



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AWP Hosts Hybrid 2022 Conference & Bookfair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (March 23–26)

**USA, March 28, 2022** — The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) welcomed 6,000 attendees for the return of an in-person conference and bookfair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well as hosting an additional 1,000 attendees online.

Wednesday evening, AWP kicked off the start of the three-day conference and bookfair with the World of Wonders reception, which included an up-close and personal evening with Aimee Nezhukumatathil and special guest and AWP Vice Chair, January Gill O’Neil. Donations collected at the event will fund [AWP conference scholarships](#) in 2023. The scholarship program was created to increase access and representation in the writing community.



Celebrated poet [Toi Derricotte](#) provided the 2022 keynote address on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 8:30 p.m. ET, starting the evening with a dance party prior to the event. Derricotte’s speech, which was livestreamed for virtual attendees, brought an exciting and vibrant energy to the space with a much-celebrated moment: a standing ovation for the cofounder of Cave Canem in celebration of their twenty-fifth anniversary.

## Breakout Event Highlights

- [AWP Award Series Reading](#)
- [The Center for Fiction Presents Melissa Febos & Brandon Taylor on Narrative Craft](#)
- [PEN Presents Ayad Akhtar & Alexandra Schwartz](#)
- [Since My Body: Discovery & Embodiment of Disabled Voices, Sponsored by Zoeglossia](#)
- [Door in the Mountain: A Tribute to Jean Valentine, Sponsored by Alice James Books](#)
- [A Reading & Conversation with Elizabeth Acevedo, Dawn Lundy Martin, and Deesha Philyaw, Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts](#)
- [Honoring the Endeavor! Sponsored by Cave Canem](#)
- [Milkweed Presents: Landscape & Literary Culture](#)
- [A Reading by Arthur Sze, Meg Day, and Kemi Alabi, Sponsored by Academy of American Poets](#)
- [Beyond Genres: A Panel with Patrick Rosal, K-Ming Chang & T Kira Māhealani Madden, Moderated by J. Mae Barizo, Sponsored by Kundiman](#)
- [Celebrating National Book Critics Circle's First Book Award](#)
- [Chosen Families: A Reading & Conversation, Sponsored by Red Hen Press](#)
- [Love, Grief, Resistance: A Reading & Craft Conversation, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press](#)
- [A Reading & Conversation with Rivka Galchen & Ruth Ozeki, Sponsored by the Authors Guild](#)

## Here's what attendees had to say:

<https://twitter.com/JoyBaglio/status/1508180101099397122?s=20&t=h0AASV3NT4jfP9cnoVVVSww>

<https://twitter.com/JoseHernandezDz/status/1508242306532401160?s=20&t=h0AASV3NT4jfP9cnoVVVSww>

<https://twitter.com/davidlubar/status/1508442061468491787?s=20&t=h0AASV3NT4jfP9cnoVVVSww>

[https://twitter.com/chris\\_belcher/status/1508082261429735432?s=20&t=h0AASV3NT4jfP9cnoVVVSww](https://twitter.com/chris_belcher/status/1508082261429735432?s=20&t=h0AASV3NT4jfP9cnoVVVSww)

**For those who weren't able to attend the conference, over 120 events are available on demand through the virtual conference platform until May 1, 2022.** In addition, year-round free programming from Virtual AWP can be viewed on the AWP YouTube channel, including previous #AWP21 featured events, Writer to Writer discussions, pedagogical conversations, and the Conversations with Writers series.

## A statement from AWP's executive director about the 2022 AWP Conference & Bookfair:

"New vendors—such as CrowdPass, to verify vaccination cards and Covid-19 test results and SwapCard, for registration—made the registration experience smoother than in previous years. The sentiment received has been there is an overall overwhelming majority of attendees happy to be together, creating an overarching feeling of positivity at this conference. The easiest part was our shared vision of making this a positive and joyous conference with many reunions and serendipitous moments." —Cynthia Sherman, AWP Executive Director

Visit the AWP website to [register](#) for post-conference access to over 100 literary events until May 1, 2022.

For additional information, contact the conference department at [conference@awpwriter.org](mailto:conference@awpwriter.org).

For images and social media content, contact the communications department at [awpPR@awpwriter.org](mailto:awpPR@awpwriter.org).

For more information or to speak with someone about the 2022 AWP Conference, please contact Juanita Lester at [awpPR@awpwriter.org](mailto:awpPR@awpwriter.org).