, Jamaica, Japan, USA.**

(Asako Serizawa, Kim Coleman Foote, Maisy Card, Shilpi Suneja)  
Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

Four fiction writers of color discuss how they researched and wrote multivoiced, multigenerational 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)?

**T119. Sound & Color: Poets and Visual Artists in Exquisite Exchange.**

(Emily Van Kley, Maya Jewell Zeller, Claudia Castro Luna, Sun Yung Shin, Vi Khi Nao)  
Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**T120. Creating Literary Community for All: Literary Centers and Reaching the Underserved.**

(Shawn Girvan, Dariel Suarez, Karen Schubert, Phil Memmer, Heather Newton)  
Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

Literary centers create and nurture vibrant and diverse literary communities across the United States, 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.

**T121. The Epigenetics of Joy: Writing Judaism Beyond Trauma.**

(Jessica Jacobs, Erika Meitner, Yehoshua November, Chanda Feldman)  
Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T122. Navigating Stormy Waters: Telling Your Tales When They’re Hard Stories to Tell.**

(Juanita Mantz, Laurie Markvart, Toni Ann Johnson, Nikia Chaney, Hannah Sward)  
Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**T123. Sin Fronteras: Navigating, Representing, and Publishing Latine Authors.**

(Viktoria Valenzuela, Cloud Delfina Cardona, Carlos Espinoza, Maria Maloney, Edward Vidaurre)  
Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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..

**T124. 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)  
Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.



**T125. Internationalism and Identity: A Need for Magazines to Transcend Borders.**

(Abeer Hoque, Hananah Zaheer, Aditya Desai, Kamil Ahsan, Shubhanga Pandey)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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 four countries will discuss why literary magazines should aspire to be internationalist, and why that matters for representation.

**T126. A New Canon: Five Writers Remaking the American West.**

(Elizabeth Gonzalez James, Tom Lin, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Robin McLean, Claudia Cravens)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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 five 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.

**T127. The Language of Leaving: Puerto Rican Writers on/from the Diaspora.**

(Claudia Acevedo-Quinones, Amina Gautier, Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón, Jerilynn Aquino)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T128. In Praise of Legacy: Writers of Color and the Challenge of the Canon.**

(Enzo Silon Surin, Nathan McClain, Kenzie Allen, Michael Mercurio, Rita Banerjee)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T129. Speaking Mosaics: Hybrid Narratives & the Prism of Identity.**

(Marissa Landrigan, Rajiv Mohabir, Monica Prince, Adriana Es Ramirez, Caitlyn Hunter)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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 and motivation to embrace hybridity as a way to claim space for historically marginalized communities.

**T130. Autobiographical Fiction: Writing about Trauma, Memory, Identity, and Survival.**

(Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Jeffrey Dale Lofton, William Mark Habeeb, Chris Dennis, Sasha Vasilyuk)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T131. Experiential Learning, Multimodality, and the Publishing Classroom, Oh My!**

(Saul Lemerond, Kimberly Southwick-Thompson, Jason McCall, Kate Budris)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T132. Pathways to Publishing for Indie Authors of Color.**

(Christina Vo, Amy M. Le, Kiran Bhat, Mugabi Byenkya)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**Professional Track**

**T133. Beyond the Debut: Publisher One-Night Stands vs. Long Term Relationships.**

(Kim Liao, Kirstin Chen, Leland Cheuk, Amy Hassinger, Rachel Stolzman Gullo)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**T134. Wait...I Can Use “Cunt” in a Poem?.**

(Sonia Greenfield, Sam Sax, Dustin Brookshire, Angelique Zobitz, Jonah Mixon-Webster)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

“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.

**9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**

**T135. AWP Program Directors’ Plenary Assembly. Grand Ballroom D, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

This meeting is for all directors of AWP member programs. Please join us for a light breakfast and an informal working session with your regional representatives. AWP Board Chair January Gill O’Neil will give a welcome and briefing before the breakout discussions begin.

Please note: program directors who are unable to attend may send a department representative in their place.

**10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**

**T136. First Time’s the Charm: Debut Novelists on How to Debut.**

(Jeremy Broyles, Holly M. Wendt, Kate Reed Petty, Sarah Cypher, Sarah Marian Seltzer)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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 their 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.

**T137. Reimagining Place: New Voices from the Midwest.**

(Kathryn Kysar, April Gibson, A. E. Wynter, Halee Kirkwood, Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**T138. Navigating Age-Based Audiences: Adult to Picture Book & Everything In Between.**

(Shana Youngdahl, Jennifer Moffett, Patrica Park, Laura Ruby, Linda Urban)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Children’s & Young Adult Literature*

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.

**T139. Where the Living Sit Talking About the Dead.**

(Brandon Hobson, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Kaveh Akbar, Marie-Helene Bertino, Kristin Keane)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

The pandemic was a collective experience of profound loss. Death is ubiquitous, yet the topic is avoided on the page and in life. What do we fear? Five acclaimed authors who think alongside the topic in genre-transcending ways that manifest as poem-films, martyrs, spirit lands, encyclopedias, and aliens, discuss why rendering death is crucial; its surprising humors, responsibilities, and joys. Their combined perspective includes social workers, poets, literacy researchers, and a death doula.



**T140. Artificial Intelligence & Real Creativity: AI in the CW Classroom.**

(Rebecca Pelky, Allison Adair, Jordi Alonso, Kate McIntyre, Christopher Salerno)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T141. It's Alive... It's Alive! Using Horror Film Aesthetics in Poetry.**

(Glenn Shaheen, Sara Eliza Johnson, Christopher Munde, Christian J. Collier, Melanie Jordan)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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?

**T142. Finding Your Own Rhythm: Writing Practices For Neurodiverse/Disabled Writers.**

(Lori Lynne Armstrong, Vayl Larkin, Mira Hadlow, Aqueila Lewis Ross, Anita Cameron)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**T143. The Black Grotesque.**

(Chaun Webster, Ron Austin, Aaron Mallory)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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 propertied logic of indexing and measurement that prize the single unit, a kind of individuation, and propose something porous and always assembling.

**Professional Track**

**T144. All About Audiobooks: Top Ten Questions Finally Answered!**

(Andy Garcia-Ruse, André Santana, Sarah Nessel)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Attention novice and seasoned writers alike! Discover the answers to the top ten 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 a Q&A.

**T145. How Food Invokes Poetry.**

(Kashiana Singh, Amy Baskin, Jen Karetnick, Zeina Azzam, Tresha Faye Haefner)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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.

**T146. Split/Lip Press Tenth Anniversary Reading.**

(Mila Jaroniec, Anurag Andra, Devon Capizzi, Jillian Danback-McGhan, Jared Yates Sexton)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Readings*

Split/Lip Press is celebrating its tenth 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 the most exciting prose writers of the last decade.

**T147. Queer Latinx Men and Vulnerability.**

(Saúl Hernández, Aldo Amparán, jj Peña, Gustavo Hernandez)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T148. Nepali Anglophone Writing: Five Writers from the Nepali Diaspora.**

(Khem Aryal, Rohan Chhetri, Pushparaj Acharya, Samyak Shertok, Saraswoti Lamichhane)  
**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

The event will feature five Nepali immigrant anglophone writers writing in the United States and Canada: Rohan Chhetri, Khem Aryal, Samyak Shertok, Pushpa Raj Acharya, Saraswati Lamichhane. Spanning genres from poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, 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 and complex representation of Nepali literature in English and in translation.

**T149. won’t you celebrate with me: BIPOC Women on Crafting the Personal Narrative.**

(Darien Hsu Gee, CMarie Fuhrman, Anastacia-Reneé Tolbert, Preeti Parikh, Karina Agbisit)  
**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T150. Writers in the Schools Alliance Annual Meeting.**

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Join other teaching writers and writer-in-the-school programs to discuss the rewards and challenges of the field at this moment. Goals for this meeting are to forge stronger connections within the network of WITSA organizations and practitioners and to set the coalition’s agenda for the year ahead. Time permitting, WITS community members will be invited to share their students’ writing. This meeting is open to anyone interested in the work of writer-in-the-school teaching artists, programs, and organizations.

**T151. Storytelling through Hermit Crab Flash: Exploring Borrowed Forms.**

(Kathy Fish, Lindsey Novak, Avitus B. Carle, Ruth Joffre)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

How can the ordinary forms we use in daily life—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.

**T152. Decolonizing American Literature: The Goals, Challenges, and Strategies of Writers.**

(Gemini Wahhaj, Sehba Sarwar, Oindrila Mukherjee, Namrata Poddar)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T153. Only This: Running a Themed Journal in an Era of Distraction and Specialization.**

(Matthew Krajniak, Parisa Saranj, Randon Billings Noble, Donald Quist, Tim Hillegonds)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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 and practical advice!

**T154. Fragmented Inheritances: Lyric Essay and Intergenerational Trauma.**

(Joanna Penn Cooper, Kiki Petrosino, James Allen Hall, Rajiv Mohabir)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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?

**T155. Communing with James Baldwin: A Centennial Celebration.**

(Wesley Rothman, Ed Pavlič, Airea Matthews, Khadijah Queen, Kiese Laymon)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Tributes*

One hundred 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.



**T156. Small & Mighty: Everything You Want to Know About Working with Indie Presses.**  
(Margot Atwell, Ryo Yamaguchi, Kate McMullen, Cat Fitzpatrick)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**T157. Lit Mags Explore Challenges & Methods of Expanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.**  
(Lorena Hernández Leonard, Robbie Gamble, Anri Wheeler, Shuchi Saraswat, Artress Bethany White)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**T158. Ripped (Gently) from the Headlines: The Ethics of Writing Fiction Based on Fact.**  
(Andrew Altschul, Ellen Meeropol, Ava Homa, Charmaine Craig, Justin Torres)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T159. Legal and Ethical Issues in Memoir, Hosted by the Authors Guild.**  
(Umair Kazi, Hannah Pittard, Maya Shanbhag Lang, Nancy Wolff)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

Writing about real people comes with an obligation to consider the impact on those involved. Memoirists must write the authentic story that they need to tell, and yet doing so can be difficult when facing the risk of a lawsuit or a damaged relationship with a loved one. How can a writer maintain artistic integrity and truthfulness while minimizing the risk of hurting or angering the people who appear on the page? In this panel, authors and attorneys discuss the legal and ethical implications of memoirs to help you feel confident about writing your truth.

**T160. Shaking Up the Memoir from Middle America.**  
(Taylor Brorby, Camille Dungy, Toni Jensen, Gabe Montesanti)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Readings*

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.

**T161. Bookshop.org For All.**  
(Steph Opitz, Ellington McKenzie)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

Did you know publishers and authors can use Bookshop.org? In this session we’ll show you how to create an account, generate revenue streams, and build your brand using Bookshop.org. By providing guidance on how to monetize your online presence, leverage your fanbase, and how you can work with your local indie or many or all indies to support their stores, you’ll leave this session ready support the publishing ecosystem while making some money.

[12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.](#)

**T162. Beyond Books: Alternative Careers in Writing.**  
(Brooke Palmer, Carmen Cantu, John “Br. John” Anderson, Barbara “Barb” Shelly, Lewis Duigood)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 journalists—discuss their unique experiences embodying a life in writing.

**T163. Resuscitation: Writing About Trauma.**  
(Rachel Kowalsky, Beth Hahn, David Queen, Jay Baruch)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T164. Raising More Than One Voice: Polyvocal and Multivocal Poetics.**  
(Asa Drake, Jimin Seo, Emily Luan, Saretta Morgan)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T165. Getting Non-Writers to Write: Teaching Outside of the English Department.**  
(Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, Deb Olin Unferth, Elline Lipkin, Mihaela Moscaliuc, Sabrina Orah Mark)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

“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 nontraditional 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.

**T166. TikTok Isn’t Just For Dancing: An Undergraduate Perspective on #BookTok.**  
(Emily Hizny, Ellie Pasquale, Maggie Mauro, Amber Watkin, Sarah Ledet)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**T167. Writing Miscarriage, Child Loss, and Complicated Childbirth in the Post-Roe Era.**  
(Kate Gaskin, Joanna Solfrian, Leila Chatti, Niina Pollari, Kwoya Fagin Maples)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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 chapbooks and full-length collections.

**T168. African Diaspora Caucus.**  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**  
*Caucus*

Uniting attendees from across disciplines, the African Diaspora Caucus will provide a forum for discussions of careers, best practices for teaching creative writing, and obtaining the MFA or PhD. We will work with AWP’s affinity caucuses to develop national diversity benchmarks for creative writing programs, and will collaborate with board and staff to ensure that AWP programs meet the needs of diaspora writers. This caucus will be an inclusive space that reflects the pluralities in our community.

**T169. Low-Stakes Creative Writing in a High-Stakes School: Upper Story.**  
(Piper Abernathy, Ben Christian, Nathan Gehoski, Luisa Muradyan, Jim Young)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

Explore one Kansas City, Missouri 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.

**T170. Toward a Poetics of Tenderness: Hegemonic Masculinity & the Poetic Imagination.**  
(Hayan Charara, Matthew Olzmann, Taylor Johnson, Ross Gay, Issam Zineh)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T171. Indian Writers Challenge State Violence.**  
(Aruni Kashyap, Suchitra Vijayan, Shastri Akella, Torsa Ghosal)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

In the popular depictions of India circulating in the United States, 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 U.S. The panelists will discuss how they represent this in their work and the challenges associated.



T172. This is Nebraska: Appraising the State We’re In.

(Theodore Wheeler, Chris Harding Thornton, James Han Mattson, Moisés Delgado, Julie Iromuanya)  
Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Readings

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?

T173. Queer As In: A Reading of Debut Trans and Nonbinary Poets.

(Sebastian Merrill, Jennifer Conlon, Tennison Black, Jason B. Crawford)  
Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Poetry Readings

Experience the transformative power of four trans and nonbinary 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.

T174. Slackers, Stoners, and Screw-Ups: APIA Writers on the Margins of the Margins.

(Mark Galarrita, Gene Kwak, Jean Kyoung Frazier, Jenn Alandy Trahan)  
Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

T175. Centering the Margin: Editors on Editing Anthologies.

(Khem K. Aryal, Casie Dodd, Hannah Grieco, Emily Jalloul, Remi Recchia)  
Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Publishing, Editing, and Technology

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.

T176. The Loneliness of the Slow Essayist: On Writing Books That Take Forever.

(Chelsea Biondolillo, Silas Hansen, Lisa Nikolidakis, Helena Rho, Rajpreet Heir)  
Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism

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 five writers in the same boat as we create a space to explore and tackle some of the real versus imagined risks of the long-simmering book project.

T177. From the French but not from France: A Bilingual Reading of Francophone Poems, Sponsored by ALTA.

(Conor Bracken, Nancy Naomi Carlson, H       Cardona, Todd Fredson, Kareem James Abu-Zeid)  
Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Translation

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 C       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.

T178. Writing Under the Influence: Accessing the Unknown through Divination.

(Michele Battiste, Kristen Nelson, Hoa Nguyen, Megan Kaminski, Teresa Carmody)  
Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

T179. Memoirs-in-Essays.

(Margo Steines, Maddie Norris, Natalie Lima, Krys Malcolm Belc, Tyrese Coleman)  
Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism

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.

T180. The Unsung Masters Reading.

(Dana Levin, Kevin Prufer, Niki Herd, Michael Peterson, Kazim Ali)

Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Poetry Readings

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.

T181. 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)  
Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Fiction Craft & Criticism

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 madneses, 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?

T182. Neurodiverse Sounds like Universe: Crafting Worlds Embracing Neurodiversity.

(Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach, Oliver de la Paz, Eugenia Leigh, Diannely Antigua, Allison Blevins)  
Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

Professional Track

T183. What We Don’t Talk About When We Talk About (or To) Agents.

(Lucy Carson, Sarah Bowlin, Annie Hwang, Mariah Stovall)  
Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing

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.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center. In addition to the in-person event at the conference, a prerecorded version of this event will be available to view on-demand.

Featured Event

T184. NBF Presents: Crafting Coming-of-Age.

(Susan Choi, Sarah Thankam Mathews, Ruth Dickey)

Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Fiction Craft & Criticism

Join 2019 National Book Award winner Susan Choi (*Trust Exercise*) and 2022 National Book Award finalist Sarah Thankam Mathews (*All This Could Be Different*) for a conversation on the impact of contemporary bildungsroman and what it means to grow up in adult fiction. Choi and Mathews read from their novels and discuss how and why coming-of-age stories capture writers and readers alike. Moderated by Ruth Dickey, Executive Director of the National Book Foundation. Presented in partnership with the National Book Foundation.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

T185. Writing in Written-Off States: Literary Nonprofits on Advocacy & Outreach.

(Ed Southern, Meg Reid, Ashley M. Jones, Becka Oliver)  
Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Writers’ Conferences & Centers

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.

T186. Voices of Resilience: Celebrating the Strength & Resilience of BIPOC Communities.

(Ricardo Ruiz, Jose Olivarez, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Salaam Green)  
Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Poetry Craft & Criticism

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.

T187. Writing Life As A Long Game: From Emerging to the Established Writer.

(Candice Mays, David Mura, Jubi Arriola-Headley, Maria Barrios, Cherry Lou Sy)  
Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

“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?



**T188. In the Tempered Dark: Contemporary Poets Transcending Elegy.**

(Lisa Fay Coutley, Prageeta Sharma, torrin a. greathouse, Muriel Leung, Chloe Honum)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**T189. *Naugatuck River Review* and *Wordpeace* Reading!**

(Lee Desrosiers, Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Sarah Browning, David W. Janey, Robin Michel)

**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

*Naugatuck River Review*, a print journal of narrative poetry and *Wordpeace.co*, an online multi-genre journal dedicated to social justice issues present a reading of *NRR*’s fifteenth annual contest winners and featured *Wordpeace* contributors from our issues celebrating bodily autonomy and LGBTQ+ writers and issues.

1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**T190. The Page Blinks Back :: Image, Text & Screen.**

(Sarah Minor, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Sarah Rose Nordgren, Douglas Kearney, Tisa Bryant)

**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T191. A Writer in Art School: Fostering Meaningful Interdisciplinary Experiences.**

(Catherine Black, Lillian Allen, Ian Keteku, Jada White)

**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T192. Dazzling Multiplicity of the Actual: Nonfiction Hybridity & Intersectional Form.**

(Jen Soriano, Julie Marie Wade, Constance Collier-Mercado, Barrie Jean Borich, Marco Wilkinson)

**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Readings*

Conventional approaches to nonfiction emphasize single stories, linear revelations, and verifiable facts, but pressure to conform to 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 view.

**T193. Embodied Prosody, Embodied Sentences: Coping Mechanisms.**

(Brian Teare, Jenny Johnson, torrin greathouse, Oliver de la Paz)

**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T194. Finding & Creating Community as a Writer, Sponsored by WITS Alliance.**

(Michele Kotler, Jason Koo, Nicole Hefner Callihan, Brenda Cardenas, Javan Howard)

**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Writing and being a teaching artist can both be solitary professions, as much of the work of creating, planning, and leading classrooms is often done alone. How can writers find their people and build a writing community that will motivate and support their writing practices? In this panel, teaching writers will share their strategies for finding or creating writing communities, including generative writing communities such as writing groups and beta readers, mentorships and fellowships, fundraising, and career support.

**T195. What I Wish I Would Have Known: Considerations for First Books and Far Beyond.**

(Wendy J Fox, Gregory Spatz, Leland Cheuk, Aisha Sharif, Morgan Christie)

**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**T196. Women Reclaim the Page: Generative Writing to Beat Burnout.**

(Emma Hudelson, Yalie Kamara, Melissa Fraterrigo, Amy Shearn, Lisa Low)

**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T197. Fostering Digital Literacies through Creative Composition.**

(Tara Propper, Matthew Kelly, Michelle Whittaker)

**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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?

**T198. Biography: The Radical Work of Writing Lives.**

(Morgan Graham, Iris Jamahl Dunkle, Janice N. Harrington, Eloisa Amezcua, Courtney Faye Taylor)

**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

“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.

**T199. Space, Lines, and Mattering: the Journey of Discovery Through Spoken Word.**

(Eddie Vega, Adam Henze, Dasan Ahanu, Boris (Bluz) Rogers, Andrea Vocab Sanderson)

**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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 more we can accomplish in our communities.

**T200. 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)

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**T201. Norman Dubie: A Critical Legacy.**

(Cynthia Hogue, Dorothy Chan, Dexter Booth, Elizabyth Hiscox, Hugh Martin)

**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Tributes*

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.

**T202. Translation as Advocacy With/ in Poetry’s Multilingual World.**

(Martha M. F. Kelly, Rachel Galvin, Aaron Coleman, Vitaly Chernetsky, Chamini Kulathunga)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

As a privileged global language, English provides a powerful tool for centering diverse voices who 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, Sinhala, Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian, and from cultures across the globe: from the African diaspora in the Americas to South Asia to the post-Soviet sphere and its diasporas.

**T203. Bad Immigrant Daughters in Fiction and Nonfiction.**

(Grace Loh Prasad, Monica Macansantos, Lisa Chiu, Lindsay Wong, Madhushree Ghosh)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.



**T204. Snap, Crackle, Prose: Telling Our Stories in 300 Words or Less.**

(Kalehua Kim, Samantha Chagollan, Devi Laskar, Shaina Nez, Darien Hsu Gee)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T205. Poetry Stacked: Building a Twenty-First Century Reading Series at the Library.**

(Melissa Norris, Michael Peterson, Dior Stephens, Ben Kline)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Program Development*

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 twenty-first 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.

**T206. Poets Against Walls: An Anthology/ Handbook for Writing Past the Checkpoints.**

(Cesar De Leon, Sehba Sarwar, Emmy Perez, Carolina Monsivais, Celina Gomez)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

*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.

**T207. A More Perfect Union in Extreme Times: Kansas Poets Laureate.**

(Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Huascar Medina, Kevin Rabas, Denise Low, Wyatt Townley)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

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 United States 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.

**T208. Reimagining Kansas: Anarchy, Islamic Hope, Family Dysfunction, and Godly Plains.**

(Daniel A. Hoyt, Chloe Chun Seim, Farooq Ahmed, Becky Mandelbaum)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Readings*

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 emotionally-nuanced story of an animal-loving family in repair, and the dark tale of a supernaturally-touched farming family in decline.

**T209. Revision as Trans\* Praxis.**

(Crystal Odelle, Nico Amador, K. Angel, Safa Khatib, Maurice L. Tracy)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T210. 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)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Children’s & Young Adult Literature*

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.

**T211. Independent for Life: The Value and Benefits of Publishing with an Independent Press, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Montana Agte-Studier, Carmen Giménez, Adam Levy, Zain Khalid)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**Featured Event**

**T212. A Reading and Conversation with Sarabande Anthology Poets on Writing & Addiction.**

(Kaveh Akbar, Paige Lewis, Sherwin Bitsui, Joy Priest)

**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Death to the old cliché the lush poet who destroys themselves and others in pursuit of their tortured genius. Here, four nationally-acclaimed poets from the Sarabande anthology, *Another Last Call: Poems on Addiction & Deliverance*, read their work and speak to writing and their experiences with (and near) addiction. This event celebrates the work of writers who have grappled, or are grappling with this disease, who do not glamorize addiction but instead live beside it, around it, through it.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**T213. It’s a Crime! Genre Fiction’s Bad Rap (Sheet) in Academia’s Mean Streets.**

(Richie Narvaez, Edwin Hill, Art Taylor, David Heska Wanbli Weiden)

**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T214. What Is an Author—Off the Net?**

(Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Lisa Lewis, Ralph Burns, Laura Minor, Clemonce Heard)

**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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?

**T215. Pathways to Success: Practical and Personal Tips for Getting Published.**

(Lydia Kang, Jean Alicia Elster, Ann Kim, Lisa Williamson Rosenberg, Jenny Qi)

**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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 nonfiction?

**T216. Black Women Leading.**

(Arleta Little, Tish Jones, Kimberly A. C. Wilson, Carla Du Pree, Samiya Bashir)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

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, perspectives, and approach to leadership within their organizations and communities.

**T217. The Hen Party: Is Multigenerational Dialogue Unifying for Women?.**

(Angela C Trudell Vasquez, Alik Barnstone, Anum Sattar, Jenny Molberg, Liana Sakelliou)

**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Contrary to popular belief, a hen party is not limited to a bachelorette party and can extend to any social gathering of women. Four generations of poets: in their twenties, thirties, fifties and sixties, celebrate how women’s thoughts on career, relationships and body image change with age through the writing, discussion, and reading of their poems all the while getting to the heart of the matter—why is cross-generational dialogue necessary for the empowerment of woman-identifying people?

**3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.**

**T218. Building Writing Collectives that Empower and Support Outside the Institution.**

(Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Randall James Tyrone, Glenn Shaheen, Stalina Villarreal, Chankrisna Tea)

**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**T219. Hybridity and the Case of the Active Reader.**

(Clara Burghilea, Felicia Zamora, Lauren Brazeal Garza, Jennifer Militello, Sam Moe)

**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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 blurs, 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.



**T220. Everyone is Multilingual: Inviting All Languages into the Writing Classroom, Sponsored by ALTA.**

(Nora Carr, Rebecca Suzuki, Francesca Hyatt, L Torres, Jacqui Cornetta)

**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

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.

**T221. The Book Was Better...or Was It?: Adapting Your Novel into a Screenplay or Play.**

(colette freedman, Nicole Hodges Persley, Guadalupe Garcia McCall)

**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**T222. Beyond the Signed Copy: Lessons from Writers who are also Booksellers.**

(Dan Wells, Josh Cook, Casey Plett, Danny Caine, Meg Reid)

**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**T223. Writing and the Day Job: How Writers Maintain a Living Outside of Academia.**

(Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Mina Hamed, Josh Riedel, Mark Galarrita)

**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**T224. Thinking Beyond the Page: Reaching and Creating Community.**

(Marina Budhos, Christina Chiu, Tanuja Desai Hidier, Helen Elaine Lee, Georgia Clark)

**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Program Development*

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.

**T225. To Keep or Not to Keep: Shifting Models in the Post-Pandemic Workshop.**

(Sarah A Chavez, Ever Jones, Ching-In Chen, Rochelle Hurt)

**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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 and range of courses taught, panelists will elaborate on ways that workshop practices can and have shifted toward equity.

**T226. Reproductive Writes: Writing About Reproductive Choice, Loss, and Justice.**

(Jacqui Morton, Erika Meitner, Carla Sameth, Maria Novotny, Robin Silbergleid)

**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**T227. Art Belongs to Everyone: Giving Literature and Art a New Voice.**

(NaBeela Washington, Dorian Nash, Mel Sherrer, Morgan Christie)

**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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 copartner with us to develop new communities of practice.

**T228. Crafting the Complexity of Jewish Women’s Lives.**

(Elizabeth Poliner, Margot Singer, Rachel Kadish, Sarah Seltzer, Lauren Grodstein)

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T229. Write On! Literary Centers on Fostering Sustainable Youth Communities.**

(Susan Deutsch, Jessica Grace Kelley, Travon Godette, Joe Kane)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

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, and 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 and boundaries, as well as the importance of giving students the tools to create their own creative communities post-graduation.

**T230. Write Through It, Write To It: Finding Community in Adversity.**

(Anna V. Q. Ross, Molly Sutton Kiefer, Nadia Colburn, Hyejung Kook, Julie Choffel)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T231. Bullet Journaling, Car Retreats & Barney: Ten Hacks for Writing while Parenting.**

(Melissa Hart, Rudri Patel, Estelle Erasmus, Andrea Ross, Donn Hess)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**T233. Story Mode 2.0: Exercises for Writing Narrative Video Games.**

(Eric Freeze, Julialicia Case, Salvatore Pane, Julian Whitney)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**T234. Intro Forever: Mapping the Creative and Pedagogical Terrain of Community Colleges.**

(Shannon Gibney, Jessica E. Johnson, Janice Lobo

Sapigao, Tomas Moniz, Megan Savage)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

Though community colleges typically enroll around forty percent of United States 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 nonexistent research support.

**T235. (Re)Vision: Creating a Sustainable Writing Community.**

(Tiana Nobile, Sarah Audsley, Tamiko Beyer, Dharani Persaud)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.



T236. **Queer Speculation: Transing Genre, Transing Gender.**

(Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Kai Cheng Thom, KJ Cerankowski, Clare Sears, Raquel Gutiérrez)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

T237. **Ethics of Writing the Other: #ownvoices in Literary Writing.**

(Steven Dunn, Katie Jean Shinkle, Suzi Q Smith, Joanna Ruocco, Jubi Arriola-Headley)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?

T238. **Gathering Evidence: Crime Fiction as Social Commentary.**

(John Copenhaver, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Mindy Mejia, Angie Kim)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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. Four 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.

**Featured Event**

T239. **Furious Flower Presents Nikky Finney, Anastacia-Reneé and Malika Booker.**

(Lauren Alleyne, Nikky Finney, Malika Booker, Anastacia Reneé)  
**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

Furious Flower commemorates its upcoming thirtieth anniversary, and previews the fourth historic Furious Flower Poetry Conference (September 2024), with a reading and conversation among three award-winning poets—Nikky Finney, Anastacia-Reneé and Malika Booker—moderated by executive director, Lauren K. Alleyne. They will discuss the geographies, identities, and communities that influence their practice and craft, their relationships to the Black archive, as well as their work within and outside the academy.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

T240. **A Perfect Fit: Debut Short Story Collections & University Presses.**

(Clare Beams, Caroline Kim, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, Courtney Sender, Laura Chow Reeve)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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 Five 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.

T241. **Writing About Your Trauma Without Re-Traumatizing Yourself.**

(Elizabeth Kleinfeld, Lisa Cooper Ellison, Athena Dixon, Margo Steines, Libby Kurz)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**Professional Track**

T242. **About That Book Life: A Publishing Round Robin.**

(Sarah Levitt, Sebastian Stockman, Emily Cook, Marc Fitten)

**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

T243. **Publishing as Activism: Amplifying Marginalized Voices.**

(Juania Sueños, Diamond Braxton, Murphy Anne Carter, Claire Bowman, Cyrus Gray)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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, and racism—as they relate to self-publishing and literary community activism.

T244. **Writing Travel and Place: A Conversation.**

(Scott Dewing, Kurt Caswell, Sean Enfield, CMarie Fuhrman)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

What does it mean for a writer to travel? And what does it mean for a writer to establish a home rooted in place? Is there a difference in the work of a writer who honors the call for departure and return, and the writer who remains firmly at home, and so comes to know her place intimately. In this conversation about the influences of travel and place on writing and the writer’s life, participants will explore how these seeming opposites may be more complementary and companionable than we think.

5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

T245. **Sober AWP.**

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

T246. **Two-Year College Creative Writing Caucus.**

(Stephanie M. Lindberg, Marlys Cervantes, Sean Chambers, Courtney O’Banion Smith, Joe Baumann)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Caucus*

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.

T247. **LGBTQ Writers Caucus.**

(Belinda Kremer, Erin Sharkey, Derek Scheips, Casey Gabriella Almodovar Ramos)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Caucus*

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.

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

T248. **UMKC Friends of Creative Writing Reception.**

**12th Street Room, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Street Level**

This is an open reception for friends and supporters of UMKC’s creative writing program.

T249. **Writer to Writer Mentorship Program Reception.**

**Basie A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level**

Celebrate nineteen seasons of the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program! Former mentors and mentees are invited for a reunion and celebration. Bring a plus one, mingle with fellow participants and AWP staff, and enjoy a drink and some light fare.

T250. **AWP HBCU Fellowship Program Reception.**

**Basie B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level**

Join us in celebrating the AWP HBCU Fellowship Programs second year! Enjoy refreshments, meet this years faculty and student fellows, and hear from #AWP24 creative advisor Rion Amilcar Scott.

T251. **Emerson @ AWP.**

**Basie C, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level**

Join your fellow Emersonians and conference attendees to connect and reconnect while celebrating the fortieth anniversary of our MFA program.



**T252. Lambda Literary Presents a LGBTQ+ Literary Reception.**  
Mary Lou Williams AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Lambda Literary is all about celebrating LGBTQ+ stories and writers. Come and connect with other writers, readers, editors, and more. Share your love of queer stories!

**T253. University of Missouri Creative Writing Cocktail Hour.**  
Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Join Alik Barnstone, Gabe Fried, Trudy Lewis, Speer Morgan, Phong Nguyen, and Donald Quist for a gathering of faculty and students (past and present) of the University of Missouri’s Creative Writing Program. Friends of the program, including prospective graduate students, are welcome!

**T254. UM MFA/PhD & Greenfield Farms Writers Residency: A New Front Porch For the Deep South**  
Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Celebrating a new front porch for the deep south: Greenfield Farms Writers Residency, developed in partnership with the University of Mississippi MFA/PhD program, a retreat-style residency built on William Faulkner’s mule farm, just outside of Oxford, MS.

**T254A. Reception, Hosted by Adelphi University’s Low-residency MFA Program in Creative Writing.**  
Julia Lee B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Please join some of our MFA faculty, Igor Webb, Maya Marshall, Jan-Henry Gray, and the director, René Steinke, for writerly conversation and refreshments.

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**T255. Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus.**  
(shauna osborn, Deborah Taffa)  
Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*  
Indigenous writers and scholars participate fluidly in AWP by teaching and directing affiliated programs, working as independent writers/scholars in language revitalization and 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.


8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Featured Event**

**T256. #AWP24 Keynote Address by Jericho Brown, Sponsored by AWP.**  
(Jericho Brown)  
Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Jericho Brown is the recipient of a Whiting Award in Poetry and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Browns first book, *Please* (2008), won the 2009 American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament* (2014), won the 2015 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best of the year by *Library Journal*, *Coldfront*, and the Academy of American Poets. He is also the author of the collection *The Tradition* (2019), which was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award and the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *Buzzfeed*, *The Nation*, *the New York Times*, *the New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Time*, and *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry* anthologies.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.



COMMUNITY OF WRITERS

SUMMER WRITING WORKSHOPS

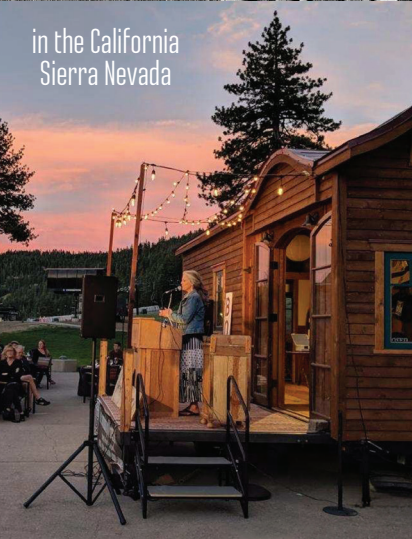
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7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

**F100. Sober AWP.**  
Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level  
Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**F101. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**  
Room 2214, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a fifth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: in Adrienne’s Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$850.) Additional images: \$75/ea. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required: <https://am-photography.ticketleap.com/awp24/dates>

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**F102. Coat Check.**  
2200 Lobby, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Coat check is available in Lobby 2200 on Level 2 of the Kansas City Convention Center. It is \$5.00 per item checked. ATMs can be found in Lobby 2200, next to Room 2207, and in the Conference Center, across the hall from Room 2501A.

**F103. Conference Registration.**  
Registration, Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP’s registration area located in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check-in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to register at our senior rate. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

**F104. Dickinson Quiet Space.**  
Room 2201 & 2202, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” -Emily Dickinson

**F105. Low-light Space.**  
Room 2525A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the convention center.

**F106. Nursing Lounge.**  
Room 2213, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

The nursing lounge is located in Room 2213 on the Street Level of the Kansas City Convention Center, and is available for any nursing parent to use.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**F107. AWP Bookfair.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

With more than 500 literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**F108. AWP Membership Booth.**  
Booth 1531, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Stop by the AWP Membership Booth to meet with AWP board members during bookfair hours at the conference! Join us for coffee every day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and chat with senior publications editor James Tate Hill to learn more about the *Writer’s Chronicle* and the AWP Award Series. Also from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can meet with a member of the AWP membership team to discuss the many year-round benefits of AWP membership, such as the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, the Intro Journals Project, and the AWP Prize for Undergrad Lit Mags.

**F109. Bookfair Concessions, Bar, and Lounge.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Breakfast and lunch concessions are available inside the Exhibit Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center. Debit cards, credit cards, and tap-to-pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.



**F110. The Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Makerspace.**  
**Exhibit 649, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

In celebration of the Wick Poetry Center’s fortieth anniversary year, the Traveling Stanzas Makerspace offers conference attendees an opportunity to creatively engage with themes of health and healing, social and racial justice, nature and environment, and peace and conflict. This interactive exhibit invites participants to share their voice using a suite of digital expressive writing tools, such as Emerge (an erasure poetry app), Thread (community-generated poems), and the Listening Wall (thematically-driven touch-screen poetry displays). Visitors will be able to choose a theme, follow a prompt, then print and share their responses. More information can be found at <http://travelingstanzas.com>.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**F111. Yoga for Writers.**  
(Manisha Sharma)  
**Room 2203, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**F112. Queer Architectures: New Models for Memoir.**  
(Alden Jones, Zoë Sprankle, Putsata Reang, Kirsten Imani Kasai)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F113. Amplifying Ukrainian Voices in the English-Speaking Literary Environment.**  
(Ostap Kin, Grace Mahoney, Olena Jennings, Oksana Maksymchuk, Oksana Lutsyshyna)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

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.

**F114. Bridging the Diaspora: A Bilingual Reading by Letras Boricuas Fellows.**  
(Cezanne Cardona, Carmen R. Marín, Urayoán Noel, Amina Lolita Gautier, Vanessa Mártir)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

Among Puerto Rico’s great cultural traditions is literature, yet Puerto Rican writers past and present lack visibility in the United States 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.

**Professional Track**

**F115. What Authors Need to Know about Generative AI and Copyright.**  
(Rachel Brooke, Dave Hansen)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F116. Generative Poetry Workshops: Take ‘Em or Teach ‘Em.**  
(L.J. Sysko, Maya C. Popa, Kim Addonizio, Flower Conroy, Sandra Beasley)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

A generative poetry 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 workshopppers. 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.

**F117. Defying Category: How to Sell, Edit, and Market a Genre-Bending Novel.**  
(Lucy Carson, Annie Hwang, Silvia Park, Amara Hoshijo, Carina Guiterman)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**F118. Writing Interracial Narratives.**  
(Erik Gleibermann, Alexandra Chang, Mira Jacob, Cleyvis Natera)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?

**F119. Defining Environmental Fiction: Writers and Editors Discuss.**  
(Michelle Donahue, Megan Giddings, Allegra Hyde, Michael Mejia, Erin Swan)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F120. How Writing Transforms: From the Pen to the Screen.**  
(Jahaan Maiden, Ethan Avery, Vernon E. Williams, Doug Hilson)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**F121. Adjunct Assembly.**  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Adjuncts, assemble! Join us for coffee and conversation with fellow adjuncts and AWP board and staff members. Come prepared to talk about potential solutions—big and small—for the challenges facing this growing population of higher educators.

**F122. “To Confirm a Thing and Give Thanks”: Rereading May Swenson.**  
(Malachi Black, Brian Brodeur, Sara Eliza Johnson, Randall Mann, Nancy K. Pearson)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Though more widely acknowledged in her lifetime, May Swenson is now something of a “poet’s 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 twenty-first century return to this unduly neglected master and pioneering queer poet.

**F123. A Tribute to Don DeLillo: A Literary Vandal and Bad Citizen.**  
(Christina Milletti, John Domini, Michael Rizza, Ted Pelton, Joseph Haske)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Tributes*

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.

**F123A. Diasporic Poetics: Reading by Debut Asian American Poets.**  
(Jay Gao, Megan Pinto, Jimin Seo, Susan Nguyen, Xiao Yue Shan)  
**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

Join four award-winning Asian diasporic poets for a celebratory reading of their debut poetry books. Whether excavating diasporic grief; reckoning with the silence of language; questioning the role of faith and belonging; complicating the translator’s agency—these unique poets challenge what it means to write and belong to the contemporary Asian American diaspora. The reading will be followed by a conversation about their writing journeys including their advice for poets working on their debut.



**F124. Writing and Intellectual Disability: An Inclusive Panel.**

(Melissa Hart, George Estreich, Amy Silverman, Laura Estreich, Sophie Stern)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F124A. I Published My First Book After Age Fifty: A Reading and Conversation.**

(Anne Elliott, Karen Schubert, LeTonia Jones, Louise Marburg, Jimin Han)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**F125. Questions & Wonder: Science in Fiction.**

(TaraShea Nesbit, Kristen Millares Young, Katy Simpson Smith, Elisabeth Eaves, Natalie Green)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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, and more, exploring wonder, breakthroughs, prejudices, and ethical dilemmas. Writers and program directors share experiences and advice for writing science-informed fiction.

**F126. Our First Universe: The Aesthetics of Home in Fiction.**

(Miciah Bay Gault, Robin MacArthur, Adam McOmber, Samuel Kolawole, Michelle Ross)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F127. Embracing Our Writer Identities: Women of Color Speak Candidly about the Journey.**

(Patrice Gopo, Ramona Payne, Lillie Pardo, Angie Chatman)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**F128. Writing to Change the World Through Live Storytelling: Craft Meets Catharsis.**

(Christine Wolf, Nestor Gomez, Kevin Cordi, Paulette Perhach, Susan Rohde)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

Live storytelling professionals, teachers, and Moth champs discuss the craft and catharsis of writing for live audiences. We’ll explore live storytelling’s unique ability to break down barriers, connect, and heal. By sharing examples of how we select, compose, and perform pieces that open eyes and change perspectives, you’ll discover methods to clarify and amplify your own messages. C’mon! Take your writing off the page, and leave a lasting impact on the world—one live performance at a time.

**F129. Our Souths: Curating Spaces Against BIPOC & LGBTQIA+ Erasure.**

(Dorsey Craft, Kai Coggin, Jessica Stark, Erin Hoover, Sebastian Paramo)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**F130. Latina/o/x Narratives: Including Diverse Experiences from Our Community.**

(Andrew Boryga, Nathan Osorio, Alexandra Silvas, Brenda Peynado, Cynthia Guardado)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Many Latinx 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 indigenous people must be shared to accurately reflect the Latinx population. Join these panelists as they discuss how their work expands upon the canon and the importance of diverse Latino/a/x literature.

**F131. Transfigured Flesh: Shapeshifting, Embodiment and the Nonhuman in Trans Narratives.**

(Zeyn Joukhadar, Rivers Solomon, Bishakh Som, Andrea Lawlor)

**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F132. 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)

**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F133. Please Don’t Tag Me in a Negative Book Review on Social Media.**

(Lupita Aquino, Yohanca Delgado, Marines Alvarez, Traci Thomas, Arianna Rebolini)

**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F134. Build Your Sharp & Unforgettable Bouquet: On the Making of Anthologies.**

(Tess Taylor, Jennifer Barber, Elise Paschen, Brynn Saito, LeAnne Howe)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

[10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.](#)

**F135. Breaking the Rules on Chapbooks: New Approaches to an Old Form.**

(Aviya Kushner, Adriana Jacobs, Ruben Quesada, Michelle Gil-Montero, Jace Brittain)

**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F136. Archives into Art: Jewish Writers Explode the Document.**

(Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, S.L. Wisenberg, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Leah Lax, Tom Haviv)

**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?”

**F137. The Impact of Denying DEI.**

(Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes, Fayeza Hasanat, Kevin Meehan)

**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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 genres 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.



Professional Track

F138. How to Be Your Own Agent.

(Pedro Ponce, Anne Elliott, Joanna Sit, Ariel Gore, Thaddeus Rutkowski)

Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing

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.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center. In addition to the in-person event at the conference, a prerecorded version of this event will be available to view on-demand.

F139. When Every Word Is A Spoon: Disabled Writers on the Accommodations We Need.

(Jaclyn Rachel, Eshani Surya, Jess Silfa, Sylvia Chan, Cat Ingrid Leeches)

Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Artistic & Professional Development

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.

F140. Ethical Representation: A Literary-Agent Panel Sponsored by the Association of American Literary Agents (AALA).

(Kent D. Wolf, Monika Woods)

Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing

This panel will focus on the publishing industry from the perspectives of two current AALA board members. They will walk attendees through the process of securing representation and publishing a book—from first draft up to publication. The presentation will have a special focus on ethical representation as laid out by the AALA's "Canon of Ethics" and the organization's DEI initiatives and anti-racism work.

F141. Translation as Poetics, Sponsored by ALTA.

(Soleil David, janan alexandra, Samandar Ghaus, Amanda L. Andrei, Xiao Wen Li)

Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Translation

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.

F142. Pollen, Rust, Lakes, & Plains: Writing Poems in the Midwest.

(Caryl Pagel, Zach Savich, Robin Beth Schaer, Jason Harris, Nicholas Gulig)

Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Poetry Craft & Criticism

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.

F143. Draft, Draft, Goose: The Thinking Behind Revising.

(Jon Pineda, Kevin Prufer, Alan Michael Parker, Sarah Perry, Rone Shavers)

Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

F144. Supporting Small-Press Authors.

(Chrissy Kolaya, Hilary Plum, Seth Brady Tucker, Jessica Alexander, Jason Koo)

Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Discussion Room

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 Five or self-publishing.

F145. Heroic Crowns: On the Values of Difficulty and Dazzle.

(Laurie Ann Guerrero, Matt Miller, Alexis Sears)

Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Poetry Craft & Criticism

Notoriously hard to write, the heroic crown is a tightly linked sequence of fifteen 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.

F146. "Yes, And": A Bisexual Exploration of Genre.

(Katie Schmid Henson, Zaina Arafat, SJ Sindu, Rachel Cochran, Katharine Coldiron)

Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

F147. Nobody's Mother: Writing Through the Decision to Parent.

(Casey Bell, Stacy Gnall, Keturah Kendrick, Erin Swan, Katya Apekina)

Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Readings

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.

F148. Margins and Memory: The Craft of Trauma and Truth(s).

(Jameelah Lang, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, George Abraham, Jenny Molberg, David MacLean)

Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

F149. Unraveling the Prophetic: Gerald Stern's Oeuvre Revisited.

(Mihaela Moscaliuc, Chase Berggrun, Kimiko Hahn, Matthew Rohrer, Alessandra Lynch)

Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Tributes

In October 2022, the National Book Award-winning Jewish poet Gerald Stern passed away at the age of ninety-seven. 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.

F150. Life as Laboratory: Using Creative Play As Activism.

(Celeste Chan, Gretchen Cion, Hasti Jafari, May-lee Chai)

Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Pedagogy

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.

F151. The Craft of Writing Intersectional Identities in Young Adult Literature.

(Jen Ferguson, Adib Khorram, Adrienne Russell, Anna Meriano, Hayley Dennings)

Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Children's & Young Adult Literature

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 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.

F152. Wings of a Bird in Flight: Poets of the Cuban and Puerto Rican Diasporas.

(Malcolm Friend, Jennifer McCauley, Yesenia Montilla, Sara Daniele Rivera)

Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Poetry Readings

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 United States' 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.

F153. Many Moseses, Many Promised Lands Unseen: A Lecture by Rion Amilcar Scott.

(Rion Amilcar Scott)

Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

Join Rion Amilcar Scott, a fiction writer and the creative advisor to AWP's HBCU Fellowship Program, currently in its second year. HBCUs have left an indelible mark upon the face of literature. This lecture discusses what it truly means to be a part of that legacy. This lecture will be followed by a book signing.



**F154. The Against Tradition Tradition: Contradiction & the Prose Poem.**

(Dana Levin, Leslie Sainz, Sophie Klahr, Jose Hernandez Diaz, Olatunde Osinaike)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Originating in nineteenth-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.

**F155. f/Lawless: Writing Queer Sex.**

(Asali Solomon, Melissa Febos, Jeanne Thornton, Annie Liontas, Lydia Conklin)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**Featured Event**

**F156. Language Back: A Reading & Conversation with Indigenous Poets, Sponsored by Indigenous Nations Poets.**

(Kimberly Blaeser, Jake Skeets, Esther Belin, Luci Tapahonso)

**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

Simultaneous with the contemporary Land Back movement of Tribal Nations is an equally urgent call for Indigenous literary sovereignty. This focus on writing Indigenous includes a strong push for creators to employ tribal languages and their inherent structures—for Language Back. Poet contributors to The Diné Reader, Jake Skeets, Luci Tapahonso, and Esther Belin, will read recent work and discuss how their creative work maps itself at the intersections of tribal language, poetic form, and place.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**Featured Event**

**F156A. PEN Presents: Free the Books**

(Ryan La Sala, Kasey Meehan)

**Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

In facing rising threats to the freedoms to read and imagine, PEN America convenes a dialogue with beloved writers on the recent and dramatic rise in the efforts to censor and silence Black and LGBTQIA+ perspectives. Bestselling authors of young adult fiction and fantasy will be in conversation with Kasey Meehan, director of PEN America’s Freedom to Read program. Together, they will assess the impact of book banning and censorship on society and especially upon traditionally marginalized communities, as well as provide insight into how one can combat book banning at a local level.

The panel conversation will be followed by an afternoon workshop led by Kasey Meehan. Additional panelists to be announced.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**F157. Women of New Fabulism and Speculative Literature: A Reading.**

(Sarah Kain Gutowski, Carolyn Oliver, Nic Anstett, Aimee Parkison, Chloe Chun Seim)

**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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 v. 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.

**F158. Til Death (or Edits) Do Us Part: The Significant Other in Creative Nonfiction.**

(Sandra Beasley, Angie Chuang, Davon Loeb, Sarah Viren, John Cotter)

**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F159. The Happy Family: The Craft of Domestic Horror.**

(Elinam Agbo, Pemi Aguda, Gerardo Sámano Córdova, Akil Kumarasamy, Annesha Mitha)

**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F160. What Bookshelf Do I Belong On?: The Challenges of Literary Categorization.**

(Grace Loh Prasad, Joy Castro, Simon Han, Jan Stinchcomb)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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 and 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.

**F161. “The Lost Coin” and Other Stories About the Fate of Children Adopted at Birth.**

(Stephen Rowley, KelLee Parr)

**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Readings*

Stephen Rowley will read from *The Lost Coin: A Memoir of Adoption and Destiny* and discuss his lifelong search for identity. KelLee Parr will read from *Mansion on a Hill: The Story of the Willows Maternity Sanitarium and the Adoption Hub of America*—founded in Kansas City in 1905. The authors will discuss the differences between the diverse destinies of adoptees and the common, primal wound that adoptees carry invisibly within. We hope to uncover new stories of adoption from the audience.

12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.

**F162. Screenwriting with the Hero’s Journey and Beyond.**

(Dennis Etzel Jr, Erin Hamer-Beck, Kevin Rabas, Matt Nyquist, John Ingle)

**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**F163. Ekphrasis & Indigenous Poetics: Writing the Space the Spaces In-Between.**

(Halee Kirkwood, Annie Wenstrup, Melanie Merle, Elise Paschen, Tacey Atsitty)

**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F164. More Than Our Tongues: Women of Color Writing with Arabic, Chinese, and Korean.**

(Su Cho, Anni Liu, Alycia Pirmohamed, Zeina Hashem Beck)

**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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, how we’ve learned and changed our view on this, and, of course, the delightful surprises that come along the way.



Professional Track

**F165. Be Shameless: Everything You Need to Know to Nail Promotion.**  
(Cleyvis Natera, Mitchell Jackson, Angie Cruz, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Lisa Lucas)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

The most cringeworthy 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.

**F166. The Stages of Writing & Publishing Memoir.**  
(Ofelia Montelongo, Anabelle Tometich, Hyeseung Song, Margaret Lee, Sarah Chaves)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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?

**F167. Say Gay Today: Writing in the Backward Climate of Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation.**  
(Nicole Tallman, Chen Chen, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, Dior J. Stephens, Dustin Brookshire)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

Join queer poets Chen Chen, Nicole Tallman, Dior J. Stephens, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, and Dustin Brookshire 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.

**F168. Mek We Talk: Language and Identity in Caribbean Writing and Beyond.**  
(Carol Mitchell, Donna Hemans, Kevin Jared Hosein, Tanya Batson-Savage, Katia D. Ulysse)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F169. Inside Out, Outside In: How Teaching in Prison Affects Creative Pedagogy.**  
(Ravi Shankar, Jen Fitzgerald, Anna V.Q. Ross, Shreerekha Subramanian, Brandon Dean Lamson)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**F170. Applying for an Individual NEA Poetry Fellowship.**  
(Katy Day, Jessica Flynn, Amy Stolls)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**F171. The Long and Winding Road: How to Persevere When Your Book Takes Forever.**  
(Susan Ito, Terry Tierney, Susanne Pari, Sejal Shah, Sari Botton)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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.

**F172. Working-class Jews: A Poetics of American Assimilation.**  
(Jeffrey Wolf, Kim Brooks, Yelena Akhtiorskaya, Dan Alter)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F174. Beyond the Limits of Loss: Translation as Generative Practice, Sponsored by ALTA.**  
(Derick Mattern, Rebecca Hanssens-Reed, Becka McKay, Kelsi Vanada, Farid Matuk)  
**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

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.

**F176. Should I Just Give Up?**  
(Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Michelle Otero, Anel Flores, Jackie Cuevas, Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera)  
**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

These Chicana/x feminist poets, memoirists, artists, administrators, and professors have invested a collective ninety 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.

**F177. 2024 Writers' Conferences & Centers (WC&C) Meeting.**  
**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

This meeting is an opportunity for members of Writers Conferences & Centers to discuss potential changes to AWP’s service to WC&Cs. AWP’s WC&C Chair, Mimi Herman, will conduct this meeting.

**F178. Summons and Return: How We Write Globally of Our Homes and Other Destinations.**  
(Allen Gee, Oindrila Mukherjee, Samuel Kolawole, Kerry Neville, Faith Adiele)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F179. Creating Community Residencies to Celebrate Queer Writers.**  
(Kim Roberts, Sunu Chandy, Tanya Olson, Malik Thompson, Dan Vera)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Program Development*

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.

**F180. Writing Life Post-MFA: Unearthing the Realities.**  
(Jessica Nirvana Ram, Tyler Anne Whichard, Nishat Ahmed, Susan Nguyen, Aurielle Marie)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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?

**F181. My Feet, Whose Shoes? Writing and Translating “The Other”.**  
(Alison Lewis, Areg Azatyan, Laura Nagle, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.”

**F182. Exhausted & Overwhelmed: Attempting Queer Joy in 2024.**  
(Rachel Simon, Noah Arhm Choi, Melissa Faliveno, Colin Hosten)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.



**F183. East Coast, West Coast, Best Coast: Writing the Midwest.**  
(Megan Stielstra, Maggie Smith, Rebecca Makkai, Denne Michele Norris, Ashley Ford)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

“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.

**Featured Event**

**F184. Black Women As (Keepers of) the Archive: Photographs, Hybrid and Historical Text, Sponsored by Cave Canem.**  
(Remica Bingham-Risher, Robin Coste Lewis, Patricia Smith, Courtney Faye Taylor, Bettina Judd)  
**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

These five Black women writers have crafted works that center those most often removed from history or those that are splayed across it as specimen, silent and reluctant. Hybrid texts help illuminate the forgotten and missing or can create a collage of the living, serving as rescue and reclamation. The poets featured here have embodied, reckoned with, and reinvented the archive: sometimes they raise the dead, sometimes they build a spectacular future, but they always refuse to look away.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**Featured Event**

**F184A. Meredith Talusan & Kai Cheng Thom in Conversation with Maya Shanbhag Lang, Sponsored by the Authors Guild.**  
(Meredith Talusan, Kai Cheng Thom, Maya Shanbhag Lang)  
**Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Meredith Talusan is an award-winning journalist and author whose widely praised memoir *Fairest* was excerpted in the *New York Times* and selected as a most anticipated book of 2020 by *O: The Oprah Magazine*. She is founding executive editor of *them.*, Condé Nast’s first-ever platform devoted to the queer community. Kai Cheng Thom is the author of *Falling Back in Love with Being Human*, the novel *Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars*, poetry collection *a place called No Homeland*, and the essay collection *I Hope We Choose Love*. Talusan and Thom will read from their work, followed by conversation with novelist, essayist, and memoirist Maya Shanbhag Lang.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**F185. Brick and Mortar: Partnering with Indie Bookstores, Sponsored by CLMP.**  
(Chelsea Kern, Cori Smith, Jenny Gropp, Riley Rennhack)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F186. Crafting Unforgettable Characters—a Writer’s Guide to Storytelling.**  
(Raul Palma, Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Jen Fawkes, Matthew Saleses, Caroline Kim)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F187. We Can’t All Marry Rich: Teaching Creative Writing Students Professional Skills.**  
(Daniel Hoyt, Rajpreet Heir, Sam Ashworth, Robbie Maakestad, Monica Prince)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Pedagogy*

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?”

**F188. Riven Past, Wounded Present: Writers from Kansas City and Tulsa.**  
(Rilla Askew, Whitney Terrell, Desideria Mesa, Glenn A. North, Quraysh Ali Lansana)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

Writers from Kansas City and Tulsa whose work cuts to the heart of two Midwestern cities with parallel wounded histories. From the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre to Kansas City’s storied history of racism and segregation to the 2023 Kansas City shooting of 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’ similarly riven pasts and wounded present.

**F189. (More than) Crisis and Loss: Writing Female Midlife.**  
(Sarah Kain Gutowski, Cynthia Marie Hoffman, Michelle Whittaker, Julie Brooks Barbour, Mary Biddinger)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Readings*

Illness, grief, divorce, burnout: the years between forty and fifty (and beyond) can be particularly fraught for women—but female midlife and its attendant crises and discoveries are rarely depicted honestly or directly in popular culture. Join us for a reading by poets whose work addresses the realities of these years, which may include epiphanies and crises of love and faith, but also feature a second coming-of-age and a more confident and assured sense of self.

1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**F190. (F)unemployment: Rethinking Graduate Education in the Age of Gen Z and ChatGPT.**  
(Kurt Milberger, Jennifer S. Davis, Michael Horner, Aaron Levy, Abhijit Sarmah)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Program Development*

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 LLMs and universities slash humanities budgets and teaching jobs, our panelists consider the promises and pitfalls of graduate education and explore how we must evolve to meet the needs of today’s diverse students in and outside the classroom.

**F191. Young Adult Literature: The Essentials.**  
(Chris Crowe, Ann Dee Ellis, Sharlene Swan, Spencer Hyde)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Children’s & Young Adult Literature*

“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.

**F192. Celebrating Thirty Years: Furious Flower Poetry Center Reading.**  
(Camille T. Dungy, Joel Dias-Porter, Lauren K. Alleyne, Nate Marshall)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

Join Furious Flower Poetry Center, the nation’s first academic center dedicated to educating, celebrating, and preserving Black poetry, for a thirtieth anniversary poetry reading and conversation! Camille T. Dungy, Joel Dias-Porter, and Nate Marshall, 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.

**F193. Reimagining the Writers Workshop.**  
(Laura Cronk, J. Mae Barizo, Mira Jacob, Brando Skyhorse)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**Professional Track**

**F194. How the Sausage Gets Made: Debut Poets on Making a First Book.**  
(Jocelyn Heath, Sara Burnett, Mary-Alice Daniel, Eileen G’Sell, Anne Myles)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 recounting 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.

**F195. Independence with Independents: Making the Most of Publishing with a Small Press.**  
(Karen Lee Boren, Dionne Irving-Bremyer, Matt Roberson, Hasanthika Sirisena, Hugh Sheehy)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

While independent presses may not offer the big money of the Big Five publishers, 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 ten IPs, with diverse missions, from social justice to experimental form, we discuss the strategies, challenges, and delights of working with IPs.



**F196. 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)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F197. Poet to Playwright: On the Dramatic Joy of Changing Hats.**  
(Patricia Smith, Jason Bayani, Arisa White, Tess Taylor)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Poetry and playwriting are linked crafts—and not only in 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.

**F198. Beating the Numbers Game: Submissions Strategies.**  
(Amber Wheeler Bacon, Keith Lesmeister, Jonathan Bohr Heinen, Manuel Gonzales)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F199. Story to Game.**  
(Brandon Pollock, Santiago Marquez, Josh Reidt, Andy Garcia-Ruse)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

Story to Game is an immersive experience where attendees submit their original stories for a chance to have them transformed into a live tabletop roleplaying 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. Call for submissions: <https://santiagomarquezramos.com/awp2024/>

**F200. KC in Black and White: Contrasting Fictions by Vincent Carter and Evan Connell.**  
(Steve Paul, Jesse McCarthy, Gemma Sieff)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**  
*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F201. Writing Fictional Children.**  
(Brianna Avenia-Tapper, Marisa Crane, Kai Harris, Rachel Yoder, Jacinda Townsend)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F202. You Say ‘Narrative’ Like it’s a Bad Thing.**  
(Sonia Greenfield, Chloe Martinez, Abby E. Murray, Felicia Zamora, Amanda Moore)  
**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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 the lived experience of women. Panelists will discuss how they use storytelling in their poetry, suggest approaches to narrative poetics, and read from their work.

**F203. The Craft and Currency of the Literary Book Review.**  
(John Domini, Chris Campanioni, Joseph Salvatore, Cassie Packard, Julia Brown)  
**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Thousands of books are published each year. We’re often 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.

**F204. Beyond Composition: Creative Action in First-Year Writing Courses.**  
(Steve Nelson, Jayson Iwen, Ewa Chrusciel, Darci Schummer)  
**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**  
*Pedagogy*

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.

**F205. 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 Gorkemli)  
**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Readings*

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.

**F206. A Turn of the Page: From Journalism to Creative Writing.**  
(Kahlil Crawford, Nika Beamon, Brenda Stanley, John Byrne Barry)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**F207. First Generation Creative Writers on Voice, Place, and Belonging.**  
(Rachel M. Hanson, Diamond Forde, Danielle Cadena Deulen, Eric Tran)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**F208. The Life-Changing Power of Memoir: Welcoming Learner’s Voices.**  
(Marion Winik, Joseph Bathanti, Tyrese Coleman, Wayetu Moore, Jamie Brickhouse)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**F209. Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry.**  
(Christopher Nelson, Lisa Dordal, Donika Kelly, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Paul Tran)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

This reading features four poets from *Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry* (Green Linden Press, February 2024), which includes one hundred poets who illustrate the brilliant range of poetry being written today: Frank Bidart, Jericho Brown, Franny Choi, CAConrad, Natalie Diaz, Mark Doty, Nikki Giovanni, 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.

**F210. Everything is Awful: Sustaining Through Shitstorms and Systemic Obstacles.**  
(Juan Morales, Rachel Simon, Seth Michelson, Tara Plachowski)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**F211. Greater Than the Sum of its Parts: Writing and Structuring Essay Collections.**  
(Melissa Febos, Alexander Chee, CJ Hauser, Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Lilly Dancyger)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.



Featured Event

**F212. Generations: A Reading & Conversation Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts & The Asian American Writers’ Workshop.**  
(Jafreen Uddin, Tina Chang, Chen Chen, Kimiko Hahn, Marilyn Chin)  
**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Blue Flower Arts is proud to present GENERATIONS: a reading and conversation with four essential Asian American poets spanning several generations, featuring Tina Chang, Chen Chen, Marilyn Chin, and Kimiko Hahn. In partnership with the Asian American Writers Workshop, and with a conversation moderated by AAWW Executive Director Jafreen Uddin, these four BFA poets showcase the breadth and impact of Asian American writing, exploring urgent themes such as tradition, culture, belonging, politics, race, and queer identity. This reading pays homage to the urgent concerns of each generation as they radically imagine, resist, and transcend through creative expression and future-facing experimentation.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

Featured Event

**F213. Lead with Love: Queer Voices in Literature with Red Hen Press.**  
(Francisco Aragón, H Warren, Andrew Lam, Elizabeth Bradfield, Jenny Factor)  
Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2  
*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

This panel of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ writers honors intersectional and intergenerational communities, the safe spaces we hold for each other, the creation, expression, and celebration of their stories. We move together from darkness to light, from banning to expression—by opening doors and inviting diverse communities to the page and to the microphone to lead, speak, read, share, and celebrate with love.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**F213A. How To Fight Book Bans: A Workshop with PEN America**  
(Kasey Meehan)  
Grand Ballroom C, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2  
*Discussion Room*

As book bans continue to mount, coordinated counter efforts to oppose book bans are essential. Writers, authors, teachers, students, publishers, editors, and institutions, alike, have a role to play in standing up for the right to read.

This collaborative session with PEN America and Authors Against Book Bans will offer an overview on the book ban crisis and offer tools and talking points for speaking in the defense of the freedom to read, engaging with your state and local elected officials, and taking action to stop future censorship.

In this workshop, you will learn how to effectively communicate a defense of the freedom to read, and identify and create strategic alliances. The workshop will be led by PEN America’s Freedom to Read Program Director, Kasey Meehan. Participating authors to be announced.

**F214. Of a Certain Age: Women Writers Near Sixty and Beyond.**  
(Jacqueline Allen Trimble, Jay Lamar, Patricia Foster, Angela Jackson-Brown, Wendy Reed)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

Four diverse women writers near sixty 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?

**F215. ‘Life of Labor’ in Letters: Working-Class Storytelling.**  
(Dustin M. Hoffman, RS Dereen, Curtis Chin, Joe Milan, Toni Jensen)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F216. The Author/Agent Relationship: Navigating the Rapidly Evolving Industry Together.**  
(Amanda Orozco, Roma Panganiban, Kayla Lightner)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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?

**F217. How Book Reviewing is Changing and Why it Matters.**  
(Martha Anne Toll, Ericka Taylor, Tope Folarin, Alice Stephens)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Like everything in publishing, book reviews are in flux, with mainstream venues reducing reviews in exchange for fawning interviews and book roundups 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.

**F218. Here There Be Dragons: Risking the Uncharted Territory of an Untried MFA Program.**  
(Sophronia Scott, Mary C. Bishop, Joey L. Meyer, Kelsey R. Weiss)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Entrusting your education with an untested MFA program is a bit like sailing your ship off the map—there are dragons, but you may also discover new lands. Meet some of the risk-takers who braved the new Alma program and the director who started it all.

[3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.](#)

**F219. Transforming the Imagination: Asian American Poets Redefine Hybrid Poetry.**  
(Tina Chang, Victoria Chang, Mai Der Vang, Cynthia Dewi Oka, Sahar Muradi)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F220. Widening the Circle: Queer/Trans SWANA Writers on Navigating Space and Self.**  
(Mahru Elahi, Nancy Agabian, Tracy Fuad, Bobuq Sayed, Pinar Banu Yaşar)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Featuring Queer/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 United States, 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.

**F221. Rewriting Motherhood, Reimagining Essential Labor.**  
(Namrata Poddar, Pragya Agarwal, Amaris Castillo, Cassandra Lane, Vanessa Martir)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F222. When We River: IN-NA-PO Poets & Hydro-Poetics.**  
(Kimberly Blaeser, Annie Wenstrup, Kalebua Kim, Aimee Inglis, Casandra Lopez)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

Professional Track

**F223. Play Nice: How to Get Along in the Publishing World.**  
(Margaret Luongo, David Ebenbach, Jaymee Goh, Amy Toland, Delaney Heisterkamp)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

Publishing is about relationships. Writers who approach editors and agents with good will, 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.



**F224. *Latin@ Literatures*: Publishing and Editing Latinx Literature Today.**  
(Liz Márquez, Florentino Solano, Thania Muñoz D., Fabio Chee Madrigal)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.”

**F225. Transformation: Creating Change Through Collaboration.**  
(Noriko Nakada, Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera, Nikia Chaney, Sarah Rafael Garcia, Ryane Nicole Granados)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F226. Beyond Borderlands: Celebrating Essential Latinx Poetry from Texas Presses.**  
(Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Luivette Resto, Adrian Cepeda, Vincent Cooper, Edward Vidaurre)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**F227. The Sound and the Future: Teaching Podcasting to MFA Students.**  
(Whitney Terrell, V.V. Ganeshananthan, Saul Lemerond, Leigh Camacho Rourks, Jared McCormack)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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 cohosts 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.

**F228. Where is the Door? What Can We Carry Inside?**  
(Charlotte Teague, Hannah Sawyerr, Tommy Mouton, Dominique Holder, Mohamed Tall)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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 and invisible” looking for opportunities. Open discussion is the goal.

**F229. What Did I Know? The Poetry of Black Fatherhood in Theory and Practice.**  
(Iain Haley Pollock, Nathan McClain, Quintin Collins, Geoffrey Davis)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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?

**F230. Melodrama and the Market: A Match Made in the Bedroom.**  
(Torsa Ghosal, Autumn Fourkiller, Colleen Morrissey, Silvia Park, Preeti Vangani)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

Women, nonbinary, 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 nonbinary writers? How can we reclaim our right to render joy?

**F231. Writing Within the Diaspora: On Persian and Armenian Displacement and Literature.**  
(Arthur Kayzakian, Pantea Amin, Armen Davoudian, Aram Mrjoian, Maryam Shadmehr)  
**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F232. Emerson MFA at Forty: Celebrating Four Decades of Writing and Publishing.**  
(Rebecca Morgan Frank, Ciera Burch, Shuchi Saraswat, Kenan Orhan, Madeline Sneed)  
**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

The Emerson MFA program, located in the heart of the Boston Literary District, celebrates its fortieth 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.

**F233. The Hybrid Memoir: Weaving Personal Narrative with Research.**  
(Catina Bacote, Sonya Huber, Daisy Hernandez, Heather Lanier, Jennifer Lunden)  
**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F234. Editing Behind Bars: Mainstream Books Built by Incarcerated Artists.**  
(Jennifer Bowen, Michael Torres, Zeke Caligiuri, Alice Paige)  
**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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), and the team behind the first-ever anthology compiled and edited by incarcerated writers, for readers in the free world.

**F235. Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus.**  
(Cade Leebron, Emily Rose Cole, Jess Silfa)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Caucus*

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.

**F236. The Braided Essay as Change Agent.**  
(Candace Walsh, Nicole Walker, Anna Chotlos, Sarah Minor)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**F237. Whose Line Is It Anyway? The Ecstasy & Agony of Collaborative Books.**  
(Rochelle Hurt, Cynthia Arrieu-King, W. Todd Kaneko, Sophie Klahr, Vi Khi Nao)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F238. Becoming a Debut Novelist: The Journey From Book Submission to Book Launch.**  
(Marcela Fuentes, Temim Fruchter, Jon Hickey, Chin-Sun Lee, Denne Michele Norris)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**F239. Chosen Family: Making Kinship Among Queer Poets.**  
(Keetje Kuipers, Meg Day, Jan-Henry Gray, Charif Shanahan, Shelley Wong)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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 poethood can resemble a kind of parenthood 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.



**F240. Writing with Fire: Poetry and Mental Illness.**  
(Stevie Edwards, Marlin Jenkins, Eugenia Leigh, Danez Smith, Leila Chatti)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**Featured Event**

**F241. Personal Best: A New Kind of Canon, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press.**  
(Dana Levin, Jennifer Foerster, Adrian Matejka, Erin Belieu, Eduardo C. Corral)  
**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

Who chooses what poems will ultimately be remembered—editors, prize committees, the collective force of social media? This unique reading puts the decision with the artists themselves. Four award-winning poets consider their body of work and bring forward the poems they think matter most. Offering an intimate window onto intrinsic measures of success and failure, this reading—and the anthology that inspires it—upends notions of canon and curation by putting the poet front and center.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**Featured Event**

**F242. Where Is Literary Criticism Headed?, Sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle.**  
(Justin Howard Rosier, Walton Muyumba, Camille Dungy, Margo Jefferson)  
**Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

In its fiftieth anniversary year, the National Book Critics Circle gathers literary critics who have been defining the future of contemporary cultural criticism. Two NBCC criticism award chairs, who have had their fingers on the pulse of critical engagement for the past decade, are joined by three NBCC-honored critics in a reading and wide-ranging conversation about the future of the form.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**F243. Debuting with the Short Story Collection.**  
(Nina McConigley, Gothataone Moeng, Molly Gott, Lydia Conklin, Dantiel Moniz)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F244. Fragments, Figments, and Flash: Unconventional Memoir and the Myth of Memory.**  
(Ander Monson, Charles Jensen, Joseph Lezza, Airea D. Matthews, Manuel Betancourt)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**F245. Getting the Word Out: A Guide to Book Marketing & Publicity for Indie Presses and Authors, Sponsored by CLMP.**  
(Emma Hine, Ryo Yamaguchi, Patrick Davis, Morgan LaRocca)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**F246. Too Small For the Patriarchy: Getting Girlhood Stories Past the Gatekeepers.**  
(Chaitali Sen, Natalia Sylvester, Rose Smith, Magdalena Bartkowska, Toni Ann Johnson)  
**Room 3501 EE, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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?

**F246A. Book Launch Reading for *Habitats* by Katharine Whitcomb—with Special Guests!**  
(Katharine Whitcomb, Elizabeth Bradfield, Xavier Cavazos)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Readings*

Join us for a celebration of *Habitats* by Katharine Whitcomb, just published in January 2024 by Poetry Northwest Editions and chosen as the third volume in the innovative Possession Sound series! This event will feature Katharine reading from her new book and readings by Possession Sound press-mate and acclaimed poet, essayist, and editor Elizabeth Bradfield, as well as *Poetry Northwest* senior editor and award-winning poet Xavier Cavazos, author of *The Devil’s Workshop*, and other special guest readers.

[4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.](#)

**F247. AWP Award Series Reading and Celebration.**  
**Grand Ballroom D, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

Join AWP for a reading, reception, and book signing to celebrate the 2022 AWP Award Series winners and the partner presses who publish their winning manuscripts. The AWP Award Series is an annual competition for the publication of excellent new book-length works in four categories: poetry, creative nonfiction, novel, and short fiction.

2022 AWP Award Series Winners:  
Sahar Muradi— Donald Hall Prize for Poetry, published by University of Pittsburgh Press  
Jessica Hendry Nelson—Sue William Silverman Prize for Creative Nonfiction, published by University of Georgia  
Parul Kapur—AWP Prize for the Novel, published by University of Nebraska Press  
E.P. Tuazon—Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction, published by Red Hen Press

Show your support for the decades-long AWP Award Series legacy and meet the winning authors, sponsoring presses, and AWP staff. See you there!

[5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.](#)

**F248. Sober AWP.**  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**F249. Art School Writing Faculty Caucus.**  
(Lee Griffith, Paul Jaskunas, Melissa Tombro, Lee Hamilton)  
**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**  
*Caucus*

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.

**F250. Latinx Writers Caucus.**  
(Amy Alvarez, Amairani Perez, Casey Ramos, Breena Nuñez, Lydia Cheshewalla)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**  
*Caucus*

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.

[6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.](#)

**F251. National Writer-Parent Meetup.**  
**12th Street Room, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Street Level**

Our open house reception is a great place to meet other writers who have kids! Come (with or without your children), have a bite, relax with a drink, and learn how Pen Parentis and Sustainable Arts support and build community among writers with kids. Enter our raffle! All are welcome; kid-friendly!

**F252. Writers’ Conferences & Centers Reception.**  
**Basie A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level**

A gathering to celebrate the incredible work being done at writers’ conferences, centers, festivals, retreats, and residencies across the US and internationally. Come have a drink, learn more about these programs, and connect with their directors.

**F253. Sewanee Writers’ Conference Reception.**  
**Basie B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level**

We welcome all Sewanee Writers’ Conference alumni and guests to catch up with friends at an open bar.

**F255. NYU Creative Writing Program Public Reception.**  
**Mary Lou Williams AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level**

Join NYU Creative Writing Program faculty, students, staff, and alums for a festive reception.



**F256. Scarlet Tanager Books: 25th Anniversary Reception.**  
Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Join us for food and drink as we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Scarlet Tanager Books with authors, contributors, and friends old and new.

**F257. University of Nebraska Omaha MFA Reception.**  
Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

An informal reception for students, faculty, and alums of the University of Nebraska Omaha MFA in Writing. People interested in learning more about the low-residency program are welcome to attend. No reservation required.

**F258. Salmon Poetry Reception for Spring Titles.**  
Julia Lee B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

A meet and greet with our poets whose new collections are out with Salmon Poetry in February and March.

**F258A. *The MacGuffin* Turns Forty!**  
Andy Kirk A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Join us to celebrate *The MacGuffin's* fortieth anniversary. Featuring contributing writers and poet hunt judges, including Lynne Thompson, Jim Daniels, Kathleen McClung, Lisa Lipkind Leibow, and more. Come by to connect with editors and writers, alike.

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**F259. FUSE Caucus: The Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors and Writers.**  
(Rachel Hall, Reed Wilson, Jessica Jelsma Masterton, Michael Cocchiarale, Ellie Pasquale)  
Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*

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.

**F260. Arab American Caucus.**  
(Jameelah Lang, Glenn Shaheen)  
Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*

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.

## Saturday, February 10, 2024

7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

**S100. Sober AWP.**  
Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**S101. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**  
Room 2214, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a fifth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: in Adrienne’s Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$850.) Additional images: \$75/ea. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required: <https://am-photography.ticketleap.com/awp24/dates>

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**S102. Coat Check.**  
2200 Lobby, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Coat check is available in Lobby 2200 on Level 2 of the Kansas City Convention Center. It is \$5.00 per item checked. ATMs can be found in Lobby 2200, next to Room 2207, and in the Conference Center, across the hall from Room 2501A.

**S103. Conference Registration.**  
Registration, Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP’s registration area located in Exhibit Hall E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check-in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to register at our senior rate. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

**S104. Dickinson Quiet Space.**  
Room 2201 & 2202, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” -Emily Dickinson

**S105. Low-light Space.**  
Room 2525A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the convention center.

**S106. Nursing Lounge.**  
Room 2213, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

The nursing lounge is located in Room 2213 on the Street Level of the Kansas City Convention Center, and is available for any nursing parent to use.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**S107. AWP Bookfair.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

With more than 500 literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**S108. AWP Membership Booth.**  
Booth 1531, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Stop by the AWP Membership Booth to meet with AWP board members during bookfair hours at the conference! Join us for coffee every day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and chat with senior publications editor James Tate Hill to learn more about the *Writer’s Chronicle* and the AWP Award Series. Also from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., you can meet with a member of the AWP membership team to discuss the many year-round benefits of AWP membership, such as the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, the Intro Journals Project, and the AWP Prize for Undergrad Lit Mags.

**S109. Bookfair Concessions, Bar, and Lounge.**  
AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

Breakfast and lunch concessions are available inside the Exhibit Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center. Debit cards, credit cards, and tap-to-pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**S110. The Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Makerspace.**  
Exhibit 649, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3

In celebration of the Wick Poetry Center’s fortieth anniversary year, the Traveling Stanzas Makerspace offers conference attendees an opportunity to creatively engage with themes of health and healing, social and racial justice, nature and environment, and peace and conflict. This interactive exhibit invites participants to share their voice using a suite of digital expressive writing tools, such as Emerge (an erasure poetry app), Thread (community-generated poems), and the Listening Wall (thematically-driven touch-screen poetry displays). Visitors will be able to choose a theme, follow a prompt, then print and share their responses. More information can be found at <http://travelingstanzas.com>.

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**S111. Yoga for Writers.**  
(Manisha Sharma)  
Room 2203, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**S112. Vision & Re-Vision: Teaching Revision in University & Community Workshops.**  
(Sarah Browning, Maya Marshall, Matthew Salesses, Allison Joseph, Sara Henning)  
Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Pedagogy*

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?



**S113. Evolving Literary Landscape: Creating Innovative Programming at Literary Centers.**

(Michael Khandelwal, Arleta Little, Andrea Dupree, Peter Murphy, Maggie Marshall)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

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.

**S114. Writing Freely in Florida: Thirty years of the MFA at the University of Miami.**

(Andrew Boryga, Jaswinder Bolina, M. Evelina Galang, Chantel Acevedo)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Program Development*

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.

**S115. Writing for the Ear: How To Create, Launch, and Grow a Podcast.**

(Jia Wertz, Annmarie Kelly, Maggie Freling, Laura Joyce Davis)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**S116. Grief: What is it Good For?**

(Maddie Norris, Ross Gay, Kathryn Savage, Thomas Mira Y Lopez, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S117. Writers Who Drag.**

(Wo Chan, Addie Tsai, Elizabeth Hoover, Gabe Montesanti)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.”

**S118. Writing Poetry in English as a Second, Third, Etc. Language.**

(Ae Hee Lee, Andrea Jurjević, Alonso Llerena, Siwar Masannat, Lena Zycinsky)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

What poetry can emerge from writers working in languages that are not their mother tongues? How is language and meaning metamorphosed through translangual 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 relationships with English, and how these have informed their approach to craft throughout their careers.

**S119. Una Mujer Peligrosa: Celebrating the Queer Work and Life of tatiana de la tierra.**

(Olga Garcia, Carribean Fragoza, Karleen Pendelton Jimenez, Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes, Myriam Gurba)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Tributes*

tatiana de la tierra (1961–2012) was a Latina lesbian writer and trailblazer. In the nineties, she cofounded *Esto No Tiene Nombre* and *Conomoción* magazines featuring Latina lesbians in the United States and 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 coconspirators to discuss her dangerously delicious life and works.

**S120. A Cat’s Belly: Structuring Your Debut Collection through Place and Movement.**

(India Lena González, Meghan Maguire Dahn, Ryan Cook, Tiffany Troy, Loisa Fenichell)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S121. The Criticism of Translated Books: A Words Without Borders Conversation.**

(Justin Rosier, Adam Dalva, Sarah Chihaya, Laura Marris)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S122. Rebel Voices Only.**

(Deborah Taffa, G’Ra Asim, Lamya H, Inara Verzemnieks)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Readings*

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, reportage, 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?

**S123. Opening the Book on Publishing Pedagogy.**

(Sakinah Hofler, Erin Hoover, Megan J. Arlett, Lisa Bickmore)  
**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**

**S124. LitNet Meeting.**

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

LitNet is a coalition of literary organizations from across the United States that works to promote the importance of the literary arts in American culture, build the capacity of the literary field, and broaden funding for the literary arts. Join us for a meeting from 9:00–10:15 a.m. to learn more about what we do, followed by a breakfast mingle with literary leaders and other advocates from the field.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

**S125. 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)  
**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

Despite the innovative art South Asian writers are creating, the United States 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.

**S126. Readings From *Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Reimagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters*.**

(Evie Shockley, Artress Bethany White, Danielle Legros Georges, Tara Betts, Kiki Petrosino)  
**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

*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 eighteenth-century poems by twenty 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.

**S127. To Doctorate or Not? Creative Writers on Earning a PhD.**

(Courtney Kersten, Nicholas Goodly, Nathan Osorio, Erika Luckert, Adriana Socoski)  
**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.



**S128. We Belong: People of Color Accessing, Critiquing & Reshaping Artist Residencies.**

(Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Faith Adiele, Elmaz Abinader, Casandra López, Leia Penina Wilson)  
**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 United States. 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?

**S129. The Mean Season: Intolerance and Threats in the Classroom.**

(Luanne Smith, Cherise Pollard, Dawn Reno Langley, Yalonda JD Green, Emily Chiles)  
**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**S130. Going Small—Writers (and a Publisher) Dish on the Small Press Experience.**

(Viet Dinh, Jody Hobbs Hesler, Eric Sasson, Renee Simms, Ross Tangedal)  
**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**S131. The Fine Art of Craft Talking.**

(Barrie Jean Borich, Jenny Johnson, Geffrey Davis, Brenda Miller, Wendy Call)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S132. Writing the Literary Sex Scene: Dethroning the Male Gaze.**

(Quinn Rennerfeldt, Rita Mookerjee, Andrea Lawlor, Jasmine Mosher)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?

**Professional Track**

**S133. Down to the Wire: The Nuts and Bolts of Editing a Manuscript to Publication.**

(Chaitali Sen, Gemini Wahhaj, Dalia Azim, Jill Meyers, Kurt Baumeister)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**S134. (Trans)cend: Trans Poetics in the Age of Anti-transness.**

(KB Brookins, K. Iver, Evelyn Berry, Kay E. Bancroft, SG Huerta)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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

10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

**Professional Track**

**S135. Dispatches from PhD Land: Perspectives from Inside the Creative Writing Degree.**

(Danielle Harms, Joy Castro, Jill Talbot, Pritha Bhattacharyya, Katerina Ivanov Prado)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**S136. Collaborating in Korean: The Value of Co-Translating.**

(Jack Jung, Jeanine Walker, Jaekwan Shim, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Michael Joseph Walsh)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

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—can make translating partnerships invaluable when working from Korean to English. Four cotranslators of poetry discuss their process and how having a partner of differing background, age, and familiarity with various versions of the language may lead to more accurate, creative, and engaging translations.

**S137. Why Take/Teach Kid Lit? Craft Arguments for Writers & Programs.**

(Shana Youngdahl, Alexandra Villasante, Julie Schumacher, Laurel Synder)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Children's & Young Adult Literature*

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.

**S138. Be Gay, Do Crime: Teaching Queer and Trans Poetics in Dangerous Times.**

(Meg Day, Oliver Bendorf, Donika Kelly, Ching-In Chen, Melissa Crowe)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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

**S139. Agented and On Submission: A Special Kind of Torture (Part II).**

(Shinelle L. Espaillat, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Eva Simone Freeman, Mohamed (Moe) Shalabi)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**S140. Start Here (Or There): Teaching First Drafts in the Creative Writing Workshop.**

(Jameelah Lang, Barney Haney, Alexandra Kleeman, Shonda Buchanan, Christopher Coake)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**S141. Holding Space: Creating a Safe & Supportive Virtual Writing Group.**

(Chekwubi Danladi, Adriana Rambay Fernandez, Constance Collier-Mercado, Shilpi Suneja, Rowena Alegria)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 workshoping, sharing and support became a lasting sisterhood you might create, too.



**S142. Heretic: Confronting Religious Trauma Amid Growing Extremism.**

(Erin McCoy, Kwame Opoku-Duku, Patrycja Humienik, Joshua Burton)

**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Writing through and about religious trauma can incite powerful emotions, such as anger, grief, and resentment. Writers trying to convey their experiences may feel threatened at the prospect of confronting powerful institutions. 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.

**S143. Getting the Word Out: Poets on Publicizing their Debut Collections.**

(Thierry Kehou, Morgan LaRocca, Ae Hee Lee, Caitlin Cowan, Sebastian Merrill)

**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

Poets & Writers presents a conversation with the authors selected for the inaugural poetry cohort of Get the Word Out, a publicity incubator for debut authors. They will be joined by the publicist who led the cohort and will discuss the strategies they learned and used to maximize 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 pick up top tips on publicity for poets.

**S144. Family Secrets: Balancing Love, Culture, and the Stories We Can’t Ignore.**

(Susan Kiyo Ito, Roberto Lovato, Leslie Absher, David Mas Masumoto, Angie Chuang)

**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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, LGTBQIA, and families of color face? This interactive discussion features a diverse panel of writers who have grappled with writing family secrets.

**S145. Collaboration in the Creative Writing Classroom.**

(Joanna Luloff, Kate McIntyre, Katy Didden, Evan Williams, Dionne Irving Bremyer)

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**S146. Poetry on the Plains: Laureateship in the Midwest.**

(Traci Brimhall, Nicholas Gulig, Matt Mason, Christine Stewart-Nunez, Mary-frances Wagner)

**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

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?

**S147. BkMk Press Fifty-Plus Anniversary Reading.**

(Patricia Cleary Miller, Amin Ahmad, Patricia Lawson, Dara Yen Elerath, Laura Minor)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

BkMk Press, Kansas City’s oldest literary press, began in a public library print shop. It later operated under university sponsorship for almost forty 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.

**S148. Keeping It Lit: Nurturing a Literary Journal Program at Two-Year Colleges.**

(James Ducat, Melissa Ford Lucken, Mary Lannon, Phoebe Reeves)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Program Development*

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.

**S149. Cave Canem and The Importance of Black Literary Archive.**

(Dante Micheaux, Tyehimba Jess, Jes Neal, Angela D. Stewart, Nancy Kuhl)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

The archives of Black literary organizations are wellsprings of inspiration for aspiring writers, scholars, and activists. The works and archival collections of luminaries like Cornelius Eady, Toi Derricotte, Lucille Clifton, Sonia Sanchez, Yusef Komunyakaa, and more serve as guiding stars, illuminating paths of creativity and activism. Their archival collections document style, method, as well as their creative processes, and the historical context in which they lived. With *The Cave Canem Foundation Records* held at the Beinecke Library and a current oral history project underway, this panel will explore the multifaceted importance of Black literary archival collections, emphasizing their role in preserving organizational history, cultural heritage, promoting diversity and inclusivity, and empowering communities through literary works.

**S150. Writing Trauma: Nonlinear Challenges of Survival. A Perspective of Women Writers.**

(Claudia Morales, Britta Stromeyer Esmail, Jo Blair Cipriano, Devi Laskar)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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 memory and healing. Through their stories, they will challenge biased assumptions about the seemingly harmonious relationship between writing and healing.

**S151. Unlearning What You Learned Just Now: Writing Strategies After Your First Book.**

(Juan Martinez, Julie Iromuanya, Jimin Han, Ted Wheeler)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S152. Body Terrorism: Poems of Resistance, Defiance, and Survival.**

(Jennifer Martelli, Chavonn Williams Shen, Subhaga Crystal Bacon)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

In the United States 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 psychologically. 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.

**S153. Routine Means Keep Doing It: Giving Your Writing Practice Structure & Support.**

(Tessa Fontaine, Annie Hartnett, Shannon Sanders, Krys M. Belc, Jennifer De Leon)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Most writers want to be writing more than they are, but life (jobs, kids, exercise, staring into the abyss) gets in the way. How do you create a writing practice that fits 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.

**S154. Writing Trans Sex.**

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

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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!

**S155. What Exactly Do You Do?: Jobs as Guides into Our Characters' Worlds.**

(Tim Horvath, Rebecca Makkai, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Joy Baglio)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

In *Other People’s Trades*, Primo Levi describes his “vagabond and dilettantish 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.



Featured Event

**S156. Acts of Love: Brian Turner, Katie Farris & Major Jackson Read & Converse, Sponsored by Alice James Books.**  
(Carey Salerno, Brian Turner, Katie Farris, Major Jackson)  
**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

Poetry Readings

Alice James Books presents three celebrated, accomplished writers to share their most recent work and engage in conversation together. Brian Turner will read from his new trilogy of poetry books and Katie Farris from her acclaimed 2023 debut and memoir-in-poems. The reading and conversation will be led by Major Jackson, who will contribute poems in communion with their work and guide a conversation between the group about grief, illness, loss, and love as the ultimate act of resistance.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**S157. Honoring Our Grandmothers—Indigenous Writers Reclaim History.**  
(Debra Earling, LeAnne Howe, Susan Power)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

Multiple Literary Genres Readings

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*.

**S158. Perspectives on the Caregiving Memoir.**  
(Elizabeth Cohen, Tanya Ward Goodman, Carmen Rita Wong, Cheryl Jordan, Lori Arviso Alvord)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism

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.

**S159. How Not to Lose Heart: Sustaining Mental Health in the Writing Life.**  
(Britt Tisdale, Chloe Benjamin, Lisa Williamson Rosenberg, Ebony Stewart, Yael Goldstein-Love)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

Artistic & Professional Development

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 wellbeing. Topics will include envy and comparison, imposter syndrome, addiction, work/life balance, developing social support systems, and challenges specific to marginalized communities.

**S160. Singing Our Joy: A Reading by Neurodivergent Poets.**  
(Nathan Spoon, Addie Tsai, Leslie McIntosh, Angela Peñaredondo, Ina Cariño)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

Poetry Readings

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.

**S161. Passion to Page to Publishing.**  
(Dominique Swanquist, Patricia Fors, Audrey Fierberg)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

Artistic & Professional Development

A panel of authors and editors talking with a moderator about writing your passion and working with an editor to create a published piece of work that will appeal to the masses. thereby helping the author monetize their mission.

12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.

**S162. Writers Making Comics and Collage: How Changing Mediums Changed Our Writing.**  
(Kelcey Ervick, Naoko Fujimoto, Nick Potter, Lauren Haldeman, David Lee)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

**S163. Ten Years of APBF: African Women Poets in the US and Their Publication Journeys.**  
(Rezina Habtemariam, Mary-Alice Daniel, Yalie Kamara, Hope Wabuke)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Publishing, Editing, and Technology

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.

**S164. Beyond Belief: Queer Religious (and Post-Religious) Poetry.**  
(Amanda Hawkins, Steve Bellin-Oka, Omotara James, Daniel Shank Cruz)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Poetry Craft & Criticism

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.

**S165. Workshop Feedback: An Unmanageable Labor of Love?**  
(Dustin M. Hoffman, Anne Valente, Brad Modlin, Traci Brimhall, Misha Rai)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Pedagogy

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.

**S166. Graywolf, Haymarket, Kaya, and Noemi Editors on Small Press Revision Practices.**  
(Suzi F. Garcia, Sarah Gzemski, Chantz Erolin, Diana Arterian, Neelanjana Banerjee)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Publishing, Editing, and Technology

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.

**S167. 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)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing

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.

**S168. On the Frontlines/School Matters: K-12 Teachers Writing the Classroom.**  
(Marguerite Sheffer, Mahru Elahi, Brittany Rogers, Matthew E. Henry, Davon Loeb)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism

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.

**S169. Beyond Zoom: Building Vibrant Literary Communities in a New Hybrid Era.**  
(Karina Muniz-Pagan, Minal Hajratwala, Randy Winston, Maceo Nafisah Cabrera-Estevez, Juanita Mantz)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Artistic & Professional Development

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.

**S170. The Kentucky Black Writers Collaborative.**  
(Z Jackson, JC McPherson, Claudia Love Mair, Lucy Jayes)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Pedagogy

The staff at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, a literacy nonprofit located in Lexington, Kentucky, 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.



**S171. Poetry to Empower Beyond Academia : The Oklahoma Example.**

(Grant Matthew Jenkins, Quraysh Ali Lansana, Lindsey Smith, Timothy Bradford)

**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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 nonprofit organizations, artist collectives, radio shows and other media, and prisons.

**S172. A Tribute to Gerald Locklin.**

(Donna Hilbert, Lori Jakiela, Clint Margrave, Raymond Hammond, Dave Newman)

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Tributes*

Gerald Locklin was a defining voice on the American poetry scene with over 3,000 published poems. Along with Edward Field, Locklin helped cultivate 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.

**S173. Teaching Literary Editing and Publishing in a Creative Writing Curriculum.**

(Michael Dumanis, Srikanth Reddy, Sally Keith, Hasanthika Sirisena, James Allen Hall)

**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**S174. Revising Revealed: The Art of Revising Poetry.**

(Kim Stafford, Charles Finn, Abayo Animashaun, Tami Haaland, Beth Piatote)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Two coeditors 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.

**S175. There’s No Normal in Publishing: Stories from 2023 Young Adult Debuts.**

(Jenna Miller, Edward Underhill, Ellen O’Clover, Trang Thanh Tran, Krystal Marquis)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**S176. Yes We Exist, America: Queer South Asian Stories & Why They Matter.**

(Shastri Akella, Bushra Rehman, Sarah Mathews, Aruni Kashyap, Neel Patel)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Readings*

The panel brings together queer writers of diverse South Asian origins: Pakistani-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 United States, even as they tell unique stories rooted in the specificity of historical, cultural, and postcolonial legacies.

**S177. The Art of Building and Sustaining Writing Communities.**

(Alyse Bense, Jeremy Jones, Amber Taliancich, Joanne Gabbin)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Writers’ Conferences & Centers*

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.

**S178. Transgender Nonfiction: Memoir and Essays Beyond the Transition Narrative.**

(Mel King, T.L. Pavlich, Meredith Talusan, Niko Stratis, M. K. Thekkumkattil)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S179. The Writer-Mom: How Motherhood Changes and Influences Writing Habits and Subject.**

(Laura Leigh Morris, Christine Stewart-Nuñez, Michelle Ross, Neema Avashia)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**S180. When the Old Names Fail Us.**

(Kimberly Priest, Octavio Quintanilla, Lynn Melnick, Matt Miller, Maya Williams)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S181. Breaking Silence: The Ethics of Writing Inherited Trauma Across Genres.**

(Sarah Beth Childers, Chet’la Sebree, Tyler Mills, Ivelisse Rodriguez, Clemonce Heard)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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? Multigenre writers discuss the ethics of breaking silence across creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry.

**S182. Writing About Addiction: Privacy, Anonymity, Ethics & Truth Telling.**

(Christie Tate, Laura McKowen, Laura Cathcart-Robbins, Eilene Zimmerman, Jonathan Jones)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

Addiction is a reality for many writers and the 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 twelve-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?

**S183. Writing is Not Therapy: Using Craft to Contain the Uncontainable.**

(Megan O’Laughlin, Kelly Sundberg, Alexander Chee, Ashley Ford, Maggie Smith)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**Featured Event**

**S184. A Reading by Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, & Nicole Sealey, Presented by the Academy of American Poets.**

(Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, Nicole Sealey, Ricardo Maldonado)

**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Readings*

Award-winning poets Suji Kwock Kim, author of *Notes from the North* (Smith/Doorstop, U.K., 2021) and *Notes from the Divided Country* (Louisiana State University Press, 2003); Sara Daniele Rivera, author of *The Blue Mimes* (Graywolf Press, forthcoming 2024); and Nicole Sealey, author of *The Ferguson Report: An Erasure* (Penguin, 2023) and *Ordinary Beast* (Ecco Press, 2017), read from their work. Ricardo Maldonado, Executive Director and President of the Academy of American Poets, will introduce the event.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**Featured Event**

**S185. Futures for SWANA Poetry: Mizna Hosts Iman Mersal & Noor Naga in Conversation.**

(Noor Naga, Iman Mersal, George Abraham)

**Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

Mizna hosts two critically acclaimed Egyptian writers, poet Iman Mersal and poet-novelist Noor Naga, in a reading and conversation with Mizna’s executive editor, George Abraham. The dialogue will explore the ways inherent transnational and multilingual trajectories of the poets’ lived experiences affect their writing. What roles can Arabophone literature play in shaping the future trajectory of poetry in and beyond English?

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.



**S186. Mecachihuanimeh, Weavers of the Cord: Crafting a Future to Honor Ancestral Pasts.**

(Tracey Flores, David Bowles, Rudy Ruiz, Guadalupe Garcia McCall)  
**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S187. 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)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**Professional Track**

**S188. Submission Models: Best Practices for Literary Magazines, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Chelsea Kern, Oscar Villalon, Liz Harms, Angela Flores)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**S189. The Facts Behind Memoir: How Research Expands the Vision and Market for Stories.**

(Jody Keisner, Sofia Ali-Khan, Erica Berry, Minna Dubin, Jennifer Lunden)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S190A. Set and Setting: Changing Your Location to Spark Your Mindset.**

(Benjamin Ristow, Becky McCalla, Nadege Conger, Elyse Hauser)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Many writers dream about the perfect writing spot, a location that will inspire ideas and the feeling of accomplishment that comes with words flowing. Carving out the time and managing real-life responsibilities can be overwhelming, let alone finding this mythical and affordable place to focus on writing. Join our panel of writers at different career stages and the founder of SabbaticalHomes.com to see how they experience a creative refresh by staying in new surroundings all over the world.

[1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

**S191. The Publishing Process and Interventions for Equity and Inclusion.**

(Aricka Foreman, Nikesha Williams, Jennifer Baker, Maya Marshall, Minal Hajratwala)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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.

**S192. Writing the Multilingual Poem: Code-Switching Across Cultures.**

(Gabriel Dozal, Sylvia Chan, Geramee Hensley, José Olivarez, Jake Syersak)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S193. Liminal Silences: (Un)Writing The First Poetry Collection.**

(Leslie Sainz, Xiao Yue Shan, Sahar Muradi, Alisha Dietzman, Taylor Johnson)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S194. Sight Singing: Poetry and the Visual.**

(Chris Santiago, Doug Kearney, Mag Gabbert, Monica Ong, Keith Wilson)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S195. Ableism, On and Off the Page: Literature and Invisible Disability.**

(Leticia Escalera, Dr. Bradley Buchanan, Dianne Bilyak, Nika Beamon, William Hartwick)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?

**S196. Beyond Gay and Bi: Creating Diversity in Queer Characters.**

(Syr Beker, Tonya Todd, Diane Glazman, Gregory A. Kompes, Brandon Mead)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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, omni, and pan; trans, fluid, agender, and nonbinary genders; aromantic, platonic, and other attraction styles; as well as open, poly, and consensually non-monogamous relationships.

**S197. Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Creative Writing Workshops at Community Colleges.**

(Shinelle L. Espaillat, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Rashaun Allen, Brenda Squires, Keith O’Neill)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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?

**S198. The Power of Collective Impact in Elevating Black Women’s Voices.**

(Tiffany Huff, Nakeena Hayden, Shallegra Moye, Shauntaya Hester, Kaya Raines)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 and 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, and collaboration with two local universities.

**S199. Giving Place a Voice: Persona as a Tool for Redefining a City.**

(Brittany Rogers, Joy Priest, Jake Skeets, Jacqui Germain, Karisma Price)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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?

**S200. Mental Health for the Black Academic.**

(Len Lawson, LeConte Dill, Tyree Daye, Natalie J. Graham)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

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.



**S201. Uniquely Portable Magic: Empowering Students to Read as Writers.**

(Joanna Eleftheriou, Heather Kirn Lanier, Silas Hansen, Cherita Harrell, Marco Wilkinson)

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Pedagogy*

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.

**S202. Scriptural Entanglements: Poets Writing Into, Through, and Against Sacred Texts.**

(Rachel Mennies, Rachel Edelman, George Abraham, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Patrycja Humienik)

**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S203. Writing and Translating “The Other”: New Fiction from Frayed Edge Press.**

(Alison Lewis, Areg Azatyan, Laura Nagle, Yermiyahu Ahron Taub)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Readings*

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.

**S204. Gathering the Loose Petals: A Celebration of the Work of Afaa Michael Weaver.**

(Tara Betts, Enzo Silon Surin, Danielle Legros Georges, Bro. Yao Glover, Afaa Michael Weaver)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Tributes*

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.

**S205. Representations of Arab American Communities in Poetry & Prose.**

(Ghassan Zeineddine, Sally Howell, Alise Alousi, Kamelya Youssef)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S206. Scarlet Tanager Books: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Poetry Reading.**

(Ruth Nolan, Lucille Lang Day, Anne Coray, Kurt Schweigman, Georgiana Valoyce-Sanchez)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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 Twenty-Fifth 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*.

**S207. Together, Along the Divide: Writing the New Borderlands.**

(Alma Garcia, Daniel Aleman, Ofelia Montelongo, Alejandra Oliva, Yasmin Ramirez)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

The United States/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.

**S208. Transcending Trauma: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Sentimentality and Reductivism.**

(Lucian Childs, Richard Mirabella, Danny Ramadan, SJ Sindu)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S209. Bedfellows: Sex and Shame.**

(Jessica Nirvana Ram, Tyler Anne Whicard, K. Iver, Taylor Byas, Sam Herchel Wein)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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?

**S210. Poets Learn to Pitch (& other practical tips for writing and publishing prose).**

(Vanessa Angélica Villarreal, Nancy Reddy, Tiana Clark, Hope Wabuke, Chen Chen)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S211. The Trans Fantastic: Craft, Themes, Reception.**

(Alina Boyden, Maya Deane, Izzy Wasserstein, Megan Milks, Nino Cipri)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S212. 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)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**Featured Event**

**S213. Literary Citizenship: Rigoberto González & Carmen Giménez In Conversation, Sponsored by Letras Latinas.**

(Laura Villareal, Rigoberto González, Carmen Giménez, Francisco Aragón)

**Grand Ballroom A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

What does it mean to be a literary citizen? How can you get started as a critic, editor, publisher or arts administrator, while maintaining your artistic practice? Two accomplished writers with twenty plus years of experience share their stories as literary citizens. Opening with a reading of their work, the writers will then participate in a moderated conversation about their various roles championing literature, challenges they may have faced, and ways you can get involved in the literary community.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**Featured Event**

**S214. Kundiman 20th Anniversary Reading and Conversation.**

(Srikanth Reddy, Franny Choi, Megha Majumdar, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello)

**Grand Ballroom B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

Join Kundiman as we celebrate our twentieth anniversary year with a special cross-genre reading and conversation featuring Kundiman writers Franny Choi, Megha Majumdar, and Srikanth Reddy, moderated by Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello. This panel will discuss the history of Kundimans legacy, from its inaugural workshop retreat for poets at the University of Virginia in 2004, to its role today as a national nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing generations of Asian American readers and writers. This intergenerational panel will discuss Kundimans role in shaping the landscape of Asian American literature, as well as how the literary arts can be used to explore and address the unique challenges that face the new and ever-changing diaspora.

This event will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

**S215. From Despairing to Done: The Inner Work of Memoir.**

(Angelique Stevens, Minda Lane, Nicole Shawan Junior, Lisa Ellison, Meredith Maran)

**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.



**S216. A Gift, a Cage, or ... Something Else? Writing about the Body across Genres.**

(Dani Hedlund, K-Ming Chang, Exodus Oktavia Brownlow, Robert James Russell)  
**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**Professional Track**

**S217. How Do You Eat? Writers Talk Plainly About How They Funded Their Writing Lives.**

(Marc Fitten, Laurel Snyder, Rachel Zucker, jeff sharlet, Lisa Page)  
**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

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?

**S218. Queer Parenthood and Family-Making: A Reading.**

(Nomi Stone, JP Howard, Sunu Chandy, Keetje Kuipers, Blas Falconer)  
**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**S219. Lightning Readings by Writer to Writer Alumni.**

(Peace Keenen, Karen Rigby, Claire Wahmanholm, a. adenike phillips, Janée J. Baugher)  
**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

Celebrating its fourth year at AWP, the event focuses on quick reads performed by published writers from the AWP Writer to Writer Mentorship Program. We invite you to enjoy a mix of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction from these talented writers. Organized and emceed by alum P.D. Keenen.

Participant bios can be found at the following link in January 2024: <https://pdkeenen.com/2023/05/30/awp24-lightning-readings-by-writer-to-writer-alumni/>

**3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.**

**S220. Poetry Promoters: The Collective.**

(Luivette Resto, Mike Sonksen, traci kato-kiriyama, F. Douglas Brown)  
**Room 2101, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**S221. Crafting Counternarratives in the Age of Anti-AAPI Hate.**

(Celeste Chan, Chino Lee Chung, Kavita Das, Annie Tan)  
**Room 2102A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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; from activism against transphobic and homophobic legislation to Chinese intergenerational resilience. We’ll also create a shared resource through the conversation and reading.

**S222. Indigenous Stories & Literary Stewardship: Evolving & Protecting Our Narratives.**

(Marisa Tirado, Stacie Denetsosie, Kateri Menominee, Erin Marie Lynch, m.s. RedCherries)  
**Room 2102B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S223. The Fate of the Long Short Story.**

(Maegan Poland, K.C. Mead-Brewer, Yohanca Delgado, Tanya Shirazi Galvez, Michael Nye)  
**Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S224. Not Just Surviving: Queer Poets Thriving in the Red.**

(C.T. Salazar, Brody Parrish Craig, Steve Bellin-Oka, Bleah Patterson, Raye Hendrix)  
**Room 2103B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S225. Queer Stories: Writing Our Way into Belonging.**

(Jeffrey Dale Lofton, Bushra Rehman, Rasheed Newson, Neema Avashia)  
**Room 2103C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Fiction Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S226. Writing and Translating the War in Ukraine.**

(Peter Burzynski, Ana Božičević, Valzhyna Mort, Olena Jennings)  
**Room 2104A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

Five Eastern European Poets discuss how the war in Ukraine has transformed purpose in our work. Each participant will read one to three 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.

**S227. Black History in Poetry and the Visual Archive.**

(Tyree Daye, Niki Herd, Alison Rollins, Ashley Wynter)  
**Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

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.

**S228. Shape and Symbol: The Visual Poem.**

(Emily Lee Luan, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Anthony Cody, Keith S. Wilson)  
**Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S229. Protect Your Soul and Sanity: Self Care Practices While Writing From The Margins.**

(Diana Diaz, Connie Pertuz-Meza, Natalia Sylvester, Edward Gunawan, Daniel Marcellus)  
**Room 2207, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Discussion Room*

“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.

**S230. 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)  
**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Translation*

As translated literature commands greater interest in the United States, 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.

**S231. A Good Book Is Never Late.**

(Chelsey Johnson, Vu Tran, Ricardo Nuila, Nami Mun, Peyton Marshall)  
**Room 2209, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.



**S232. The Art of *The Believer* Interview: Twenty Years of Artists In Conversation.**

(Rita Bullwinkel, Anelise Chen, James Yeh, Deb Olin Unferth, Courtney Zoffness)

**Room 2210, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

For over twenty 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 will touch on how they approached the interview process and what makes a literary interview sparkle.

**S233. *Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education, Celebrating its Tenth Anniversary* .**

(Daisy Hernández, Yalitza Ferreras, Celeste Mendoza, Jennifer De Leon, Gail Dottin)

**Room 2211, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Nonfiction Readings*

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.

**S234. Nonbinary and Genderqueer Writers Discuss Working in a Time of Transphobic Crisis.**

(Emily Holland, A.E. Osworth, Jason Crawford, Nino McQuown, Tonee Moll)

**Room 2215A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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 United States 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 and what the transphobic policies being enacted (and the cultures in which they are being produced) mean to our pedagogies, our careers, and our lives.

**S235. Ages on the Issues: An Intergenerational Poetry Reading.**

(Lucille Lang Day, Noelia Cerna, Joan Gelfand, Mary Mackey, Jaylan Salah)

**Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Poetry Readings*

Poets ranging in age from thirty-six to seventy-nine 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.

**S236. From A to Zines: Bringing Agency and Activism to Classrooms and Communities.**

(Ryan Oliver Drendel, Margarita Cruz, Amber McCrary, Amanda Meeks, Charissa Lucille)

**Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

*Publishing, Editing, and Technology*

Zines flourish at the intersection of self-expression and grassroots activism. Zine making welcomes writers and creatives of all levels to extend their authentic voices beyond the established publishing industry. Join our panel of zinesters, writing instructors, distro owners, community organizers, and small press editors as we discuss, show, and tell the empowering roles that zines play in our local writing communities.

**S237. Resurrection Not Erasure: When Poets Talk Back to History.**

(Alyse Bense, Shane McCrae, Nicole Cooley, Blas Falconer, Cherene Sherrard)

**Room 2502A, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Poetry Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S238. Writing Your Way Through a Major World Event.**

(Sasha Vasilyuk, Katya Apekina, Jasmin Iolani Hakes, Cecilia Rabess, Lena Zycinsky)

**Room 2502B, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism*

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.

**S239. How We Stay Whole: Celebrating Complex Identities in Our Writing.**

(Samantha Tetangco, Nari Kirk, Amy Alvarez, Lyzette Wanzer, Tria Wen)

**Room 2503AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

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.

**S240. Under Control: Writing Motherhood in Dark Times.**

(Hannah Michell, Minna Dubin, Amanda Montei, Katie Gutierrez, Allison Yarrow)

**Room 2504AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Multiple Literary Genres Readings*

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.

**S241. Building Bridges: Literature and Climate Justice.**

(Nadia Colburn, Sarah Rose Nordgren, Jason Myers, Roger Reeves, Jake Skeets)

**Room 2505AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2**

*Artistic & Professional Development*

Literature itself can be a form of activism, but what is the relationship between literature and nonliterary 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.

**S242. Memoir as Detective Novel: Writing the Investigative Memoir.**

(Lilly Dancyger, Sarah Perry, Jeannie Vanasco, Carmen Rita Wong, Leta McCollough Seletzky)

**Room 3501AB, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

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 when 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.

**S243. How to Make Your Story Into a Movie: DIY Edition.**

(Vernon E. Williams, Ethan Avery, Doug Hilson, Jahaan Maiden)

**Room 3501CD, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Playwriting & Screenwriting*

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.

**Professional Track**

**S244. Onward!: Agents and Editors on Rejection and What Comes Next.**

(Maggie Cooper, Kate McMullen, Misha Rai, Roma Panganiban, Callie Garnett)

**Room 3501 GH, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing*

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.

**S245. Nonfiction for Women of Color: Liberating and Celebrating Our Narratives.**

(Kirin Khan, Grisel Y Acosta, Elizabeth Owuor, Natalie Lima, Danielle Jackson)

**Room 3501 EF, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Nonfiction Craft & Criticism*

“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.

**S246. Tupelo Press: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Reading, Transcendence and Diversity.**

(Jeffrey Levine, J Mae Barizo, Iliana Rocha, Rohan Chhetri, Kelly Webber)

**Bookfair Stage, AWP Bookfair, Exhibit Halls D & E, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 3**

*Poetry Readings*

Recognizing Tupelo’s twenty-five-year commitment to diversity, we are proud to offer a reading by four exemplary poets, each offering poems from their recent Tupelo Press books: J. Mae Barizo, reading from *Tender Machines*, Iliana Rocha, reading from *The Many Deaths of Inocencio Rodriguez*, Rohan Chhetri, reading from *lost hurt or in transit beautiful*, and Kelly Weber, reading from *We Are Changed to Deer at the Broken Place*. Followed by Q&A, moderated by Jeffrey Levine, Artistic Director of Tupelo.

[5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.](#)

**S247. Sober AWP.**

**Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level**

Daily 12-Step Meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.



**S248. K-12 Teachers Caucus.**

(Allison Campbell, Molly Sutton Kiefer, Jeremy Wilson)  
Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*

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 twenty-first 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.

**S249. Asian American Caucus.**

(Devyn Mañibo, Neelanjana Banerjee, Jason Bayani, Gina Chung)  
Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*

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.

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**S249A. BkMk Press Reception.**

Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

This is an open reception for friends and constituents of BkMk Press, including authors, past interns and volunteers, and supporters.

**S250. Lords of Misrule: Saturnalia Anthology Reception.**

Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level

Celebrate twenty-plus years of Saturnalia Books with a reception honoring our beloved authors who appear in the *Lords of Misrule* anthology, as well as those who just joined our Saturnalia community.

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**S251. Women's Caucus.**

Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

*Caucus*

The Women's Caucus offers a space to network, plan events, and discuss issues concerning women writers (e.g., ways to support each other, lack of access to literary power structures, conference childcare, obstacles to publication, keeping literary events safe, etc.). The Women's Caucus is an inclusive space and welcomes the diverse perspectives of women writers.



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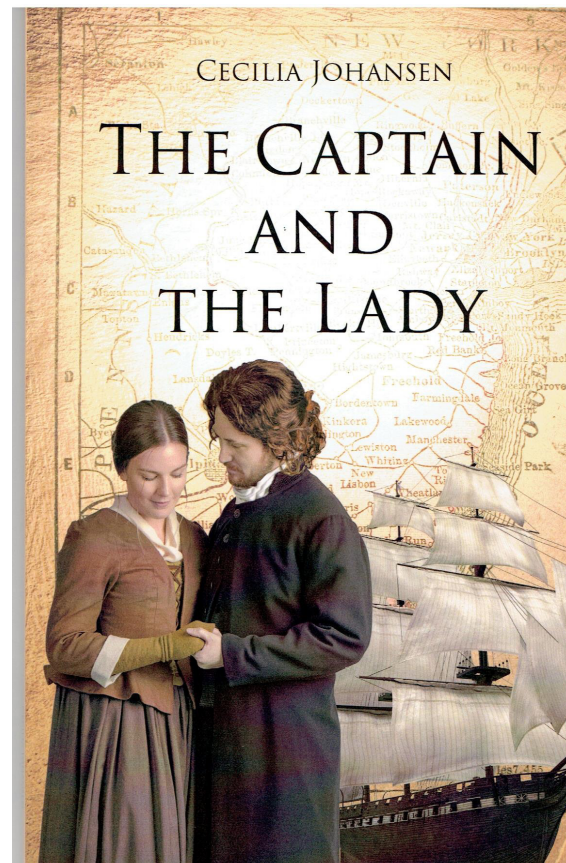
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## Issue 10 is live



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**Thursday 2/8 Book signings: Friday 2/9 Book signings:**

**1:00 PM**

James Allen Hall  
Linda Susan Jackson  
Jessica Jacobs

**2:00 PM**

Hadara Bar-Nadav  
Cyrus Cassells  
Sasha West

**3:00 PM**

John Gallaher  
Mary Slechta

**11:30 AM**

Michael Dumanis  
Cintia Santana

**12:30 PM**

A.H. Jerriod Avant  
Eugenia Leigh

**2:30 PM**

Carlie Hoffman  
Daniel Tobin

**3:30 PM**

Margaret Draft  
Rigoberto González  
Rajiv Mohabir

**OFFSITE READING Thursday, February 8 from 6-9**

**Featuring lightning fast readings** from Four Way Books authors: A.H. Jerriod Avant, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Margaret Draft, Michael Dumanis, John Gallaher, James Allen Hall, Carlie Hoffman, Linda Susan Jackson, Jessica Jacobs, Cintia Santana, Mary Slechta, Daniel Tobin, Sasha West, and Spencer Williams  
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Thursday Schedule of Events					
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Street Level - Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2101	A Magic of Pauses: Poetry Editors on Collaborative Writing and Editing Practices	First Time's The Charm: Debut Novelists on How to Debut	Beyond Books: Alternative Careers in Writing	The Page Blinks Back: Image, Text & Screen	Building Writing Collectives that Empower and Support Outside the Institution
Room 2102A	Queering Kansas: LGBTQ+ Writers in the Heartland	Reimagining Place: New Voices from the Midwest	Resuscitation: Writing About Trauma	A Writer in Art School: Fostering Meaningful Interdisciplinary Experiences	Hybridity and the case of the active reader
Room 2102B	Stop Being So Dramatic!	Navigating Age-Based Audiences: Adult to Picture Book & Everything In Between	Raising More Than One Voice: Polyvocal and Multivocal Poetics	Dazzling Multiplicity of the Actual: Nonfiction Hybridity & Intersectional Form	Everyone is Multilingual: Inviting All Languages into the Writing Classroom, Sponsored by ALTA
Room 2103A	Re-Membering Past and Present: The Practice of Documentary Poetry	Where the Living Sit Talking about the Dead	Getting Non-Writers to Write: Teaching Outside of the English Department	Embodied Prosody, Embodied Sentences: Coping Mechanisms	The book was better...or was it? Adapting your novel into a screenplay or play
Room 2103B	Social Justice on the Page: How Writing and Activism Feed Each Other	Artificial Intelligence & Real Creativity: AI in the CW Classroom	TikTok Isn't Just For Dancing: An Undergraduate Perspective on #BookTok	Finding & Creating Community as a Writer, Sponsored by WITS Alliance	Beyond the Signed Copy: Lessons from Writers who are also Booksellers
Room 2103C	DIY Your Lit Mag: How to Build a Literary Magazine From the Ground Up	It's Alive... It's Alive! Using Horror Film Aesthetics in Poetry	Writing Miscarriage, Child Loss, and Complicated Childbirth in the Post-Roe Era	What I Wish I Would Have Known: Considerations for First Books and Far Beyond	Writing and the day job: How writers maintain a living outside of academia
Room 2104A	Fictionalizing Marginalized Histories: India, Jamaica, Japan, USA	Finding Your Own Rhythm: Writing Practices For Neurodiverse/Disabled Writers	African Diaspora Caucus	Women Reclaim the Page: Generative Writing to Beat Burnout	Thinking Beyond the Page: Reaching & Creating Community
Room 2104B	Sound & Color: Poets and Visual Artists in Exquisite Exchange	The Black Grotesque	Low-Stakes Creative Writing in a High-Stakes School: Upper Story	Fostering Digital Literacies through Creative Composition	To Keep or Not to Keep: Shifting Models in the Post-pandemic Workshop
Room 2105	Creating Literary Community for All: Literary Centers & Reaching the Underserved	All About Audiobooks: Top 10 Questions Finally Answered!	Toward a Poetics of Tenderness: Hegemonic Masculinity & The Poetic Imagination	Biography: The Radical Work of Writing Lives	Reproductive Writes: Writing About Reproductive Choice, Loss, and Justice
Room 2207		How Food Invokes Poetry	Indian Writers Challenge State Violence	Space, Lines, and Mattering: The journey of discovery through spoken word	Art Belongs to Everyone: Giving Literature and Art a New Voice
Room 2208	The Epigenetics of Joy: Writing Judaism Beyond Trauma	Split/Lip Press 10th Anniversary Reading	This is Nebraska: Appraising the State We're In	Celebrating Four Decades of the Affrilachian Poets: A Multigenre Reading	Crafting the Complexity of Jewish Women's Lives
Room 2209	Navigating stormy waters: Telling your tales when they're hard stories to tell	Queer Latinx Men & Vulnerability	Queer As In: A Reading of Debut Trans and Nonbinary Poets	Norman Dubie: A Critical Legacy	

Evening Events
5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Sober AWP Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
Two-Year College Creative Writing Caucus Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
LGBTQ Writers Caucus Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
UMKC Friends of Creative Writing Reception 12th Street Room, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Street Level
Writer to Writer Mentorship Program Reception Basie A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level
AWP HBCU Fellowship Program Reception Basie B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level
Emerson @ AWP Basie C, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level
Lambda Literary Presents a LGBTQ+ Reception Mary Lou Williams AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
University of Missouri Creative Writing Cocktail Hour Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
UM MFA/PhD & Greenfield Farms Writers Residency: A New Front Porch for the Deep South Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
Reception, Hosted by Adelphi University Low-residency MFA Program in Creative Writing Julia Lee B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level



Thursday Schedule of Events continued					Events highlighted are part of a professional track, recommended for undergrad, BFA, MFA, and other graduate students.
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Room 2210			Slackers, Stoners, and Screw-Ups: APIA Writers on the Margins of the Margins	Translation as Advocacy with/ in Poetry's Multilingual World	Write On! Literary Centers on Fostering Sustainable Youth Communities
Room 2211		Nepali Anglophone Writing: Five Writers from the Nepali Diaspora	Centering the Margin: Editors on Editing Anthologies	Bad Immigrant Daughters in Fiction and Nonfiction	Write Through It, Write To It: Finding Community in Adversity
Room 2215A	Sin Fronteras: Navigating, Representing, and Publishing Latine Authors	won't you celebrate with me: BIPOC Women on Crafting the Personal Narrative	The Loneliness of the Slow Essayist: On writing books that take forever	Snap, Crackle, Prose: Telling Our Stories in 300 Words or Less	Bullet Journaling, Car Retreats & Barney: 10 Hacks for Writing while Parenting
Room 2215B	The Many Roles of the Black Writer: An Appreciation of Calvin C. Hernton	Writers in the Schools Alliance Meeting	From the French but not from France: A Bilingual Reading of Francophone Poems, Sponsored by ALTA	Poetry Stacked: Building a 21st Century Reading Series at the Library	
Room 2215C	Internationalism and Identity: A Need for Magazines to Transcend Borders	Storytelling through Hermit Crab Flash: Exploring Borrowed Forms	Writing Under the Influence: Accessing the Unknown through Divination	Poets Against Walls: An Anthology/ Handbook for Writing Past the Checkpoints	Story Mode 2.0: Exercises for Writing Narrative Video Games
Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2502A	A new canon: 5 writers remaking the American West	Decolonizing American Literature: The Goals, Challenges, and Strategies of Writers	Memoirs-in-Essays	A More Perfect Union in Extreme Times: Kansas Poets Laureate	Intro Forever: Mapping the Creative & Pedagogical Terrain of Community Colleges
Room 2502B	The Language of Leaving: Puerto Rican Writers on/from the Diaspora	Only This: Running a Themed Journal in an Era of Distraction and Specialization	The Unsung Masters Reading	Reimagining Kansas: Anarchy, Islamic Hope, Family Dysfunction, and Godly Plains	(Re)Vision: Creating a Sustainable Writing Community
Room 2503AB	In Praise of Legacy: Writers of Color and the Challenge of the Canon	Fragmented Inheritances: Lyric Essay and Intergenerational Trauma	How True Must Fiction Be?—The Role of Research in Fiction Writing	Revision as Trans* Praxis	Queer Speculation: Transing Genre, Transing Gender
Room 2504AB	Speaking Mosaics: Hybrid Narratives & the Prism of Identity	Communing with James Baldwin: A Centennial Celebration	Neurodiverse Sounds like Universe: Crafting Worlds Embracing Neurodiversity	Feeling Heard in a World that Wants to Silence Us: LGBTQIA+ Rep in Young Adult	Ethics of Writing the Other: #ownvoices in Literary Writing
Room 2505AB	Autobiographical Fiction: Writing about Trauma, Memory, Identity, and Survival	Small & Mighty: Everything You Want to Know About Working with Indie Presses	What We Don't Talk about When We Talk About (or To) Agents	Independent for Life: The Value and Benefits of Publishing with an Independent Press, Sponsored by CLMP	Gathering Evidence: Crime fiction as social commentary
Grand Ballroom A			NBF Presents: Crafting Coming-of-Age	Another Last Call: A Reading and Conversation with Sarabande Anthology Poets on Writing & Addiction	Furious Flower Presents Nikky Finney, Anastacia-Rene�, and Malika Booker
Grand Ballroom D	AWP Program Directors' Plenary Assembly				
Level 3, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 3501AB	Experiential Learning, Multimodality, & the Publishing Classroom, Oh My!	Lit Mags Explore Challenges & Methods of Expanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Writing in Written-Off States: Literary Nonprofits on Advocacy & Outreach	It's a Crime! Genre Fiction's Bad Rap (Sheet) in Academia's Mean Streets	A Perfect Fit: Debut Short Story Collections & University Presses
Room 3501CD	Pathways to Publishing for Indie Authors of Color	Ripped (Gently) from the Headlines: The Ethics of Writing Fiction Based on Fact	Voices of Resilience: Celebrating the Strength & Resilience of BIPOC Communities	What Is an Author--Off the Net?	Writing about Your Trauma without Re-Traumatizing Yourself
Room 3501GH	Beyond the Debut: Publisher One-Night Stands vs. Long Term Relationships	Legal and Ethical Issues in Memoir, Hosted by the Authors Guild	Writing Life As A Long Game: From Emerging to the Established Writer	Pathways to Success: Practical and Personal Tips for Getting Published	About That Book Life: A Publishing Round Robin
Room 3501EF	Wait...I Can Use "Cunt" in a Poem?	Shaking Up the Memoir from Middle America	In the Tempered Dark: Contemporary Poets Transcending Elegy	Black Women Leading	Publishing as Activism: Amplifying Marginalized Voices
Exhibit Halls D&E, Level 3					
Bookfair Stage		Bookshop.org For All	Naugatuck River Review and Wordpeace Reading!	The Hen Party: Is Multi-Generational Dialogue Unifying for Women?	Writing Travel and Place: A Conversation

Evening Events (cont.)

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus  
Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

#AWP24 Keynote Address by Jericho Brown

Grand Ballroom A,  
Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2



Friday Schedule of Events					
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Street Level - Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2101	Queer Architectures: New Models for Memoir	Breaking the Rules on Chapbooks: New Approaches to an Old Form	Screenwriting with the Hero's Journey and Beyond	(F)unemployment: Rethinking Graduate Education in the Age of Gen Z and ChatGPT	Transforming the Imagination: Asian American Poets Redefine Hybrid Poetry
Room 2102A	Amplifying Ukrainian Voices in the English-Speaking Literary Environment I	Archives into Art: Jewish Writers Explode the Document	Ekphrasis & Indigenous Poetics: Writing the Space the Spaces In-Between	Young Adult Literature: The Essentials	Widening the Circle: Queer/Trans SWANA Writers on Navigating Space and Self
Room 2102B	Bridging the Diaspora: A Bilingual Reading by Letras Boricuas Fellows	The Impact of Denying DEI	More Than Our Tongues: Women of Color Writing with Arabic, Chinese, and Korean	Celebrating 30 Years: Furious Flower Poetry Center Reading	Rewriting Motherhood, Reimagining Essential Labor
Room 2103A	What Authors Need to Know about Generative AI and Copyright	How to Be Your Own Agent	Be Shameless: Everything You Need to Know to Nail Promotion	Reimagining the Writers Workshop	When We River: IN-NA-PO Poets & Hydro-poetics
Room 2103B	Generative Poetry Workshops: Take ‘Em or Teach ‘Em	When Every Word Is A Spoon: Disabled Writers on the Accommodations We Need	The Stages of Writing & Publishing Memoir	How the Sausage Gets Made: Debut Poets on Making a First Book	Play Nice: How to Get Along in the Publishing World
Room 2103C	Defying Category: How to Sell, Edit and Market a Genre-Bending Novel	Ethical Representation: A Literary-Agent Panel Sponsored by the Association of American Literary Agents (AALA)	Say Gay Today: Writing in the Backward Climate of Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation	Independence with Independents: Making the Most of Publishing with a Small Press	Latin@ Literatures: Publishing and Editing Latinx Literature Today
Room 2104A	Writing Interracial Narratives	Translation as Poetics, Sponsored by ALTA	Mek We Talk: Language and Identity in Caribbean Writing and Beyond	When the Land Speaks: How We Strive to Listen for Language While Out in Nature	Transformation: Creating Change Through Collaboration
Room 2104B	Defining Environmental Fiction: Writers and Editors Discuss	Pollen, Rust, Lakes, & Plains: Writing Poems In The Midwest	Inside Out, Outside In: How Teaching in Prison Affects Creative Pedagogy	Poet to Playwright: On the Dramatic Joy of Changing Hats	Beyond Borderlands: Celebrating Essential Latinx Poetry from Texas Presses
Room 2105	How Writing Transforms: From the Pen to the Screen	Draft, Draft, Goose: The Thinking Behind Revising	Applying for an Individual NEA Poetry Fellowship	Beating the Numbers Game: Submissions Strategies	The Sound and the Future: Teaching Podcasting to MFA Students
Room 2207	Adjunct Assembly	Supporting Small-Press Authors	The Long and Winding Road: How to Persevere When Your Book Takes Forever	Story to Game	Where is the Door? What Can We Carry Inside?
Room 2208	“To Confirm a Thing and Give Thanks”: Rereading May Swenson	Heroic Crowns: On the Values of Difficulty and Dazzle	Working-class Jews: A Poetics of American Assimilation	KC in Black and White: Contrasting Fictions by Vincent Carter and Evan Connell	What Did I Know?: The Poetry of Black Fatherhood in Theory and Practice
Room 2209	A tribute to Don DeLillo: a literary vandal and bad citizen	“Yes, And”: A Bisexual Exploration of Genre	Not a Poet	Writing Fictional Children	Melodrama and the Market: A Match Made in the Bedroom

Evening Events
4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
AWP Award Series Reading and Celebration Grand Ballroom D, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2
5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Sober AWP Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
Art School Writing Faculty Caucus Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
Latinx Writers Caucus Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
National Writer-Parent Meetup 12th Street Room, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Street Level
Writers' Conferences & Centers Reception Basie A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level
Sewanee Writers' Conference Reception Basie B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Second Level
NYU Creative Writing Program Public Reception Mary Lou Williams AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
Scarlet Tanager Books: 25th Anniversary Reception Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
University of Nebraska Omaha MFA Reception Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
Salmon Poetry Reception for Spring Titles Julia Lee B, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
The MacGuffin Turns Forty! Andy Kirk A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level



Friday Schedule of Events continued					
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Room 2210	Diasporic Poetics: Reading by Debut Asian American Poets	Nobody’s Mother: Writing Through the Decision to Parent	Beyond the Limits of Loss: Translation as Generative Practice, Sponsored by ALTA	You Say 'Narrative' Like it's a Bad Thing	Writing within the Diaspora: on Persian and Armenian Displacement and Literature
Room 2211				The Craft and Currency of the Literary Book Review	Emerson MFA at Forty: Celebrating Four Decades of Writing and Publishing
Room 2215A	Writing and Intellectual Disability: An Inclusive Panel	Margins and Memory: The Craft of Trauma and Truth(s)	Should I Just Give Up?	Beyond Composition: Creative Action in First-Year Writing Courses	The Hybrid Memoir: Weaving Personal Narrative with Research
Room 2215B	I Published My First Book After Age 50: A Reading and Conversation	Unraveling the Prophetic: Gerald Stern's Oeuvre Revisited	2024 Writers' Conferences & Centers (WC&C) Meeting	Ten Years of a Literary Series: Stories from the UPK New Poetry & Prose Series	Editing Behind Bars: Mainstream Books Built by Incarcerated Artists
Room 2215C	Questions & Wonder: Science in Fiction	Life as Laboratory: Using Creative Play As Activism	Summons and Return: How We Write Globally of Our Homes and Other Destinations	A Turn of the Page: From Journalism to Creative Writing	Disabled and D/deaf Writers Caucus
Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2502A	Our First Universe: The Aesthetics of Home in Fiction	The Craft of Writing Intersectional Identities in Young Adult Literature	Creating Community Residencies to Celebrate Queer Writers	First Generation Creative Writers on Voice, Place, and Belonging	The Braided Essay as Change Agent
Room 2502B	Embracing Our Writer Identities: Women of Color Speak Candidly about the Journey	Wings of a Bird in Flight: Poets of the Cuban and Puerto Rican Diasporas	Writing Life Post-MFA: Unearthing the Realities	The Life-Changing Power of Memoir: Welcoming Learner’s Voices	Whose Line Is It Anyway? The Ecstasy & Agony of Collaborative Books
Room 2503AB	Writing to Change the World Through Live Storytelling: Craft Meets Catharsis	Many Moseses, Many Promised Lands Unseen: A Lecture by Rion Amilcar Scott	My Feet, Whose Shoes? Writing and Translating “The Other”	Essential Queer Voices of U.S. Poetry	Becoming a Debut Novelist: The Journey From Book Submission to Book Launch
Room 2504AB	Our Souths: Curating Spaces Against BIPOC & LGBTQIA+ Erasure	The Against Tradition Tradition: Contradiction & The Prose Poem	Exhausted & Overwhelmed: Attempting Queer Joy in 2024	Everything is Awful: Sustaining Through Shitstorms and Systemic Obstacles	Chosen Family: Making Kinship Among Queer Poets
Room 2505AB	Latina/o/x Narratives: Including Diverse Experiences from Our Community	f/Lawless: Writing Queer Sex	East Coast, West Coast, Best Coast: Writing the Midwest	Greater than the Sum of Its Parts: Writing and Structuring Essay Collections	Writing with Fire: Poetry and Mental Illness
Grand Ballroom A		Language Back: A Reading & Conversation with Indigenous Poets, Sponsored by Indigenous Nations Poets	Black Women As (Keepers of) the Archive: Photographs, Hybrid and Historical Text, Sponsored by Cave Canem	Generations: A Reading & Conversation Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts & The Asian American Writers' Workshop	Personal Best: A New Kind of Canon, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press
Grand Ballroom B		PEN Presents: Free the Books	Meredith Talusan and Kai Cheng Thom in Conversation with Maya Shanbhag Lang, Sponsored by the Authors Guild	Lead with Love: Queer Voices in Literature with Red Hen Press	Where Is Literary Criticism Headed?, Sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle
Level 3, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 3501AB	Transfigured Flesh: Shapeshifting, Embodiment & the Nonhuman in Trans Narratives	Women of New Fabulism and Speculative Literature: A Reading	Brick and Mortar: Partnering with Indie Bookstores, Sponsored by CLMP	Of a Certain Age: Women Writers Near 60 and Beyond	Debuting with the Short Story Collection
Room 3501CD	Missouri Literary Magazines: Show Me Show Me Show Me How You Do That Lit	'Til Death (or Edits) Do Us Part: The Significant Other in Creative Nonfiction	Crafting Unforgettable Characters—a Writer’s Guide to Storytelling	‘Life of Labor’ in Letters: Working-Class Storytelling	Fragments, Figments, and Flash: Unconventional Memoir and the Myth of Memory
Room 3501GH	Please Don't Tag Me in a Negative Book Review on Social Media	The Happy Family: The Craft of Domestic Horror	We can't all marry rich: Teaching creative writing students professional skills	The Author/Agent Relationship: Navigating the Rapidly Evolving Industry Together	Getting the Word Out: A Guide to Book Marketing & Publicity for Indie Presses and Authors, Sponsored by CLMP
Room 3501EF	Build Your Sharp & Unforgettable Bouquet: On the Making of Anthologies	What Bookshelf Do I Belong On? The Challenges of Literary Categorization	Riven Past, Wounded Present: Writers from Kansas City and Tulsa	How Book Reviewing Is Changing and Why It Matters	Too Small For the Patriarchy: Getting Girlhood Stories Past the Gatekeepers
Exhibit Halls D&E, Level 3					
Bookfair Stage		“The Lost Coin” and Other Stories About the Fate of Children Adopted at Birth	(More than) Crisis and Loss: Writing Female Mid-Life	Here There Be Dragons: Risking the Uncharted Territory of an Untried MFA Program	Book Launch Reading for <i>Habitats</i> by Katharine Whitcomb—with Special Guests!

Events highlighted are part of a professional track, recommended for undergrad, BFA, MFA, and other graduate students.

Evening Events (cont.)
6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
FUSE Caucus: The Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors and Writers Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
Arab American Caucus Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

<b>SPECIAL WORKSHOP:</b> How To Fight Book Bans: A Workshop with PEN America 1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom C, Kansas City Convention Center, Level 2
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Saturday Schedule of Events					
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Street Level - Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2101	Vision & Re-Vision: Teaching Revision in University & Community Workshops	Dispatches from PhD Land: Perspectives from Inside the Creative Writing Degree	Writers Making Comics and Collage: How Changing Mediums Changed Our Writing	The Publishing Process and Interventions for Equity & Inclusion	Poetry Promoters: The Collective
Room 2102A	Evolving Literary Landscape: Creating Innovative Programming at Literary Centers	Collaborating in Korean: The Value of Co-Translating	Ten Years of APBF: African Women Poets in the US and their Publication Journeys	Writing the Multilingual Poem: Code-switching Across Cultures	Crafting Counternarratives in the Age of Anti-AAPI Hate
Room 2102B	Writing Freely in Florida: Thirty years of the MFA at the University of Miami	Why Take/Teach Kid Lit? Craft Arguments for Writers & Programs	Beyond Belief: Queer Religious (and Post-Religious) Poetry	Liminal Silences: (Un)Writing The First Poetry Collection	Indigenous Stories & Literary Stewardship: Evolving & Protecting our Narratives
Room 2103A	Writing for the Ear: How To Create, Launch, and Grow a Podcast	Be Gay, Do Crime: Teaching queer & trans poetics in dangerous times	Workshop Feedback: An Unmanageable Labor of Love?	Sight Singing: Poetry and the Visual	The Fate of the Long Short Story
Room 2103B	Grief: What is it good for?	Agented and On Submission: A Special Kind of Torture (Part II)	Graywolf, Haymarket, Kaya, & Noemi Editors on Small Press Revision Practices	Ableism, On and Off the Page: Literature and Invisible Disability	Not Just Surviving: Queer Poets Thriving in the Red
Room 2103C	Writers Who Drag	Start Here (Or There): Teaching First Drafts in the Creative Writing Workshop	From the First Idea to “It’s Finally Here!”: The Life Cycle of Publishing a Book	Beyond Gay and Bi: Creating Diversity in Queer Characters	Queer Stories: Writing Our Way into Belonging
Room 2104A	Writing Poetry in English as a Second, Third, Etc Language	Holding Space: Creating a Safe & Supportive Virtual Writing Group	On the Frontlines/School Matters: K-12 Teachers Writing the Classroom	Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Creative Writing Workshops at Community Colleges	Writing and Translating the War in Ukraine
Room 2104B	Una Mujer Peligrosa: Celebrating the Queer Work & Life of tatiana de la tierra	Heretic: Confronting Religious Trauma Amid Growing Extremism	Beyond Zoom: Building Vibrant Literary Communities in a New Hybrid Era	The Power of Collective Impact in Elevating Black Women's Voices	Black History in Poetry and the Visual Archive
Room 2105	A Cat's Belly: Structuring Your Debut Collection through Place and Movement	Getting the Word Out: Poets on Publicizing their Debut Collections	The Kentucky Black Writers Collaborative	Giving Place A Voice: Persona as a Tool for Redefining a City	Shape and Symbol: The Visual Poem
Room 2207		Family Secrets: Balancing Love, Culture, and the Stories We Can't Ignore	Poetry to Empower Beyond Academia : The Oklahoma Example	Mental Health for the Black Academic	Protect Your Soul and Sanity: Self Care Practices While Writing From The Margins
Room 2208	The Criticism of Translated Books: A Words Without Borders Conversation	Collaboration in the Creative Writing Classroom	A Tribute to Gerald Locklin	Uniquely Portable Magic: Empowering Students to Read as Writers	So You Want to Publish a Translation. A How-To Panel for Literary Magazines, Sponsored by ALTA
Room 2209	Rebel Voices Only	Poetry on the Plains: Laureateship in the Midwest	Teaching Literary Editing and Publishing in a Creative Writing Curriculum	Scriptural Entanglements: Poets Writing Into, Through, and Against Sacred Texts	A Good Book Is Never Late

Events highlighted are part of a professional track, recommended for undergrad, BFA, MFA, and other graduate students.

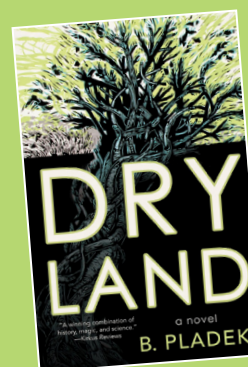
Evening Events
5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Sober AWP Room 2208, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
K-12 Teachers Caucus Room 2215B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
Asian American Caucus Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
BkMk Press Reception Bennie Moten AB, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
Lords of Misrule: Saturnalia Anthology Reception Julia Lee A, Marriott Kansas City Downtown, Third Level
6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Women's Caucus Room 2215C, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level



Saturday Schedule of Events continued					
	9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.	1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.
Room 2210		BkMk Press 50+ Anniversary Reading	Revising Revealed: The Art of Revising Poetry	Writing and Translating “The Other”: New Fiction from Frayed Edge Press	The Art of The Believer Interview: 20 Years of Artists In Conversation
Room 2211		Keeping It Lit: Nurturing a Literary Journal Program at Two-Year Colleges	There’s No Normal in Publishing: Stories from 2023 Young Adult Debuts	Gathering the Loose Petals: A Celebration of the Work of Afaa Michael Weaver	Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education; Celebrating 10th Anniversary
Room 2215A	Opening the Book on Publishing Pedagogy	Cave Canem & The Importance of the Black Literary Archive	Yes We Exist, America: Queer South Asian Stories & Why They Matter	Representations of Arab American Communities in Poetry & Prose	Nonbinary & Genderqueer Writers Discuss Working in a Time of Transphobic Crisis
Room 2215B	LitNet Meeting		The Art of Building and Sustaining Writing Communities	Scarlet Tanager Books: 25th Anniversary Poetry Reading	Ages on the Issues: An Intergenerational Poetry Reading
Room 2215C	Mango Is Not My Only Metaphor: South Asian Writers on Fiction in the 2020s	Writing Trauma:Nonlinear Challenges of Survival.A Perspective of Women Writers	Transgender Nonfiction: Memoir and Essays Beyond the Transition Narrative	Together, Along the Divide: Writing the New Borderlands	From A to Zines: Bringing Agency and Activism to Classrooms and Communities
Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 2502A	Readings From Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Reimagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters	Unlearning What You Learned Just Now: Writing Strategies After Your First Book	The Writer-Mom: How Motherhood Changes and Influences Writing Habits and Subject	Transcending Trauma: Avoiding the pitfalls of sentimentality and reductivism	Resurrection Not Erasure: When Poets Talk Back to History
Room 2502B	To Doctorate or Not? Creative Writers on Earning a PhD	Body Terrorism: Poems of Resistance, Defiance, and Survival	When the Old Names Fail Us	Bedfellows: Sex and Shame	Writing Your Way Through a Major World Event
Room 2503AB	We Belong: People of Color Accessing, Critiquing, & Reshaping Artist Residencies	Routine Means Keep Doing It: Giving Your Writing Practice Structure & Support	Breaking Silence: The Ethics of Writing Inherited Trauma across Genres	Poets Learn to Pitch (& other practical tips for writing and publishing prose)	How We Stay Whole: Celebrating Complex Identities in Our Writing
Room 2504AB	The Mean Season: Intolerance and Threats in the Classroom	Writing Trans Sex	Writing About Addiction: Privacy, Anonymity, Ethics, & Truth-Telling	The Trans Fantastic: Craft, Themes, Reception	Under Control: Writing Motherhood in Dark Times
Room 2505AB	Going Small—Writers (and a Publisher) Dish on the Small Press Experience	What Exactly Do You Do?: Jobs as Guides into Our Characters’ Worlds	Writing is Not Therapy: Using Craft to Contain the Uncontainable	It’s Me. Hi. I’m the Problem, It’s Me: Wrestling with Your Former Self in Memoir	Building Bridges: Literature and Climate Justice
Grand Ballroom A		Acts of Love: Brian Turner, Katie Farris & Major Jackson Read & Converse, Sponsored by Alice James Books	A Reading by Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, & Nicole Sealey, Presented by the Academy of American Poets	Literary Citizenship: Rigoberto González & Carmen Giménez In Conversation, Sponsored by Letras Latinas	
Grand Ballroom B			Futures for SWANA Poetry: Mizna Hosts Iman Mersal & Noor Naga in Conversation	Kundiman 20th Anniversary Reading and Conversation	
Level 3, Kansas City Convention Center					
Room 3501AB	The Fine Art of Craft Talking	Honoring Our Grandmothers— Indigenous Writers Reclaim History	Mecachihuanimenh, Weavers of the Cord: Crafting a Future to Honor Ancestral Pasts	From Despairing to Done: the Inner Work of Memoir	Memoir as Detective Novel: Writing the Investigative Memoir
Room 3501CD	Writing the Literary Sex Scene: Dethroning the Male Gaze	Perspectives on the Caregiving Memoir	Show (Me), Don’t Tell: Missouri Writers Grappling with the State of Their State	A Gift, a Cage, or ... Something Else? Writing about the Body across Genres	How to Make Your Story Into a Movie: DIY Edition
Room 3501GH	Down to the Wire: The Nuts and Bolts of Editing a Manuscript to Publication	How Not to Lose Heart: Sustaining Mental Health in the Writing Life	Submission Models: Best Practices for Literary Magazines, Sponsored by CLMP	How do you eat? Writers talk plainly about how they funded their writing lives.	Onward!: Agents & Editors on Rejection & What Comes Next
Room 3501EF	(Trans)cend: Trans Poetics in the Age of Anti-transness	Singing Our Joy: A Reading by Neurodivergent Poets	The Facts Behind Memoir: How Research Expands the Vision and Market for Stories	Queer Parenthood and Family-making: A Reading	Nonfiction for Women of Color: Liberating and Celebrating Our Narratives
Exhibit Halls D&E, Level 3					
Bookfair Stage		Passion to Page to Publishing	Set and Setting: Changing Your Location to Spark Your Mindset	Lightning Readings by Writer to Writer Alumni	Tupelo Press: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Reading, Transcendence and Diversity



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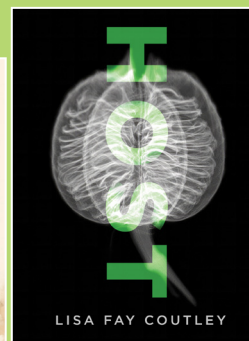
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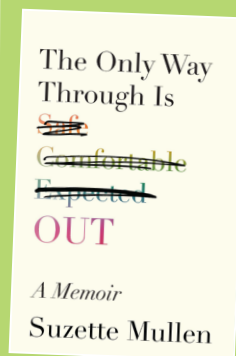
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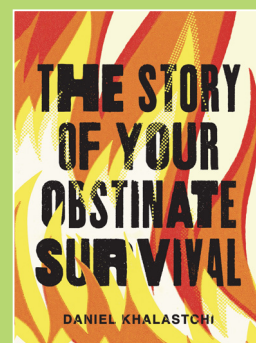
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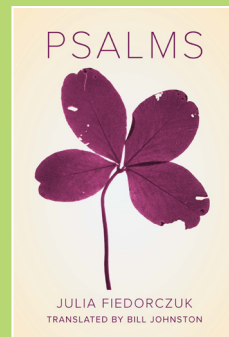
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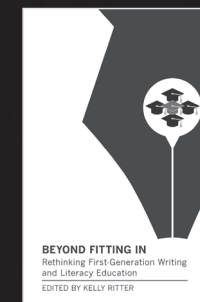


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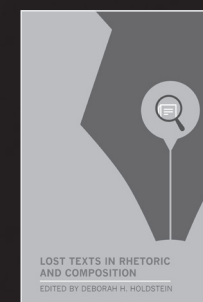


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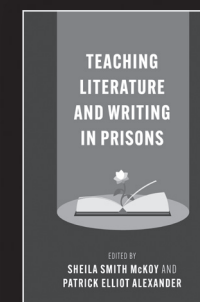


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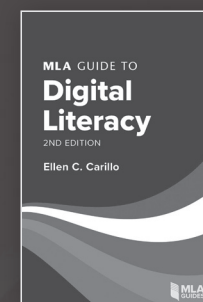


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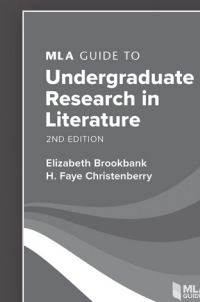
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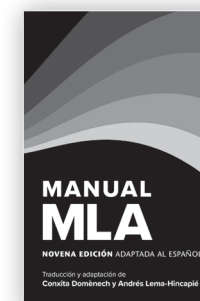


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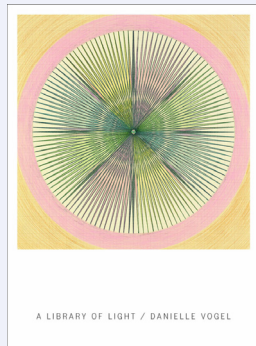
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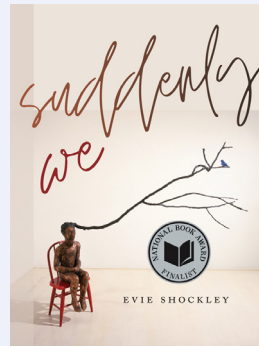
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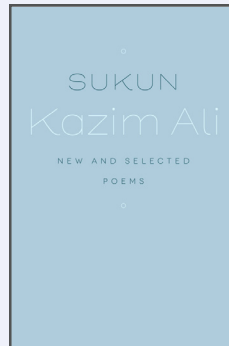
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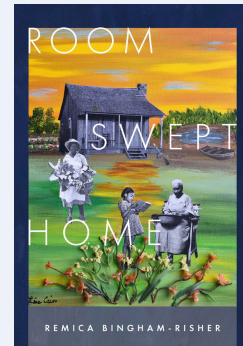
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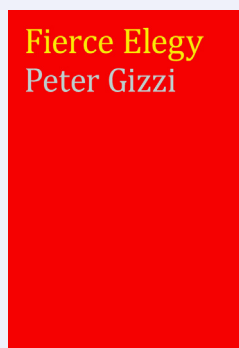
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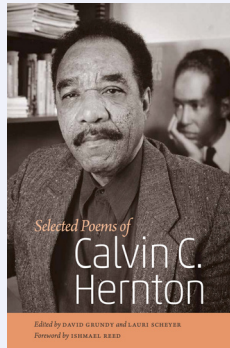
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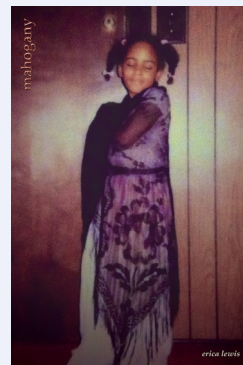
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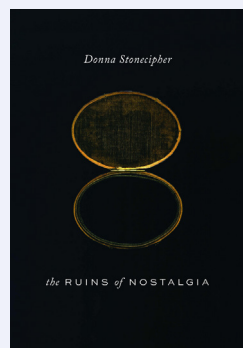
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Remica Bingham-Risher  
erica lewis  
Evie Shockley  
Danielle Vogel

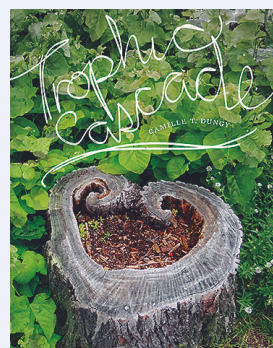
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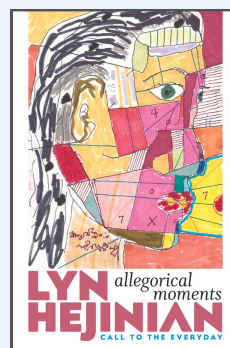
 **erica lewis**  
mahogany



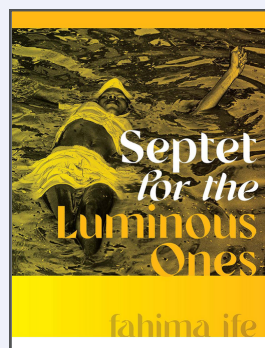
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OF NOSTALGIA



 **CAMILLE DUNGY**  
TROPIC CASCADE



**LYN HEJINIAN**  
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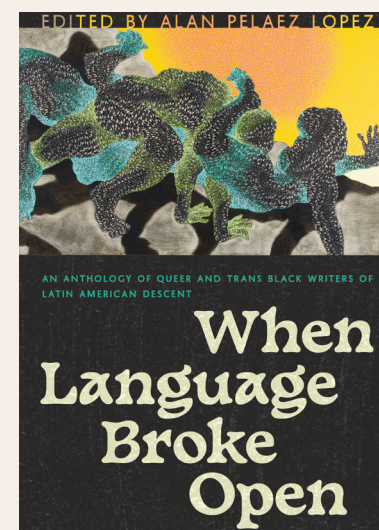
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# AWP Contest Winners

[awpwriter.org/contests](http://awpwriter.org/contests)

## The Kurt Brown Prizes

AWP awarded three scholarships to emerging writers to attend a writer's conference, center festival, retreat, or residency. This award is sunsetting this year, but stay tuned for the new ways AWP plans to support WC&Cs in the future!

2023 Winners

**Allison Hong Merrill**  
(Creative Nonfiction)

**Njoroge Mungai**  
(Fiction)

**Mathew Weitman**  
(Poetry)



## Small Press Publisher Award

AWP's Small Press Publisher Award is an annual prize for nonprofit presses and literary journals that recognizes the important role such organizations play in publishing creative works and introducing new authors to the reading public. The award acknowledges the hard work, creativity, and innovation of these presses and journals, and honors their contributions to the literary landscape through their publication of consistently excellent work. In even years, the award is given to a journal, and, in odd years, to a press.

### 2023 Winner Dzanc Books

2023 Finalists

Four Way Books  
Nomadic Press

2023 Judges

Jennifer (JP) Perrine, Portland Community College  
Carey Salerno, Alice James Books  
Deborah Jackson Taffa, Institute of American Indian Arts



## National Program Directors' Prize

AWP awarded the 2023 National Program Directors' Prize to two undergraduate literary magazines in the categories of content and design. Now the AWP Prizes for Undergrad Lit Mags, keep an eye on our website for updates to this celebration of undergraduate writers and editors.

2023 Content Winner

**Lewis & Clark Literary Review**  
**#49, bone meal**

Lewis & Clark College

Selected by  
DeMisty D. Bellinger-Delfeld,  
Fitchburg State University

2023 Design Winner

**Grub Street #71**

Towson University

Selected by  
Travis Kurowski,  
York College of Pennsylvania



## George Garrett Award

Contemporary literature and AWP have benefited from the efforts of many teachers, writers, editors, and administrators who have done their utmost to help the next generation of writers find their way as artists and as literary professionals. In bestowing the annual George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature, AWP recognizes a few of those individuals who have made notable donations of care, time, labor, and money to support writers and their literary accomplishments.

**Dr. Duriel E. Harris was awarded the 2023 George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature at our annual conference.**





# AWP Contest Winners

## 2023 Intro Journals Project Winners

### Intro Journals Winners: Poetry

Selected by Jennifer Moore

“Ghost Eulogy”  
Sara Verstynen  
Northwestern University  
*Reed Magazine*

“Sadie”  
Shannon Moran  
University of  
Missouri-Kansas City  
*Hayden’s Ferry Review*

“Visiting a Friend on  
a Snowy Night”  
Chengru He  
University of Utah  
*Colorado Review*

“Three Days After My  
Mom Starts Hospice,  
My Son Can’t Sleep”  
Angela Voras-Hills  
University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
*Mid-American Review*

“Countdown”  
Carrie Johnson  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign  
*Quarterly West*

“Etymology of Meal”  
Veronica Silva  
University of Central Florida  
*Iron Horse Literary Review*

“14 Minute Sonnet”  
Grace Smith  
West Virginia University  
*Puerto del Sol*

“Equinox”  
Brian Czyzyk  
University of North Texas  
*Tampa Review*

### Intro Journals Winners: Poetry

*continued*

**Honorable Mention**  
“Some Wound of Color”  
Nate Metz  
Santa Clara University

“Letters from Atlantis”  
Daniel Barton  
University of Illinois at Chicago

“upon viewing Hunt’s  
Scapegoat (1856)”  
Savannah Moix-Rogers  
University of Central Arkansas

“Hurricane Season”  
Chelsea Hill  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign

“A Smile is not a  
convincing argument”  
Monir Gholamzadeh Bazarbash  
Purdue University

“Kylix”  
M. Sage Flint  
Central Washington University

“Apophatic Poem”  
Jennifer Loyd  
Texas Tech University

“Blood & Guts”  
Charlotte Smith  
St. Olaf College

### Intro Journals Winners: Fiction

Selected by Gwen Kirby

“A Vanishing”  
Blake Chernin  
Purdue University  
*Iron Horse Literary Review*

“Deborah Forever”  
Kasey Peters  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
*Hayden’s Ferry Review*

“For Someone”  
Madeline Simms  
University of Alabama  
*Quarterly West*

“Wisdom Teeth”  
Liina Koivula  
Eastern Washington University  
*Puerto del Sol*

**Honorable Mention**  
“Stranger”  
Jake Zawlacki  
Louisiana State University

“Old Queens”  
Steven Archer  
University of Central Florida

“My Girlfriend, the  
Wax Specialist”  
Victoria Hulbert  
University of Mississippi

“Mythologies and  
Fruiting Bodies”  
Sasheene Feather Denny  
University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee

### Intro Journals Winners: Creative Nonfiction

Selected by Sonya Huber

“Hair”  
Ciara Alfaro  
University of Minnesotag  
*Mid-American Review*

“Lost Wingman”  
Laura Joyce-Hubbard  
Northwestern University  
*Reed Magazine*

“The Archer”  
Jacob M. Hall  
Texas Tech University  
*Colorado Review*

“Sokoyøkötö”  
Kanyinsola Olorunnisola  
University of Alabama  
*Tampa Review*

**Honorable Mention**  
“Queer Paranoia at the  
Dua Lipa Concert”  
Kurt Ostrow  
The Ohio State University

“My Problem Was I  
Didn’t Leave Him”  
Allison Field Bell  
University of Utah

“What Blood Remembers”  
Akira Ritos  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign

“Your Lovely Gaza”  
Tayma Al-Astal  
Marshall University

## 2023 AWP Award Series

AWP sponsors the Award Series, an annual competition for the publication of excellent new book-length works. The competition is open to all authors writing in English regardless of nationality or residence and is available to published and unpublished authors alike.



### Bret Shepard

2023 Donald Hall  
Prize for Poetry

*Absent Here*  
University of Pittsburgh Press

**Heid E. Erdrich, Judge:** “Visual, sensual, and clear, this collection maps a distinctly Alaskan space. The relationships, realities, land, sky, creatures, waters—ice—of the Arctic breathe in these poems like characters. There’s a tricky math at work: each poem adds or subtracts from what a lone human can know. This is life as some gorgeous zero-sum game. These poems encourage us, even if defined by howling absence, to mark the present and live, simply live, in it.”

**Bret Shepard** grew up in various parts of Alaska, including the villages of Atkasuk and Browerville on the North Slope. Recent poems have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Florida Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Southern Review*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*, which awarded him the Goldstein Prize. He is the author of *Place Where Presence Was*, winner of the Moon City Press Book Award, as well as two chapbooks, including *The Territorial*, which won the Midwest Chapbook Award from the *Laurel Review*. He currently lives with his family outside of Philadelphia and teaches at Goldey-Beacom College.



### Jay Baron Nicorvo

2023 Sue William Silverman  
Prize for Creative Nonfiction

*Best Copy Available: A Memoir*  
University of Georgia Press

**Geoff Dyer, Judge:** “The (true) story unfolding in *Best Copy Available* is almost unrelentingly bleak but that relentlessness also makes it difficult to put down. The voice is jagged, dangerous, compelling and, above all, *appropriate*.”

**Jay Baron Nicorvo** has published a novel, *The Standard Grand* (St. Martin’s Press), and a poetry collection, *Deadbeat* (Four Way Books). Jay’s nonfiction has twice been named “Notable” in *Best American Essays*. His writing has been featured on NPR and PBS NewsHour. He’s served as an editor at *PEN America*, the literary magazine of the PEN American Center, and at *Ploughshares*. He spent years as membership director of the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses in NYC. A proud community-college graduate, he’s taught at Eckerd College, Cornell College, Emerson College, and Western Michigan University. He lives with his wife, Thisbe Nissen, their son, a couple of cats, a dog, and a dozen chickens on a defunct farm outside of Battle Creek, Michigan. Find Jay at [www.nicorvo.net](http://www.nicorvo.net).



### Ben Grossberg

2023 James Alan McPherson  
Prize for the Novel

*The Spring Before Obergefell*  
University of Nebraska Press

**Percival Everett, Judge:** “The world of this novel is patiently rendered with language that is direct, unadorned, and yet full. The characters here are presented with the kind of affection that is rare in much current literature. This is a love story and a growth story and a story about how the world changes and affects our self-definition, confidence, and place within it. The relationships are not familiar but not cliché, surprising but not sensational. I love the honesty and openness of this novel.”

**Ben Grossberg** is the author of four full-length books of poetry, including *My Husband Would* (University of Tampa, 2020), winner of the 2021 Connecticut Book Award in poetry and a Foreword INDIES Book of the Year; *Space Traveler* (University of Tampa, 2014); and *Sweet Core Orchard* (University of Tampa, 2009), winner of the Tampa Review Prize and a 2009 Lambda Literary Award. He also coedited the anthology, *The Poetry of Capital* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2021), which curates work that addresses the economic challenges of our moment. Ben is a professor and Director of Creative Writing at the University of Hartford.



### Molly Olguin

2023 Grace Paley  
Prize for Short Fiction

*The Sea Gives Up the Dead*  
Ren Hen Press

**Carmen Maria Machado, Judge:** “I could not be more excited by this haunting, lush, genre-leaping collection—reading it, I am reminded of how I felt when I first encountered Karen Russell’s *St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. Gorgeously written, imaginative, startling—*Sea Gives Up the Dead* is a wunderkammer of beauty and sorrow.”

**Molly Olguin** is a queer writer and educator based in Seattle. Her fiction has appeared in *Paranoid Tree*, *Redivider*, *The Normal School*, *River Styx*, *Quarterly West*, and others. She was a recipient of the Loft Mentor Series fellowship in 2019, and was awarded the 2015 AWP Intro Awards Prize in fiction. With Jackie Hedeman, she is the creator of the queer science fiction audio drama *The Pasithea Powder*. Also with Jackie Hedeman, she is the author of the screenplay *Without Apology*, which placed in the top five for the 2020 Write LA Competition, a finalist for the Diverse Voices 2019 Screenwriting Lab, and a Second Rounder for the 2018 Austin Film Festival Script Competition. She loves small cats, crows, and monsters of all kinds.



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AWP Off-site – Punch Bucket Lit Reading  
Thursday Feb 8 at 7 pm  
Casual Animal Brewery  
AWP Panel – Be Gay, Do Crime: Teaching Queer and Trans Poetics  
in Dangerous Times  
Saturday Feb 10 at 10:35-11:50 am  
Room 2103A, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

### Featuring Michelle Donahue

AWP Panel – Defining Environmental Fiction  
Friday Feb 9 at 9:00-10:15 am  
Room 2104B, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

### Featuring Michael Ramos

Book Signing – The After: A Veteran's Notes on Coming Home  
Friday Feb 9 at 1:30 pm  
UNC Press Table T1408



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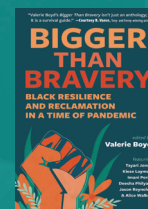
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The following individuals are participating in one or more conference events. To find the event description for each participant, match the event code following the participant’s name with the corresponding code in the schedule of events. Event codes beginning with W take place on Wednesday, R on Thursday, F on Friday, and S on Saturday.

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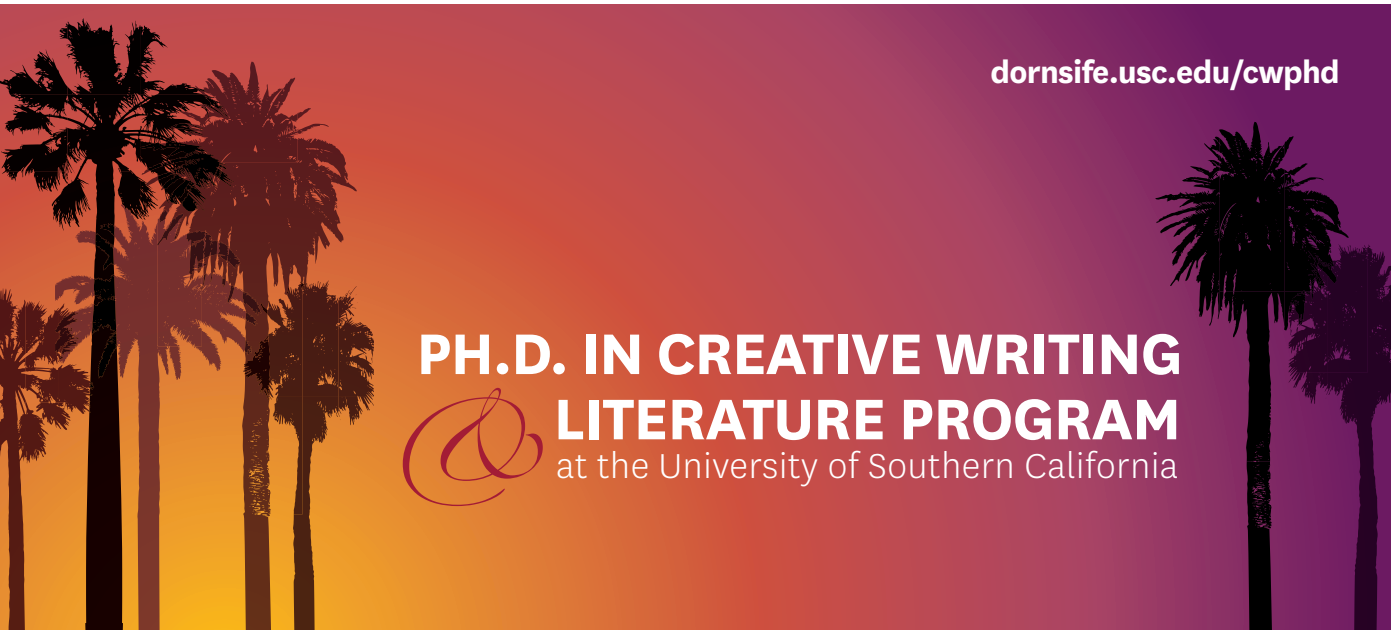
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  - Fresh Water Fresh Voices
  - Furious Flower Poetry Center
  - Hedgebrook
  - Historical Novel Society North America
  - Iowa Summer Writing Festival
- Juniper Summer Writing Institute & Institute for Young Writers
  - Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference
  - Kauai Writers Conference
  - Kaz Conference Writing Workshop
  - Kenyon Review
  - LaGuardia Community College's Creative Writing Club
  - Larksong Writers Place
  - Leopardi Writing Conference
  - Loghaven Artist Residency
  - Longleaf Writers' Conference @ Seaside, FL
  - Maximum Impact
  - Mesa Verde Writers Conference
  - Mindful Poet Retreats
  - Murphy Writing of Stockton University
  - New York State Summer Writers Institute
  - North Carolina Writers' Network
  - North Words Writers Symposium
  - Pacific University Master of
- Fine Arts in Writing
  - Paris Café Writing
  - Poetry of Resilience
  - Postgraduate Writers' Conference
  - Rebirth Your Book
  - Sarah Lawrence College Writing Institute
  - South Porch Artists Residency
  - The Creativity Workshop
  - The Loft Literary Center
  - The Muse Writers Center
  - The Narrative Project
  - The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center
  - Tinker Mountain Writers' Workshops
  - 20th Annual Eckerd College Writers' Conference: Writers in Paradise
  - Washington Writers Conference
  - Write On, Door County
  - Writeaways
  - Writers' League of Texas (WLT)
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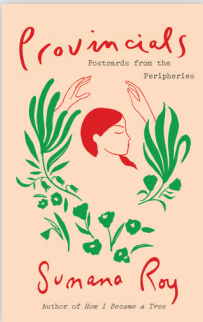
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01/25/24	Eduardo C. Corral Carmen Calatayud	The Arts Club of Washington Washington, D.C.
02/22/24	Gina Franco Edgar García Sheila Maldonado	The Poetry Center at University of Arizona Tuscon, AZ
03/21/24 & 03/23/24	Aracelis Girmay Diannely Antigua Yessenia Montilla Jasminne Mendez	The Poetry Foundation Chicago, IL
04/10/24	Ada Limón Carmen Giménez heidi andrea restrepo rhodes	University of Notre Dame South Bend, IN
09/12/24	Alexandra Lytton Regalado Jordan Pérez	The Betsy a collaboration with SWWIM (Supporting Women Writers in Miami Miami, FL
10/16/24	Richard Blanco Rigoberto González	University of Notre Dame South Bend, IN
11/11/24	Valerie Martínez Blas Falconer Dan Vera	O.B. Hardison series Folger Library Washington, D.C.
12/04/24 -12/06/24	Rodrigo Toscano Roberto Tejada Adela Najarro Sara Borjas Alan Chazaro	San Jose State University San Jose, CA



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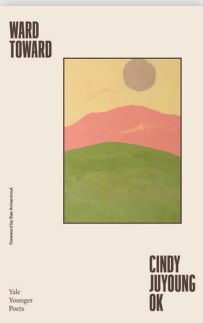
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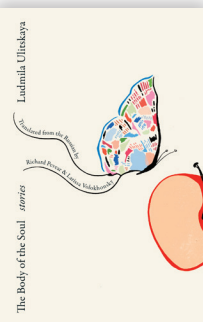
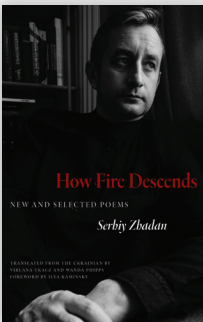
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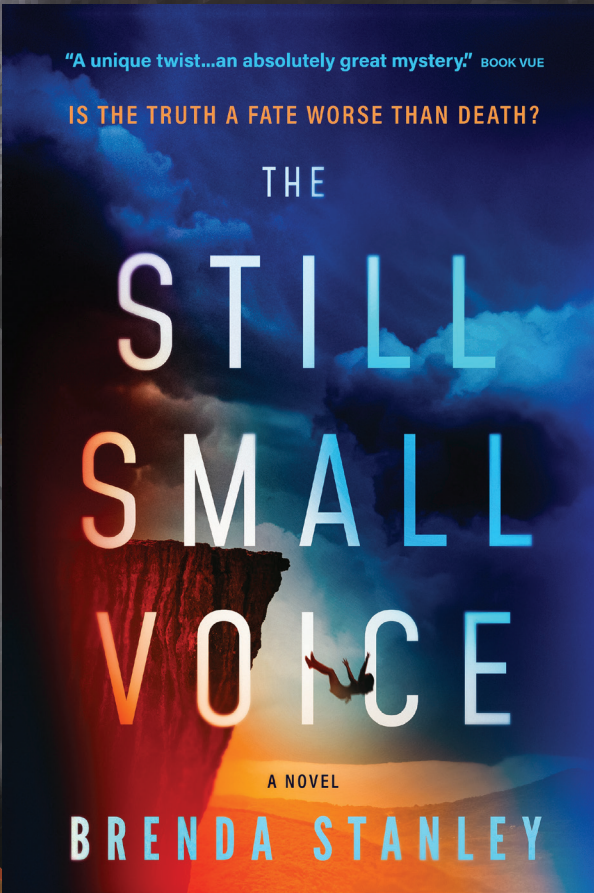
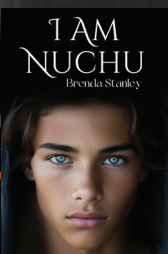
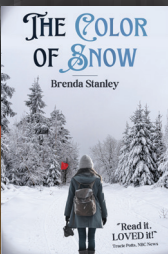
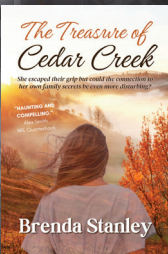
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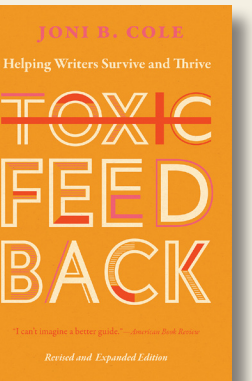
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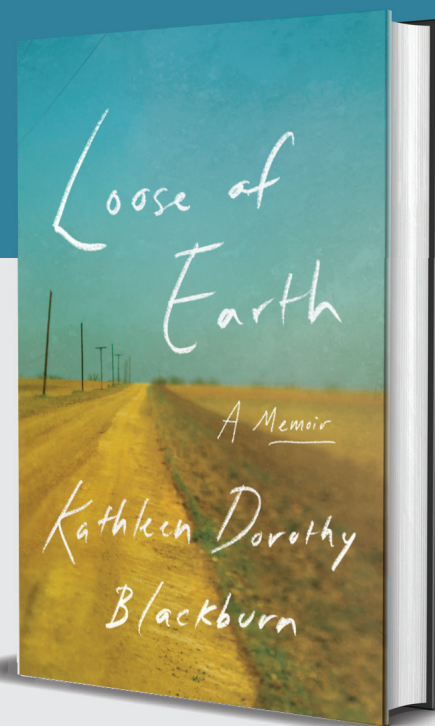
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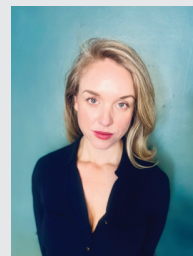


Kathleen was the oldest of five children, a twelve-year-old from Lubbock, Texas, whose evangelical family eschewed public education for homeschooling, and science for literal interpretations of the bible. Then her father, a former air force pilot, was diagnosed with cancer at the age of thirty-eight, and, “it was like throwing gasoline on the Holy Spirit.” Stirred by her mother, the family committed to an extreme diet and sought deliverance from equally extreme sources: a traveling tent preacher, a Malaysian holy man, a local faith-healer who led services called “Miracles on 34th Street.”

What they didn’t know at the time was that their lives were entangled with a larger, less visible environmental catastrophe. Fire-fighting foams containing carcinogenic compounds had contaminated the drinking water of every military site where her father worked. Commonly referred to as “forever chemicals,” the presence of PFAs in West Texas besieged a landscape already burdened with vanishing water, taking up residence in wells and in the bloodstreams of people who lived there. An arresting portrait of the pernicious creep of decline, and a powerful cry for environmental justice, *Loose of Earth* captures the desperate futility and unbending religious faith that devastated a family, leaving them waiting for a miracle that would never come.

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—LUIS ALBERTO URREA,  
AUTHOR OF *GOODNIGHT, IRENE*



**KATHLEEN DOROTHY BLACKBURN** is a lecturer at the University of Chicago Creative Writing program. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee whose work has appeared in *Bellingham Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Colorado Review*, *DIA-GRAM*, and *River Teeth*, and was listed as notable in *Best American Essays*.



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### Thursday, February 8

**9–10:15 a.m.** | Re-Membering Past and Present: The Practice of Documentary Poetry  
Tara Ballard, Niki Herd, Philip Metres, Joseph Harrington

### Friday, February 9

**10:35–11:50 a.m.** | “Yes, And”: A Bisexual Exploration of Genre  
Katie Schmid Henson, Zaina Arafat, SJ Sindu, Rachel Cochran, Katharine Coldiron

### Saturday, February 10

**9–10:15 a.m.** | Writing Poetry in English as a Second, Third, Etc Language  
Ae Hee Lee, Andrea Jurjević, Alonso Llerena, Siwar Masannat, Lena Zycinsky

**10:35–11:50 a.m.** | Dispatches from PhD Land: Perspectives from Inside the Creative Writing Degree  
Danielle Harms, Joy Castro, Jill Talbot, Pritha Bhattacharyya, Alyse Bense

### Saturday, February 10

**12:10–1:25 p.m.** | Ten Years of APBF: African Women Poets in the US and their Publication Journeys  
Rezina Habtemariam, Mary-Alice Daniel, Yalie Kamara, Hope Wabuke

**1:45–3 p.m.** | Poets Learn to Pitch (& other practical tips for writing and publishing prose)  
Nancy Reddy, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal, Tiana Clark, Hope Wabuke, Chen Chen

### Bookfair exhibits



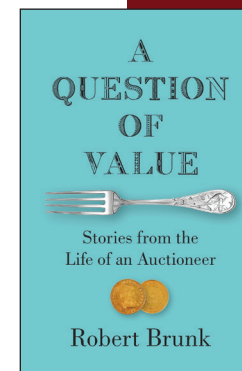
Find us tables 1231 & 1233

and table 1230

PRATIE **SCHOONER**

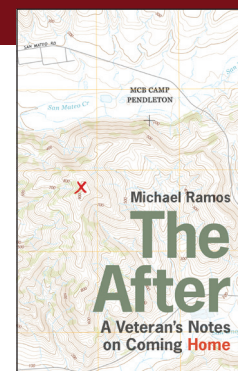
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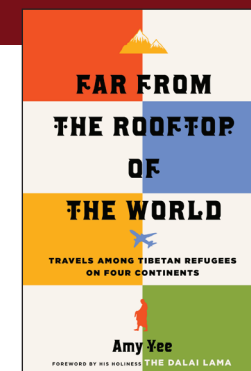
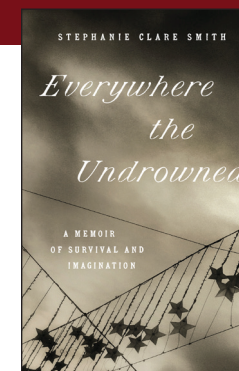
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## Notes

[illegible]

## Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





**#AWP25**

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IN LOS ANGELES,  
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