

2024 AWP Conference & Bookfair
February 7–10, 2024, **Kansas City, Missouri**
Kansas City Convention Center

#AWP24 Virtual Events

The events listed below will be available for all #AWP24 attendees to watch online on the #AWP24 virtual conference platform from February 7 to March 7, 2024. More information about how to access the #AWP24 virtual conference platform will be provided to all attendees closer to the start of the conference.

Only registered #AWP24 attendees will be able to access the virtual conference content. If you are not yet registered for #AWP24, please visit our [Registration Overview page](#). If you only plan to watch virtual conference content during #AWP24, please purchase one of the virtual-only registration options. If you also plan to attend #AWP24 in-person in Kansas City, Missouri, please purchase one of the full in-person registration options.

Prerecorded Virtual Events

The virtual events marked as “Prerecorded” below were recorded in Fall 2023 and will be available to watch on-demand on the #AWP24 virtual conference platform. These events will be posted on February 7, 2024, and will be available to watch at any time from February 7 to March 7, 2024.

All prerecorded events include closed captions.

Autistic Writers on the Inaccessibility of Professional Writing Spaces

Chris Martin, Zaji Cox, Julia Lee Barclay-Morton, Said Shaiye

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?

Climate Fiction: African-Diaspora Ecology

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

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.

Embracing the Body: A Journey of Illness and Celebration

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

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.

Excavating the Past: Writers and Characters Who Research

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

The perfect telling detail can bring heroes and locales to life. It's crucial for writers to not only know where and how to conduct research, but also, what constitutes a juicy factual find. Five novelists at varied stages of their careers—who have all penned historical fiction with a pop culture bent, often with protagonists who must themselves excavate the past—reveal their research secrets.

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

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

"No one wants to hear from the ghostwriter," says the ghostwriter of Prince Harry's Spare. Except those wanting to know the secrets behind this lucrative way to support a creative career. Discover how to break into ghostwriting. Learn the nuts and bolts needed for a wheelhouse of services. Find out what to consider in taking on clients and what worked and what didn't in seeing a project through. We'll reveal the form's challenges and joys and how it shaped (for good or bad) our writing journeys.

Haunting, Healing, and Female Voice: Women Who Write Horror

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

This multigenre panel explores ways in which women writers of horror, at various stages of their careers, uniquely interact with haunting, dread, healing, and conceptions of femininity in their work. Focuses include how "horror," "haunting," and "healing" intersect in each panelist's writing, and in what ways the ever-changing female experience plays a

role in her work. Panelists will also offer insight into how writers of any genre might approach haunting, horror, and dread in their writing.

How to Be Your Own Agent

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

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.

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

For years, "brutal honesty" was the standard for feedback in writing programs and critique groups. Today, we hear talk of "feedback sandwiches" and the power of positive feedback, but how do these approaches serve? Our panel of instructors and authors will offer insights on how to give feedback in a way that serves and supports students across genres and backgrounds. Attendees can also expect insights on how feedback recipients themselves can manage the process to make the most of this resource.

Legends in Modern Storytelling

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

Despite our temporal distance from the mythologies of the past, authors continually reconnect and weave our cultural legends together, contemporizing age-old tales and finding the roots where our shared human experience is most honest, urgent, magical, and intertwined. Our diverse panel of three fiction authors and a literary journal's editor-in-chief discuss how legendary tales influence their writing and publication. Together we explore how stories of old speak to the pressing issues of today.

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

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

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.

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

Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, Lyudmyla Khersonska, Anita Nahal

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.

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

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.

Queer & Trans Asians Writing as Rebellion by Asian American Writers' Workshop

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

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.

Shame, Fear, and Rage in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

Rhoni Blankenhorn, Emily Simon, Imogen Xtian Smith, Lynn Xu, Asa Drake

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?

The Anti-Ableist Writing Workshop

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

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.

Toward a Romani Women's Canon

Glenda Bailey-Mershon, Caren Gussof-Sumpton, Rachael Dosen, Lynn Hutchinson Lee

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.

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

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

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.

Weaving Comics Pedagogy Into a Multi-level Creative Writing Program

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

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.

What We Don't Talk About When We Talk About (or To) Agents

Lucy Carson, Sarah Bowlin, Annie Hwang, Mariah Stovall, Danya Kukafka

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.

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

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

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

Writing a Play or Musical on a Real Person

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

Forums of entertainment are often times wonderful ways to learn about the fascinating lives of real people all throughout history. In the event that you are creating a play or musical based on the life of a real person, have you ever wondered how to get permission before proceeding? Join the Dramatists Guild exploring business and craft, such as basic

concepts of Right to Publicity, Right to Privacy, and relationship between the subject and their public image in commercial use.

Writing Beyond Bone: Black and Brown Disabled Poetics

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

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.

Writing Queer Stories for the Stage

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

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

Writing the Resonant Recent Past

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

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?

Writing, Translating, and Publishing Queer Ukrainian Literature

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

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.

Livestreamed Featured Events

The featured events marked as “Livestreamed” below will take place in person in the Kansas City Convention Center from February 8-10, 2024 and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. Each event will be livestreamed at the date and time listed below the event title. After the event ends, the recording of the livestreamed event will be added to the virtual conference platform and will be available to watch on-demand until March 7, 2024. Please note that it may take a few hours after the livestream concludes for the recording of the event to be added to the virtual conference platform.

All livestreamed events include open captions and ASL interpretation.

[NBF Presents: Crafting Coming-of-Age](#)

Susan Choi, Sarah Thankam Mathews, Ruth Dickey (Moderator)

Thursday, February 8,
12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

[Another Last Call: A Reading and Conversation with Sarabande Anthology Poets on Writing & Addiction](#)

Kaveh Akbar, Sherwin Bitsui, Paige Lewis, Joy Priest

Thursday, February 8,
1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

Death to the old cliché of 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.

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

Malika Booker, Nikky Finney, Anastacia-Renée, Lauren K. Alleyne (Moderator)

Thursday, February 8,
3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

#AWP24 Keynote Address by Jericho Brown

Jericho Brown

Thursday, February 8
8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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. Brown's 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*.

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

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

Friday, February 9,
10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

PEN Presents: Free the Books

Ryan La Sala, Padma Venkatraman, Kasey Meehan (Moderator)

Friday, February 9,
10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Black Women As (Keepers of) the Archive: Photographs, Hybrid and Historical Text. Sponsored by Cave Canem

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

Friday, February 9,
12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

**Meredith Talusan & Kai Cheng Thom in Conversation with Maya Shanbhag Lang.
Sponsored by the Authors Guild**

Meredith Talusan, Kai Cheng Thom, Maya Shanbhag

Friday, February 9,
12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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 the 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*, the 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 a conversation with novelist, essayist, and memoirist Maya Shanbhag Lang.

Generations: A Reading & Conversation Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts & The Asian American Writers' Workshop

Tina Chang, Marilyn Chin, Kimiko Hahn, Chen Chen, Jafreen Uddin (Moderator)

Friday, February 9,
1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT,
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Lead with Love: Queer Voices in Literature with Red Hen Press

Elizabeth Bradfield, Jenny Factor, Andrew Lam, H Warren, Francisco Aragón (Moderator)

Friday, February 9,
1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Personal Best: A New Kind of Canon. Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press

Eduardo C. Corral, Jennifer Elise Foerster, Dana Levin, Adrian Matejka, Erin Belieu (Moderator)

Friday, February 9,
3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Where Is Literary Criticism Headed?, Sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle

Camille T. Dungy, Margo Jefferson, Walton Muyumba, J. Howard Rosier (Moderator), Jane Ciabattari (Introducer)

Friday, February 9,
3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. CT
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

In its fiftieth anniversary year, the National Book Critics Circle gathers literary critics who have been defining the future of contemporary cultural criticism. Three 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.

Acts of Love: Brian Turner, Katie Farris & Major Jackson Read & Converse. Sponsored by Alice James Books

Katie Farris, Brian Turner, Major Jackson

Saturday, February 10,
10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

A Reading by Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, & Nicole Sealey. Presented by the Academy of American Poets

Nicole Sealey, Suji Kwock Kim, Sara Daniele Rivera, Ricardo Alberto Maldonado (Introducer)

Saturday, February 10
12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Futures for SWANA Poetry: Mizna Hosts Iman Mersal & Noor Naga in Conversation

Iman Mersal, Noor Naga, George Abraham

Saturday, February 10,
12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. CT
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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?

Literary Citizenship: Rigoberto González & Carmen Giménez In Conversation.
Sponsored by Letras Latinas

Rigoberto González, Carmen Giménez, Laura Villareal (Moderator), Francisco Aragón (Introducer)

Saturday, February 10,
1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT
Ballroom A, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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.

Kundiman 20th Anniversary Reading and Conversation

Franny Choi, Megha Majumdar, Srikanth Reddy, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello (Moderator)

Saturday, February 10,
1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT
Ballroom B, Level 2, Kansas City Convention Center

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 Kundiman's 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 Kundiman's 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.