

1) **Event Title: Editing Behind Bars: Mainstream Books Built by Incarcerated Artists**

2) Event Description

The literary world has grown more conscientious about including incarcerated writers in occasional projects, but their work is still siloed at best. What perspectives can literature gain when mainstream books are built by incarcerated writers? What can we learn when disappeared citizens take control of the narrative? Learn about the book, *American Precariat* (Coffee House Press), & the team behind the first-ever anthology compiled & edited by incarcerated writers, for readers in the free world.

3) Event Category: Publishing, editing

4) Event Organizer: Jennifer Bowen

5) Event Moderator: Jennifer Bowen

6) Event participants and short bios

7) Participant opening remarks:

- a. Good afternoon! Thanks for joining us.
- b. Description of Panel.
- c. MPWW and SWC, a unique community
- d. Description of *American Precariat*
- e. Panelist introductions: (self-introductions, bios are provided)

8) Moderator questions:

- a. Why was it important to have incarcerated writers edit a mainstream anthology?
- b. Acknowledgement of other editors who can't be here.
- c. What did the perspective of incarcerated editors bring to the literary world that has been lacking?
- d. Can you explain the logistics, how making the book worked?
- e. Could contributors (Alice and Torres) explain the process from their end? How it differed or didn't from other literary projects?
- f. What can we learn about liberation and constrain from the unique tension inherent in this project?
- g. Ruth Wilson Gilmore says abolition is about "presence, not absence." Can you talk about this book as an act of abolition?
- h. What larger role do you think the literary community can have toward abolition?

9) Audience Q&A: 10-15 minutes

Jennifer Bowen is a writer, mother, and instructor whose essays and stories in *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, *Orion*, *The Sun*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Rumpus*, *The Normal School*, *Tin House* and elsewhere. She's a contributor to *The Sentences That Create Us*, *Crafting a Writer's Life in Prison* (Haymarket). She has received tuition scholarships from Rona Jaffe for the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, a Jerome Foundation Travel Award, and more. Her work has been

honored with a Pushcart Prize, Arts & Letters Prize, Tim McGinnis Award among others. She's the founder and Artistic Director of the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop and she teaches creative writing in prisons throughout Minnesota.

C. Fausto Cabrera is a multi-genre artist and writer incarcerated since 2003. He is co-author, with photographer Alec Soth, of *The Parameters of Our Cage*. His work has been anthologized in Modern Language Association's anthology, *Teaching in Prison*. His poetry, prose, and visual art appears in *The Washington Post Magazine*, *The Missouri Review*, *The California Quarterly*, *descant*, *The Woodward Review* (Pushcart nomination), *The Colorado Review*, *The Antioch Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, among others. When frightened as a child, he'd sneak into his mother's room and sleep on the floor next to the bed. In the morning, she always stepped on him.

Zeke Caligiuri is a writer from South Minneapolis and author of "This is Where I Am," published by University of Minnesota Press. He is co-founder of the Stillwater Writer's Collective, the first of its kind in the country. Zeke's work has been featured in LitHub, PEN America, and is anthologized in *Prison Noir* edited by Joyce Carol Oates and "The Sentences That Create Us: Crafting a Writer's Life in Prison." He is directly impacted by over two decades of incarceration and is currently helping to build the Re-Enfranchised Coalition, empowering system-impacted people and reinvesting in the humanization of those still stuck within the captivity business. He misses the days riding around Minneapolis looking for pick up baseball games.

Alice Paige (she/her) is an author, performing artist, and creative writing teacher from Chicago, Illinois. She has her MFA in creative writing from Hamline University, her B.Sc. in Biology from Iowa State University, is a LOFT Mentor Series fellow, a Digital Pedagogical Lab fellow, and a McNair Scholar. Her work can be found in *Coffin Bell*, *Take a Stand: Art Against Hate*, *A Raven Chronicles Anthology*, *Luna Station Quarterly*, and plenty of other strange journals.

Michael Torres was born and brought up in Pomona, California, where he spent his adolescence as a graffiti artist. His debut collection of poems, *An Incomplete List of Names* (Beacon Press, 2020) was selected by Raquel Salas Rivera for the National Poetry Series and named one of NPR's Books We Love. His honors include awards and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the McKnight Foundation, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, CantoMundo, VONA Voices, the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, the Camargo Foundation, and the Loft Literary Center. Currently he's an assistant professor in the mfa program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a teaching artist with the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop. Visit him at: michaeltorreswriter.com.