

Event Outline of AWP 2022 Panel: American Regional Poets Laureate

1. Statement of Intent:

In this panel on American Regional Poets Laureate, the participants are among the 23 regional laureates who have been selected by the Academy of American Poets as this year's recipients of the Academy's Poets Laureate Fellowships. Each panelist has received a generous award for their work in poetry, a portion of which they are invited to use to develop poetry projects in their communities. They will each be speaking about what it means to encourage the reading and writing of poetry in their communities and their plans for using the seed money they've been awarded. They will also each read one of their poems.

2. Introduction of the participants:

Georgina Marie Guardado is the Poet Laureate of Lake County, California, her county's youngest and first Mexican-American poet laureate. She is the author to two poetry chapbooks published by the Broken Nose Poetry Collective.

Bobby Lefebre is the Poet Laureate of Colorado, the state's youngest poet laureate and its first poet laureate of color. An Emmy-nominated performer and a social worker, he fuses in his work what he calls his non-traditional multi-hyphenated professional identities.

Leslie Contreras Schwartz is the poet laureate of Houston, Texas, and the author of four poetry collections. She teaches at Alma College's MFA low-residency program in creative writing and is a member of the Macondo Writers' Collective, working in communities. She'll be joining virtually.

Brian Sonia-Wallace is the Poet Laureate of the City of West Hollywood. He's the author of a memoir and a book of poetry and has been poet-in-residence for Amtrak, the Mall of America, and Google. He curates LGBTQ+ poetry group Pride Poets and teaches creative writing through the UCLA Writers' Extension.

Lloyd Schwartz (Moderator) is the Poet Laureate of Somerville, MA. He's the Frederick S. Troy Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the author of five poetry collections, and has edited three volumes by our about poet Elizabeth Bishop. He's also a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic and the classical music critic for NPR's (and WHYY Philadelphia's) *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*.

3. Presentations: The panelists will each speak for between 8 and 10 minutes about their work and their award, and will each read one of their poems.
4. Conclusion: The panel will end with a Q&A session with audience.