

PRESS RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWP to Receive \$50,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Norfolk, VA—AWP (Association of Writers & Writing Programs) has been approved for a \$50,000 [Grants for Arts Projects](#) award to support the 2024 AWP Conference & Bookfair.

The AWP Conference & Bookfair is the largest annual gathering of creative writers and creative writing college and university programs in the country. The conference and bookfair plays a crucial role in providing a space for professional development, networking, and exchange of ideas among writers and literary arts organizations nationwide in the spirit of AWP's mission to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing. The AWP Conference & Bookfair is among the 1,130 projects nationwide, totaling more than \$31 million, selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2023 funding.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is pleased to support a wide range of projects, including the AWP Conference & Bookfair, demonstrating the many ways the arts enrich our lives and contribute to healthy and thriving communities,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “These organizations play an important role in advancing the creative vitality of our nation and helping to ensure that all people can benefit from arts, culture, and design.”

AWP Executive Director Cynthia Sherman said, “The annual conference and bookfair places writers at the heart of literary education, offering programs that sustain and enlarge the field and providing individual writers with the resources and information they need to build their artistic lives. Each year, the conference is held in a different region to serve and celebrate the literary community by providing writers, readers, and bookstores access to literary content typically unavailable in one location. We are grateful for the support provided by the NEA and the professional staff dedicated to nurturing and uplifting the arts.”

Since 1973, the AWP Conference & Bookfair has been a place of connection, reunion, and joy for the literary arts sector. The funds from Grants for Arts Projects will ensure that the 2024 conference in Kansas City, Missouri will perpetuate and build upon AWP's long legacy of supporting creative writers.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).