



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The AWP Conference & Bookfair is Landing in Kansas City!

NORFOLK, VA—[The Association of Writers & Writing Programs](#) (AWP) is coming to Kansas City, Missouri. The annual AWP Conference & Bookfair (#AWP24) will take place February 7–10, 2024 and will feature [375 events by and for creative writers](#), as well as over [500 publishers, universities, and other exhibitors](#). Pulitzer Prize–winning poet [Jericho Brown](#) will give the keynote address Thursday, February 8

AWP is a nonprofit organization with the mission to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing. Our annual conference is the nation’s largest literary event, bringing together a diverse community of 8,000–10,000 writers, teachers, publishers, editors, and students of creative writing.

We are thrilled to host writers from the Midwest and beyond in 2024. One goal of the upcoming conference is to foster connection and support writing communities who live and work in Missouri, where gender expression, identity, and gender-affirming-care are under attack, abortion access is banned, and attempts at defunding the public library system are a reality. AWP is working to support LGBTQIA+ and women’s communities in Kansas City and maintains a [#AWP24 Resources & Updates webpage](#).

These communities are showing up for #AWP24! A sampling of accepted events include: “Beyond Gay and Bi: Creating Diversity in Queer Characters”, “How to Be Your Own Agent, Ethics of Writing the Other: #ownvoices in Literary Writing,” “Be Gay, Do Crime: Teaching Queer and Trans Poetics in Dangerous Times,” and “Writing Miscarriage, Child Loss, and Complicated Childbirth in the Post-Roe Era.”

AWP is also honored to partner with Pride Haven, a Kansas City-based overnight shelter for transition-aged LGBTQIA+ youth for our #AWP24 #WritersServe project. Attendees can support Pride Haven's mission by donating items from their wish list, including [books](#) and [necessities \(purchased online or on-site at the conference\)](#). Pride Haven representatives will staff their table at the entrance to the bookfair, where attendees can stop by to learn more about how to support this important work.

Rion Amilcar Scott, creative advisor for the **AWP HBCU Fellowship Program** (in its second year), will give his lecture “Many Moseses, Many Promised Lands Unseen” on Friday, February 9. Other featured presenters include Susan Choi and Sarah Thankam Matthews for “NBF Presents: Crafting Coming-of-Age”; Esther Belin, Jake Skeets, and Luci Tapahonso for “Language Back: A Reading & Conversation with Indigenous Poets, Sponsored by Indigenous Nations Poets”; and the winners of the 2022 AWP Award Series, Sahar Muradi, Jessica Hendry Nelson, Parul Kapur, and E.P. Tuazon for “AWP Award Series Reading & Celebration.”

“We are delighted to be back in Kansas City,” says AWP Board Chair January Gill O’Neil. “It is our great honor to convene such a wide swath of students, instructors, writers, publishers, and literary partners—local, national, and international—all of whom are essential to the literary ecosystem. AWP’s annual gathering celebrates creativity and the broad range of cultural experiences that collectively promotes equity and creates empathy.”



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The AWP Conference & Bookfair has always been a place of connection, reunion, and joy, and we are excited to see the writing community come together again in Kansas City, Missouri in 2024. See you in February!

Interview requests for Cynthia Sherman, AWP's Executive Director, please email awpPR@awpwriter.org. For interview requests for #AWP24 Keynote Speaker Jericho Brown, please email Anya Backlund at anya@blueflowerarts.com with your deadline and preferred interview format (phone/email/Zoom).