

# **AWP 2025 Conference & Bookfair Schedule of Events.**

This document with general conference information and the full schedule is displayed in high contrast twenty-four-point font.

## **General Conference Information.**

### **A Welcome to All.**

AWP welcomes diversity and the participation of individuals in its activities regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, socioeconomic status, age, disability, or religious or political belief. AWP encourages the contributions of all of its members and attendees at the conference, and we are proud to create an event that supports such inclusive participation.

### **About AWP.**

Founded in nineteen sixty-seven, AWP provides support, advocacy, resources, and community to writers, college and university creative writing programs, and writers' conferences and centers. Our mission is to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them while championing diversity and excellence in creative writing.

### **About the Conference.**

AWP held its first conference in nineteen seventy-three at the Library of Congress. It featured six events and sixteen presenters. George Garrett, one of AWP's founders, planned the first gathering with help from the National Endowment for the Arts. Presenters included Elliott Coleman, founder of the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University; Paul Engle, former director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and cofounder of the International

Writing Program; poets Josephine Jacobsen and Miller Williams; and novelists Ralph Ellison and Wallace Stegner, among others. The conference grew steadily, and with the addition of the bookfair in the mid-eighties it became the foundation for what has become the largest literary conference in North America. This year's conference is host to five hundred fifty events, two thousand presenters, and more than eight hundred presses, journals, and literary organizations from around the world. Most conference events are organized by their participants and selected through an open, competitive submission process by AWP's conference subcommittee. Most featured events are organized and sponsored by member institutions and affiliated literary organizations.

## **Proposals for Our Twenty-Twenty six Conference.**

AWP welcomes proposals for future conference events. Please visit the [Event Proposal Guidelines](#) page for information about proposing an event, literary partnership, or sponsorship for next year's conference.

### **Conference Registration & Check-in.**

Attendees who have registered in advance, and attendees who have not yet registered, may pick up their registration materials in the registration area, located West Hall Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, Level One. Please consult the maps in the mobile app for location details. Students must present a valid student ID to check in or register at our student rate. Seniors must present a valid ID to check in or register at our senior rate. If an Attendee loses, misplaces, or forgets his or her registration, they are required to replace their badge at their current eligible rate.

## **Registration & Check-in Hours.**

Wednesday, March twenty-six: twelve o'clock noon to seven o'clock p.m.

Thursday, March twenty-seven: eight o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.

Friday, March twenty-eight: eight o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m.

Saturday, March twenty-nine: eight o'clock a.m. to four o'clock p.m.

## **Need Help?**

If you have problems registering or require assistance, please visit AWP's Help Desk, located in the registration area in West Hall Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, Level One. If you have a question about accessibility services, please visit the Accessibility Desk in the registration area, email [ADA@awpwriter.org](mailto:ADA@awpwriter.org) with "On-Site Accessibility" in the subject line, or call or text

the on-site accessibility hotline at 240-269-6635.

### **Get Connected.**

Stay on top of everything happening at the conference by following AWP on X (formerly Twitter) at @awpwriter and #AWP25 on all social media.

### **Virtual Access.**

All in-person registrations include full virtual access and provide over fifty hours of virtual content for one month after conference. Starting the week of #AWP25, visit the Conference Overview page of the AWP website to access virtual conference content.

### **AWP's Bookfair.**

AWP's bookfair is located in West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center. This

year's bookfair showcases more than six hundred presses, journals, and literary organizations from around the world. Please consult the maps in the mobile app for location details.

### **Lost & Found.**

All found items will be turned over to Los Angeles Convention Center Security at the close of registration each day. If you have questions, please visit AWP's Help Desk, located in the registration area of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

### **Bookfair Concessions.**

Breakfast and lunch concessions are available inside West Hall Lobby and in the AWP Bookfair of the Los Angeles Convention Center. Debit, credit cards, and tap to pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please

consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

### **First Aid.**

First Aid is located outside of West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center. Please consult the maps in the mobile app for location details.

### **Lactation Lounge**

The lactation lounge is located in Room 517 of the Los Angeles Convention Center and is available for any nursing parent to use.

### **Childcare Services.**

Your hotel concierge likely maintains a list of recommended local providers.

### **Smoking.**

Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.



## **Schedule**

Below is a list of events for the #AWP25  
Conference & Bookfair in Los Angeles,  
California.

# **On-Demand Events**

## **V100. Adaptation: The Art, Craft & Business of Literary Rebirth - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Brighde Mullins, Mark Richard, Julie Hebert, Dawn Prestwich)

Artistic & Professional Development. Virtual. Adaptation is big business in Hollywood. There is a professional, technical aspect to adaptation. Nevertheless, an adapter's relationship to their material also contains the adapter's own style. This panel will bring together successful screenwriters who are also playwrights and novelists. How do they express their originality through what they choose to adapt and how they approach the adaptation? We will look at issues of fidelity in translation along with strategies of adaptation.

## **V101. Art Belongs to Everyone: Giving Literature & Art a New Voice - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Morgan Christie, Dorian Nash, Mel Sherrer, NaBeela Washington)

Writers' Conferences & Centers. Virtual.

The arts should belong to everyone. Lucky Jefferson is excited to present research from ongoing focus groups and the surveying of Black-identifying writers and artists in Chicago and the US. With support from Illinois Humanities, this research is a step toward advancing creative communities of color by raising awareness about the harms that continue to exist in publishing. Participants will be able to learn new insights and copartner with us offline to develop new communities of practice.

**V102. Between the Night & Its Music: The Poetry of A. B. Spellman - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Lauri Scheyer, Tracie Morris, Fred Moten, Evie Shockley, A. B. Spellman)

Tributes. Virtual.

A lively discussion among poet-scholars situates A. B. Spellman's poetry in the context of his

roles as a leading figure in the Black Arts Movement, a jazz critic, and a senior arts administrator at the NEA, where he had a lasting impact on funding for inner-city, rural, and tribal communities. Spellman (a recent Grammy winner) will also read a selection of his poetry, which is infused with an awareness of community and other artistic practices, including sculpture, painting, dance, and music.

### **V103. BIPOC Disabled Narratives & Disability Representation - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Jen Soriano, Mimi Khúc, Walela Nehanda, Akemi Nishida, Alice Wong)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. Virtual.

How many BIPOC disabled authors have published books in the past five years? We don't know, because no one tracks it (yet). As Alice Wong writes, there is a wonderful set of new books by disabled authors, yet "the percentage of books published by disabled authors is still disproportionate and paltry." What can disabled

authors do to support one another's paths to publication? What can the industry do to bring greater disability representation? Join these disabled authors to discuss and conspire!

**V104. Crippling Neverland: A Neurodiverse Reimagining of Cognition & Poetics - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(J- Michael Martinez, Courtney Caldwell, Bekah Lazar, Heidi Rhodes)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. Virtual.

Exploring the unexpected coalitions and mixed methods occurring in their creative writing, our panelists critically reflect on how their neurodiversity and/or disabilities influence their creative expression. This panel brings together a dynamic group of poets and scholars whose work challenges conventional narratives and celebrates the rich tapestry of neurodiverse and crip thought.

**V105. Fat, Flawed & Fabulous: Writing Fat & Queer Narratives in Fiction & Nonfiction - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(August Grimm, Miguel M. Morales, C. Adán Cabrera, Tiff Joshua TJ Ferentini, Samantha Puc)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism.  
Virtual.

Trans and queer fats are waiting for their “moment,” as it’s still radical to include characters that positively represent us in fiction and nonfiction. This panel explores the challenges and rewards of writing while fat, creating fat characters, how to create positive narratives for fat readers living at the intersection of their queer identities and fatness, and other craft issues. Panelists will offer ways to transform negative narratives around fatness and queerness into positive ones.

**V106. Finding Your Own Rhythm: Writing Practices for Neurodivergent/Disabled Writers - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Christopher Norton, Asha Dore, Leticia Escalera, Gregory Luce, Paul Pedroza)  
Artistic & Professional Development. Virtual.  
It's not always possible for neurodivergent writers or those with physical or mental disabilities to follow popular writing advice. These authors share strategies and work-arounds that help them research, complete, revise, and submit writing projects. They also address ways to maintain professional relationships when attending events or communicating with others—and urge the publishing and literary worlds to embrace and celebrate the distinctive contributions of the disabled and neurodivergent!

**V107. Israeli Writers on Identity & Home,  
Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council -  
VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Ayelet Tsabari, Maya Arad, Iddo Gefen)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism.  
Virtual.

Luminaries of the Hebrew and Israeli literary scene discuss their latest work, home and homeland, Jewish and Israeli identity, living in Israel and the diaspora, and the role of the writer and literary world in such a time as this.

**V108. Leveraging Humanities Skills for Entrepreneurial Success in Publishing - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Jennie Nash, Dan Blank, Nick Courtright, Cathy Mazak, Kathleen Schmidt)

Artistic & Professional Development. Virtual.

In this challenging job market, starting your own business can be a viable alternative to waiting for opportunities from institutions.

Individuals with a background in the humanities possess unique skills and talents that are invaluable for running a business in the publishing space. These include telling compelling stories, communicating authentically, and understanding what drives people. In this event, entrepreneurs share how



they use their humanities training to help them succeed in business.

**V109. Making the Literary Ecosystem More Equitable for the Global South's Writers - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Mugabi Byenkya, Deusa De Africa, Anwuli Ojogwu, Tazrian Rahman, Sandra Tamele)  
Artistic & Professional Development. Virtual. Writers in the Global South face institutional barriers to accessing resources that help many writers further their careers. This panel of writers, publishers, editors, and a translator, from different countries and different genres, will outline and explore ways the literary worlds of both the Global North and the Global South can make publishing opportunities, as well as fellowships, residencies, grants, and postgraduate programs, more equitable for writers, regardless of national origin.

**V110. Multiple Registers: Matwaala Poets Assert Democracy in Difference - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Pramila Venkateswaran, Usha Akella, Indran Amirthanayagam, Zilka Joseph, Kashiana Singh)

Poetry Readings. Virtual.

Currently in the United States, authors are being banned and educational institutions are facing a backlash against diversity and inclusion. But we have a plurality of literary voices, as seen in Matwaala South Asian Diaspora Poets, which thrives in its diversity. This panel will present poems representing religious, linguistic, regional, and cultural diversity in South Asian American poetry. These multiple voices signify our democracy, thus standing against censorship and suppression of DEI.

**V111. OMG It's Out! Love & Craft in Queer Horror - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Lauren Brazeal Garza, Paula D. Ashe, Luna Rey Hall, Hailey Piper, Rae Wilde)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism.  
Virtual.

This multigenre panel explores ways in which queer writers of horror, at various stages of their careers, uniquely interact with haunting, dread, and conceptions of queerness in their work.

Focuses include queering the horror genre, how “dread” and “terror” manifest in each panelist’s writing, and in what ways the ever-changing queer experience plays a role in our work.

Panelists will also offer insight into how writers of any genre might approach terror and dread in their writing.

## **V112. Reshaping the Motherhood Plot - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Diana Xin, Jazmina Barrera, Angela Garbes,  
Amanda Montei, Julie Phillips)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. Virtual.

Art monster or administering angel. Madwoman or supermom. Motherhood is a confining narrative, yet within its tedium is a struggle to define our social relationships and community

structures. The writers in this panel reach for past examples to explore ways to better care for our children, our art, and our communities. Through memoir, biography, and cultural criticism, they excavate history, science, and family legacy to trouble the stories we are told and to revise for future possibility.

**V113. Rewriting Motherhood: Fresh Takes on Parenting in Literature - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Leena Prasad, Noelia Cerna, Aqueila Lewis-Ross, Jing Li)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism.  
Virtual.

These poetry and prose writers' work grapples with how to mother in new situations for which there is no road map. They're breaking generational legacies of trauma, reconnecting after estrangement, parenting a small child after age fifty, or adapting wisdom from different times and cultures for today. Their work repurposes or reinvents traditional literary forms

to present complex and nuanced takes on what it means to raise another human being.

**V114. Tribute to Poet & Disability Rights Activist Kathi Wolfe - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Sarah Browning, Cornelius Eady, Moira Egan, Jim Ferris, Natalie Illum)

Tributes. Virtual.

Kathi Wolfe wrote brilliant, funny poems that upended society's expectations of queer blind and disabled people. She has also been a powerful advocate for accessibility within literary and queer communities. Her activism, humor, challenge, and big heart have had a profound influence on writers and advocates in the DC area, where she made her home for decades, and nationwide. Poets who knew her well will read Kathi's poems and pay tribute to her poetry, activism, and many charms.

**V114A. Wishes, Lies & Dreams: The Impact of Writers in the Schools, Sponsored by WITS Alliance - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Nancy Weber, Kate Farrell, Shawntai Brown,  
Javan Howard)

Pedagogy. Virtual.

In 1969, when Kenneth Koch wrote *Wishes, Lies, and Dreams* based on his experience teaching poetry in New York City schools, he introduced a radical idea: to see students as artists. Today, professional writers are inspiring students with a joy of writing in writer-in-the-school programs across the country. In this panel, you'll hear from teaching artists and program directors about the many ways writers/teaching artists affect students, teachers, and schools.

**V115. Words That Build Bridges: Writing  
Across Political Divides - VIRTUAL EVENT.**

(Anisa Rahim, Ava Homa, Mary Mackey,  
Phyllis Skoy)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism.  
Virtual.

A critic once said that Isabel Allende's work  
"embraced the cause of humanity," as her

perspective was broad enough to touch the hearts of many without watering down her clearly stated values and beliefs. This panel explores how several novelists and poets have advocated for human rights, gender equality, democracy and anti-fascism, and ecological sustainability in ways that help readers feel respected and included, starting from common ground to build bridges toward expanded empathy for others.

## **Virtual Meetings**

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. PT

**V116. Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus -  
VIRTUAL MEETING.**

(Cade Leebron, Jess Silfa)

Caucus. Virtual.

The Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus allows for those who are disabled or living with chronic illness, and their allies, to network and discuss common challenges related to identity, writing, and teaching while professionally leading a literary life. By meeting annually at the AWP Conference & Bookfair, we aim to archive our interests, challenges, and concerns in order to increase our visibility and emphasize our importance both to this organization and to the communities where we live, teach, and work.

This meeting will be held virtually. Please check the schedule on the conference website for more information.

**Saturday, March 29, 2025**

3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. PT

**V117. LGBTQ+ Writers Caucus – VIRTUAL MEETING**

(Belinda Kremer, Erin Sharkey)



## Caucus. Virtual.

The LGBTQ+ Writers Caucus provides a space for writers who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer to network and discuss common issues and challenges, such as representation and visibility on and off the literary page, and how to incorporate one's personal identity into professional and academic lives. The caucus also strives to discuss, develop, and increase queer representation for future AWP conferences, and to serve as a supportive community and resource for its members.

This caucus meeting will now take place virtually. Interested attendees can email [lgbtq.writers.caucus@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtq.writers.caucus@gmail.com) for access information.

# **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

**12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. PT**

## **W100. Conference Registration.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP's registration area located to the right of the escalators in the West Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, level 1. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

## **W101. AWP Bookfair Setup.**

In-Person.

West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The exhibit hall at the Los Angeles Convention Center will be open for bookfair setup. For safety and security reasons, only those holding a bookfair setup access (BSA) registration, or those accompanied by an individual wearing a BSA registration, will be permitted inside the bookfair during setup hours. Bookfair exhibitors are welcome to pick up their registration materials in AWP's registration area to the right of the escalators in the West Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, level 1.

**2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. PT**

**W102. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**

In-Person.

Room 505, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a sixth year at AWP,

author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: In Adrienne's Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$950.) Additional images: \$75 each. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/am-photography/awp25>

**3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. PT**

**W103. Accessibility Tour.**  
In-Person.

Accessibility Services Desk, West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join AWP conference staff for a tour of the Los Angeles Convention Center. This tour will cover main event areas of the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be an opportunity to ask questions about conference accessibility. This tour is great for someone who would like to get a sense of the distances between meeting rooms and to plan easiest routes. If you are unable to make it to this 3:00 p.m. tour, please email [ADA@awpwriter.org](mailto:ADA@awpwriter.org) to arrange for a different time.

**5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. PT**

**W104. CLMP Membership Meeting.**

In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This event is for all independent literary magazine and small press publishers: seasoned professionals, those just starting out, and all in

between. Learn what we're planning for the year and share your thoughts on how we can best ensure that our community thrives. Even if you're not yet a member of CLMP but would like to find out more, please feel welcome to join us.

**6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PT**

**W105. AWP Awards Reception & Benefit for LA Fire Recovery, Hosted by Amber Tamblyn & Sponsored by Live Talks Los Angeles.**

In-Person.

Plaza Room I-III, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Kick off #AWP25 with an evening of recognition, solidarity, and support. Join us as we support the nonprofit advocacy organization Arts for LA, which provides crucial support for communities, artists, and organizations to advocate for an equitable, healthy, and vibrant Los Angeles region through the arts. Visit their

website for wildfire relief and resources for artists and creative workers.

Our host Amber Tamblyn, a third-generation Angeleno, is deeply connected to the city and passionate about supporting its creative community. She is the author of six books across genres, including the critically acclaimed bestselling novel *Any Man*, and the creator of the popular Substack newsletter *Listening in the Dark*. In addition to her work as a writer, she is an Emmy- and Golden Globe–nominated actress, an award-winning director, and an advocate for artists and writers. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *The Iowa Review*, and the Poetry Foundation, among others.

We are proud to honor and celebrate the winners of AWP's awards: the AWP George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature; AWP Small Press Publisher Award; AWP Writing Organization Award; AWP

Intro Journals Project; and AWP Prize for Undergrad Lit Mags, in addition to the AWP Award Series prizes.

You will have the opportunity to make a direct donation to Arts for LA throughout the evening. We hope you'll join us to uplift our literary community and make a meaningful impact.

Complimentary admission with suggested \$15 minimum donation to Arts for LA. One free drink ticket per guest and appetizers will be available.

AWP is grateful for the support of Live Talks Los Angeles, celebrating 15 years of stories, ideas and conversation.



# **Thursday, March 27, 2025**

**7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. PT**

## **T100. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

## **T101. Conference Registration.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP's registration area located to the right of the escalators in the West Lobby, Los Angeles

Convention Center, level 1. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

### **T102. Dickinson Quiet Space 1.**

In-Person.

Room 506, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily Dickinson

### **T103. Dickinson Quiet Space 2.**

In-Person.

Room 507, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily Dickinson

#### **T104. Low-Light Space.**

In-Person.

Room 511C, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the Convention Center.

#### **T105. Lactation Lounge.**

In-Person.

Room 517, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The lactation lounge is located in Room 517 of the Los Angeles Convention Center and is available for any nursing parent to use.

**8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. PT**

**T106. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**

In-Person.

Room 505, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a sixth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: In Adrienne's Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at

\$950.) Additional images: \$75 each. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/am-photography/awp25>

**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

### **T107. AWP Bookfair.**

In-Person.

West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With more than seven hundred literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations.

Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

### **T108. Bookfair Concessions.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Concessions are available in the West Lobby and inside West Hall A in the Los Angeles Convention Center. Debit, credit cards, and tap to pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. PT**

### **T109. Yoga for Writers.**

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners

of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PT**

**T110. Everybody Gets a Stage: Starting a Reading Series That Builds Community.**

(Katie Lee Ellison, Jessica Johnson, Jason Koo, Wil Turner, Jen Winston)

Program Development. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As so many essential and communal literary pillars fall, writers and readers seek ways to find each other, learn from each other, and hear new work. The emergence of national reading series in the last few years reveals a desire for art and connection that won't be left unsatiated. Join us to learn how to start your own reading series or grow one you've already started, and hear from

new and established series founders about how to build a community from scratch and keep it thriving.

## **T111. New Literary Forms for a New Literary Los Angeles.**

(Claire Phillips, Sesshu Foster, Audrey Shipp, Steph Cha, Gina Frangello)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five writers of genre-defying poetry, creative nonfiction, cultural criticism, and fiction consider what it means to effect social change. Paying homage to canonical twentieth-century literature, writers consider formal techniques specific to a new emerging Los Angeles cultural identity. How do invented archives, manifesto, “postcard” texts, speculative futures, neo-noir, documentation, community-based festivals, and cultural criticism serve as an antidote to



historical erasure? What informs twenty-first-century Los Angeles writing?

**T112. Hell-Bent Hope: Poets Holding Fast During This Time of Ecological Crisis.**

(Nickole Brown, David Baker, CMarie Fuhrman, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Matthew Olzmann)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Now is a time of ecological crisis and mass extinction, so even if you don't consider yourself a "nature" poet, all of us need to ask ourselves what the writer's task is in this climate-changed world. Equally important is how to cope with despair, which can be incapacitating, threatening to silence us under its weight. Together, we'll discuss how to bear witness to these coming storms and how to define hope in a way that might allow one to move forward with courage, awareness, and yes, even joy.

**T113. Literary Archives: Practices for Institutions, Communities & Individuals.**

(Johanna Drucker, Jennifer Johnson, Quentin Ring, Greg Williams, Romeo Guzman)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Beyond Baroque, LA's oldest literary institution, placed its literary archive at Cal State Dominguez Hills this year. This panel uses that acquisition as a case study for a broad discussion on preserving cultural production of literary movements. It brings together archivists, historians, institutional leaders, and bookdealers to discuss the intellectual, physical, legal, cultural, and aesthetic considerations faced by communities and individual writers in preserving archival legacies.

**T114. Strange Pilgrims: Asian Americans on Writing About Asia.**

(Kevin Chong, Karen Tei Yamashita, Emmeline Chang, Christine Ma-Kellams, David Mura)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

We're all fascinated by our cultural heritage and ancestry, but what happens when we pursue that curiosity on the page? In this panel, we will talk to established and emerging Asian American writers of fiction, YA, and nonfiction to talk about the rewards and challenges of writing about, or set in, Asia. Language and cultural barriers, taciturn parents, privilege, imposter syndrome, the commercial viability of Asian American stories versus Asian ones, and other topics will be explored.

**T115. They Only Call It Class War When We Fight Back.**

(Christina Ward, Steve Bellin-Oka, Billy J. Stratton, Theodore Van Alst, Jr., Martin Billheimer)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The moderator will lead panelists in a discussion, based on their lived experiences coming from working-class origins, on their pathway to building a literary and/or academic career. Panelists will share their respective methods for navigating intellectual spaces designed and built by those who rarely see or interact with the working classes while maintaining their respective identities. Participants include people in and outside of academia and in the publishing industry.

**T116. Creativity as Armor: Crafting  
Narratives of Power & Resilience.**

(Julissa Arce, Reyna Grande, Yaccaira Salvatierra, Christopher Rivas)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

This panel brings together a diverse panel of Latino screenwriters, cultural critics, and memoirists to explore how writing can serve as a powerful tool to challenge dominant narratives, amplify overlooked stories, and inspire collective action in troubling times. Panelists will share insights into their creative process, the joys and challenges of crafting their personal stories, and their approach to finding strength through their art.

**T117. Divergent Writers: A New Bloomsbury Anthology on Neurodivergence & Ableism.**

(Christie Collins, Leigh Camacho Rourks, K. Iver, Saul Lemerond, Said Shaiye)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Creative writing spaces are largely engineered for abled bodies. Attitudes surrounding disability, illness, and neurodivergence range from reluctance to complete disregard. These writers are often romanticized, erased, or both,

as the writing world has little interest in accommodating those who do not fit neatly into ableist paradigms. Our panel of exceptional authors will discuss our forthcoming anthology. In doing so, we will share our relevant experiences and suggest interventions.

**T118. Crafting Powerful Stories (with Difficult Topics) for Young Readers.**

(Rex Ogle, Aaron Aceves, Hannah Sawyerr, Federico Erebia, Paula Yoo)

Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person. Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Modern readers are living in difficult times—luckily, stories offer an escape. But books also act as mirrors and windows for young readers to see themselves and come to better understand others. Creating strong narratives with universal emotional arcs is no easy feat, especially in a time when we need more diversity in our media as book bans flourish. Join authors Paula Yoo, Abdi Nazemian, Elise Bryant, Aaron Aceves,

and Rex Ogle as they discuss culture, identity, and a love of story.

**T119. Write Indigenously: Poets on Language Revitalization & Sovereignty.**

(Mary Leana Christensen, Annie Wenstrup, Kalilinoe Detwiler, Casandra Lopez, Arielle Taitano Lowe)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five Indigenous poets will share their creative work, while discussing how reclaiming their ancestral language has affected their personal poetics and healing process. Fluidity within the genre of poetry allows room for the inclusion of Indigenous languages and the decentering of English, rendering the poem a space of active decolonization. Here, the contemporary Indigenous poet writes themselves within the contexts of their own mother tongue and by Indigenizing the colonizer's language.

**T120. Censorship in America: Mizrahi Jewish Perspectives in a Divided World, Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council.**

(Gina Nahai, Saba Soomekh, Houman Sarshar, Daniel Bouskila)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Mizrahi (Eastern) Jews have had a consistent presence in the Middle East since antiquity. Their cultural and historical memory predates the advent of both Christianity and Islam. Their cumulative experience fosters a unique understanding of the forces at play in the region. Today, the United States is home to the second-largest Mizrahi Jewish community in the world. How can writers with firsthand experience of the region contribute freely their understanding of the post–October 7, 2023 events?

**T121. Predictable Unpredictability: Celebrating the Poetry of Reginald Shepherd.**



(Jericho Brown, Timothy Liu, Kevin Prufer,  
Charles Stephens, Camille Rankine)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The Pitt Poetry Series is honored to celebrate  
the poetry of Reginald Shepherd with the recent  
publication of *The Selected Shepherd*, selected  
and with an introduction by Jericho Brown.

Drawing from all six of his collections, *The  
Selected Shepherd* offers a new retrospective on  
the work of an important and sometimes  
controversial Black, gay poet. Five poets will  
read poems from the collection and share the  
impact Shepherd had on the poetry community.

**T122. Disrupting the Composition  
Classroom: Strategies from BIPOC  
Creatives.**

(Cynthia Guardado, bridgette bianca, Arielle  
Jones, Michelle Brittan Rosado, Simona  
Supekar)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

How can creative writers bring their expertise to the composition classroom? This panel will discuss how women of color/genderqueer creative writers challenge “traditional” white supremacist frameworks in college-level composition courses. Panelists will discuss creative teaching strategies that center racial justice and promote supportive spaces for all voices. We will share assignments that engage collective knowledge and allow students to see the power they already possess as writers.

**T123. You Call That a Book Review?!: On Poetry Criticism and/as Creative Practice.**

(Nanya Jhingran, Cristina Correa, Summer Farah, Esther Lin, Dujie Tahat)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Poet-critics from Poetry Northwest’s Critics at Large program share how their critical practices

shape and are shaped by their creative work, how criticism can offer rigorous and novel forms of witness to others' poetic labors, and their expansive approaches to crafting creative, incisive cultural criticism that explores, complicates, and/or transforms how we read the relationship between poetry and the social, cultural, political, and relational worlds it assembles/dismantles.

**T124. Singing a Black Girl's Song: Ntozake Shange's Fiftieth Anniversary of the Choreopoem.**

(Monica Prince, Jasminne Mendez, jessica Care moore, Anya Pearson, Bryan-Keyth Wilson)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Ntozake Shange's award-winning choreopoem, for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf, this panel of

choreopoets and choreopoem scholars will discuss the choreopoem legacy as a social justice mechanism. Comparing the original to current works in the genre, panelists will construct the “choreopoem universe” for audience members with readings and analyses of this Black, feminist, political genre.

### **T125. The Velvet Air of Gaza: Protest & Beauty.**

(Samina Najmi, Lena Mubsutina, Deema Shehabi, Samah Fadil)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person. Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This multigenre reading by mostly Palestinian writers focuses on what it means to write in the face of genocide and the global student protests against it. How do our words transcend mere empathy and reach beyond it to achieve active solidarity? What is the relationship between beauty and protest? Between protest and language? How do these relationships inform

love in the tradition of Black radical love? Our readings will illuminate some possible answers to these urgent questions of our time.

**T126. Fighting Tropes, Changing Narratives: BIPOC Adoptee Writers Break Out.**

(Susan Kiyo Ito, Shannon Gibney, Ansley Moon, Alice Stephens, Angela Tucker)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

BIPOC adoptee writers who write against popular adoption tropes challenge deeply ingrained yet damaging narratives. Adoption is a popular literary theme, addressing what it is to be human and have a family. Yet adoption-focused writing has been dominated by adoptive parents or the adoption industry, leaving adopted people marginalized. This diverse panel of BIPOC adoptee writers will read poetry, memoir, fiction and nonfiction and discuss why and how they write to reframe the adoption narrative.

## **T127. Only Connect! Innovative & Effective Online Teaching in an Age of Distraction.**

(Christine Sneed, Laura Pritchett, Laura Warrell, Brian Castleberry, Ana Maria Spagna)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With more and more writing workshops now being offered online, the traditional in-person model has had to be adapted for asynchronous and synchronous instruction. Five writing professors who have each taught on-ground and online courses for many years will discuss strategies for ensuring the online environment maintains the immediacy and intimacy of the in-person model as well as its rigor and expansiveness. They will also share strategies for managing both the instructor and student workload.

## **T128. Thieves or Transformers? How Much of Fiction Is Fiction.**

(Leslie Kirk Campbell, Sidik Fofana, Lizbeth Hasse, Ananda Lima, T Kira Mahealani Madden)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Works of fiction often come with a disclaimer: “Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is entirely coincidental,” which is almost never true. A diverse panel of four acclaimed fiction writers will discuss ways their fiction does, in fact, use actual persons, places, and incidents, and how they use these fictitiously. How does the imagination get involved? At what point does the actual become “transformative”? This panel includes an entertainment lawyer who will consider the benefits and risks of recounting some facts and fictionalizing others.

### **T129. The Personal Archives.**

(Maddie Norris, Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Mary-Kim Arnold, Erica N. Cardwell, Athena Dixon)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Creative nonfiction exists on a spectrum from internal to external, from “I” to “eye,” but what happens when we fit these together, when we approach the internal as external, turn the “eye” toward the “I”? These writers dig deep into life’s archives to find the truth of emotion, showing us the unique value of personal research. As panelists, they’ll discuss the practicalities of researching the personal, the ethics of doing so, and the craft involved in relaying the emotional truths unearthed.

**T130. A Reading from Recent Prizewinning  
Short Story Collections.**

(Marian Crotty, Mubanga Kalimamukwento,  
Christian Moody, Nina Sudhakar, Terese  
Svoboda)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.  
Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.



Authors of four recently published prizewinning short story collections will read from their collections and talk about the process of publishing their books through contests. These collections use games or magic to explore relationships and have won the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, the Dzanc Books Short Story Collection Prize, the Juniper Prize for Fiction, and the Katherine Anne Porter Prize. Panelists will also answer questions and share strategies for marketing short story collections.

**T131. Electric Conduit: Poetics, Translation & the Digital Age.**

(Mathew Timmons, Alana Levinson, Omar Pimienta, David Shook, Alan Sobrino)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In an era of digital glut, translation offers an engaging experience across cultures by literally making us think in another's language and syntax. This panel explores translation as an art,

focusing on the translator's choices as a pathway through cultural difference and an opportunity to create new connections. Panelists will discuss balancing form and content, the cultural and political implications of translation, and how to ensure translation remains viable in the digital age.

**T132. Beyond the Linear: Supporting “Nontraditional” Memoirs by BIPOC Voices.**

(Anri Wheeler, Artress Bethany White, Anjali Mitter Duva, Theresa Okokon, Lorena Hernandez Leonard)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writers of fragmented/nonlinear memoirs face unique challenges, from workshop feedback to finding agents, pressured to fit into “traditional” packaging to be more palatable. But this comes at high cost, especially for BIPOC writers. We write as we do because the structures often taught as “cannon” don't serve our stories.

BIPOC writers (including one who launched a publishing company) will discuss staying true to our voices. By disrupting dominant narratives, we aim to reshape the literary landscape.

**T133. Minding the Gap: Navigating the Holes in Our Memories, Histories & Perspectives.**

(Angelique Stevens, Alexander Chee, Marcela Fuentes, Yahdon Israel, Leila Nadir)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The holes in our awareness often translate to limitations in our individual, historical, psychological, metaphorical, and cultural blind spots in both fiction and nonfiction. How do we know where the limitations are? How do we redress absences in archives, create reliable narrators, or generate narratives without witnesses? The panelists will focus on developing narrative strategies to address the

losses informed by racial, colonial, migrational, temporal, and spacial gaps.

### **T134. Writing Refuge.**

(Adrienne Kalfopoulou, Helen Benedict, Ewa Chrusciel, Gazmend Kapllani)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will engage with the topic of refuge—from the word “refugee” that embeds refuge, to the prefix “re” that speaks to the recursive idea of a past one is ever moving, or fleeing, from. The panelists represent tragicomic, fictional, lyrical, and documentary approaches to the worlds of these narratives and poems. The ethics of speaking for those who may not otherwise have a voice, as well as how the writing itself crafts multivalent notions of belonging, will be subjects of discussion.

**9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PT**

## **T135. AWP Program Directors' Plenary Assembly.**

In-Person.

Georgia Room I-II, Third Floor, JW Marriott  
Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

This meeting is for all directors of AWP member programs. Please join us for a light breakfast and an informal working session with your regional representatives. AWP Board Chair January Gill O'Neil will give a welcome and briefing before the breakout discussions begin. Please note: Program directors who are unable to attend may send a department representative in their place.

**10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PT**

## **T136. Disability & Contemporary Poetry.**

(Stephen Kuusisto, Daniel Simpson, Ona Gritz,  
Anne Kaier)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join distinguished disabled poets Ona Gritz, Dan Simpson, Anne Kaier, and Stephen Kuusisto for a reading celebrating the new Propel Disability Poetry Series, published by Nine Mile Press. The Propel Poetry Series annually honors the best in disability poetry with publication and awards. Please join us for our inaugural event.

**T137. Scripting into the Apocalypse: How Screenwriters Create for Global Change.**

(Maureen Medved, Sara Graefe, Zac Hug, Fabio Montanari, Claire Boyles)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

During this time of climate, political, human rights, and other crises, some screenwriters have chosen to use their talents as instruments for transformation. Five writers for screen and television will discuss their craft, creative

process, and the decision to take creative and other risks to contribute to pertinent and difficult conversations. In addition to exploring craft, they will discuss the impact of their projects, and the challenges/rewards of writing for global change.

### **T138. Beyond ChatGPT: How Human Beings Are Creating Subtle Literature with AI.**

(Laird Harrison, K Allado-McDowell, Jesse Damiani, Sasha Stiles)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In the two years since ChatGPT first chirped onto the scene, many writers have recoiled from its trite poetry and flat fiction. But chatbots are at the bland end of the AI writing spectrum.

Approached in the spirit of combinatorial literature, bespoke AI tools can produce surprising and affecting texts. While acknowledging real concerns, a poet, an

essayist, a fiction writer, and a literary critic will describe how interacting with the large language models has enhanced their work.

**T139. The Great Divide: Commercial, School & Library & Building a Resilient Career.**

(Adib Khorram, Jen Ferguson, Patricia Nelson, Edward Underhill, Julian Winters)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Four writers and a literary agent discuss the various shapes an author's career can take and how that fits into the various "tracks" a publisher can set a book on. What's a "commercial" imprint? Why does school and library marketing matter, and how does it differ from traditional marketing? We will discuss how an author can navigate the various parameters, expectations, and pitfalls publishers can throw at them while they build a lasting career across age categories, genres, and publishing tracks.



### **T140. Long Live Octavia Butler.**

(Blaise Zerega, Nikki High, Tamisha Tyler, Natalie Daily)

Tributes. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Though she may have died in 2006, science fiction writer Octavia Butler's impact is all over the Los Angeles area, from bookstores to creator labs to the writing of authors working today.

Today, Butler's legacy lives on in the authors who look to her work for inspiration and the communities and spaces that benefit from her attitude toward innovation and creation. Join a conversation with authors and community makers honoring Butler's legacy through their words each day.

### **T141. Finding Today in the Past: Writing Relevant Historical Fiction.**

(Martha Conway, Deborah Johnson, Freeman Ng, K.M. Soehnlein, Elizabeth Costello)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Historical fiction provides contemporary readers with more than an escape from current affairs—it illuminates the through line of human experience. While we continue to change our environment, laws, and customs, our concerns and desires remain relatively constant. Five writers rooted in feminist, LGBTQ, Black, and Asian communities discuss their choice to set their work in a different time and their strategies for creating characters and situations that are relevant to today’s readers.

**T142. Understories & Mycocosms: Tapping Hidden Networks.**

(Anna Maria Hong, Sarah Audsley, Amarnath Ravva, Asali Solomon, Lesley Wheeler)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

How do we tap into networks outside of established power structures in precarious times and spaces to connect with allies and advocates? What cues can we take from the remarkable pathways ignited by trees, fungi, and other species in activating our understories? Writers, editors, organizers, and producers will reveal literature's Wood Wide Web, talking about the tales beneath the tales that animate our writing and how symbiosis can circumvent and subvert obstacles to nourish literary lives.

**T143. The Uncanonical Canon: Teaching Experimental Forms in a Traditional Curriculum.**

(Sarah Blackman, Katie Jean Shinkle, Heather Green, A. Rafael Johnson, Michael Mejia)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

Eugene Lim defines experimental literature's mandate as to "destroy literary, social and psychological ideologies that are hidden from

us,” but doing so from within systems that are often used to uphold or systematize these “invisible habits” of thought is a challenge for both teacher and student. Five authors/teachers discuss hands-on strategies to both desystematize the classroom and prepare their students for the necessary discomfort required to inhabit the deregulated space of experiment.

**T144. More than Just Conversation: On Literary Interviews & Why They Matter.**

(Allison Wyss, Ahsan Butt, Daniel Garcia, Bareerah Ghani, Montserrat Andrée Carty)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Literary interviews help readers find and more deeply connect with the books they love. But the interview is also an important form unto itself, a space for writers to grapple with issues of cultural and political significance and even challenge the status quo. Experienced interviewers, interviewees, and editors will

discuss the beauty and function of the form and offer concrete strategies for conducting, crafting, and publishing interviews so more writers can join these important conversations.

**T145. Debunking Myths Around Getting Started in Translation, Sponsored by ALTA.**

(Amanda L. Andrei, Sawako Nakayasu, Diana Arterian, KB Thors, Elisa Wouk Almino)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What is literary translation? How does one begin? For the uninitiated, the monolingual, and the curious, translation can feel dauntingly niche. Yet it is a vital and enriching practice with the potential to connect people across the globe. In this panel, we will share our journeys of translating prose, poetry, and drama, from finding that first text to publication. We will debunk myths surrounding the craft and provide insights into how to responsibly and ethically begin translating.

**T146. Breaking Walls: Heirs of Angel Island Write Against the Anti-Chinese West.**

(Jeffrey Thomas Leong, Paisley Rekdal, Teow Lim Goh, Tom Lin)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Against the legacy of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which set the xenophobic tone of current US immigration policy, and the harsh detentions at Angel Island, five writers of Chinese descent grapple with personal and collective history.

From different generational stances as immigrants and mixed-race persons, they employ multiple genres—poetry, fiction, memoir, essay, and translation—to interrogate injustice. They'll discuss strategies for subverting racial tropes and engaging lyric language to true a past.

**T147. Filipino Writers on Diasporic Subjectivity & Postcolonial Prosodies.**

(Paula Mendoza, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Oliver de la Paz, Alleliah Nuguid, Kimberly Garza)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Panel discussion exploring the Filipino diasporic subject's relationship to/with the English language, our distinct positionalities, and how these inform our writing practice. What does the journey of understanding our colonial history, alongside embracing our creative vocation, look like? In what ways do our stories, characters, and poetics contend with the legacy of US imperialism? What accents our grief, curiosity, and joy? How do we think and write about tahanan or "home"?

**T148. Rewriting LA: Literature from the Modern Working Class.**

(Vickie Vertiz, Tanzila Ahmed, Steve Gutierrez, Jenise Miller, Joelle Mendoza)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Los Angeles is forever idealized as a glittering diorama of would-be actors and Hollywood palm trees. But this multigenre, intergenerational panel focuses on a working-class literary Los Angeles that makes the glint possible, tasking us to rewrite our city's imaginings or get written out. Through fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and nonfiction, these writers craft a diverse, gritty, tangled city, capturing the complex interchanges of Los Angeles's cultural and social history.

### **T149. Navigating Intersectional Identities in Book Marketing.**

(Laura Leigh Morris, Neema Avashia, Jonathan Corcoran, Sarah Cypher)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.



All identities are intersectional, but the publishing world often asks authors to define themselves in a more focused manner, “pitching” themselves in line with their books. This panel will bring together four fiction and nonfiction writers who have experienced the struggle of defining their various identities as they introduce their work to publishers and new audiences. They will offer personal experience and advice for other writers who seek to navigate these waters.

**T150. Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Creative Writing Workshops at Community Colleges.**

(Shinelle L. Espailat, Keith O'Neill, Gail Upchurch-Mills, Rashaun Allen)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do panelists center voices of students from underrepresented groups and teach published work from underrepresented groups? Panelists will share best practices and discuss the

mechanics of leading anti-racist discussions within the academy. They will also discuss the tensions between art for art's sake and art that's socially conscious. What are the challenges? What are the rewards? What do panelists consider when creating a course?

**T151. Damaged Bodies in a World: Jewish Poets Writing the Body & the Body Politic.**

(Owen Lewis, Rodger Kamenetz, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Jehanne Dubrow)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In “Contradictions: Tracking Poems,” Adrienne Rich explains that the challenge of being a poet is to find links between “the pain / of any one’s body with the pain of the body’s world.” How do Jewish poets write about the experience of living in Jewish bodies, all while connecting to larger experiences of trauma? Five poets from diverse Jewish literary traditions will discuss approaches they use to balance the intimate

bodily stories with large-scale narratives that lie beyond the self.

**T153. Honoring California Indian Poet  
Janice Gould: “Lungs Full of Indigenous  
Air”.**

(Deborah Miranda, Ruth Nolan, Mimi  
Wheatwind, Malea Powell, Kim Shuck)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Janice Gould (1949–2019), an award-winning Koyangk’auwi Maidu writer, scholar, and Two-Spirit, was a major force in the shaping of contemporary California Indian identity and literature. Born in San Diego, raised in Berkeley, Janice created work that is a postgenocide triumph of love. As Joy Harjo says, “Janice Gould was a real poet. [Her work] lays it all down, gives it up, and leans into the sound worlds of words.” We honor Janice’s legacy with tributes and selections from her forthcoming poetic memoir.

**T154. Literary Magazine as Textbook:  
Teaching Periodicals & Publishing in the  
Classroom, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Chelsea Kern, Erin Hoover, Susan Nguyen,  
Paul Jaskunas)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Literary magazines can be a stellar teaching tool for aspiring writers, editors, and readers of all kinds. But how can teachers integrate magazines into their curricula to maximum effect? And what should magazines know about reaching students, teachers, and classrooms? In this panel, three teachers who use literary magazines as part of publishing and creative writing courses discuss their strategies for incorporating journals into the curriculum.

**T155. Disaster Gays & Messy Femmes.**

(Silvia Park, Emily Doyle, Nic Anstett, Mariah Rigg, Kayla Upadhyaya)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Join five writers in a discussion and celebration of writing self-destructive and unlikable queer women in fiction. Panelists will explore what draws them to reading and writing about flawed women, the unique societal pressures and expectations placed on queer fiction, and how to craft a compelling gay disaster.

**T156. Hybrid Selves, Hybrid Form: Queer & Feminist Possibilities of the Prose Poem.**

(Julie Marie Wade, Dawn Lundy Martin, K. Iver, Sophie Klahr)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

The prose poem is often first (or entirely) encountered in straight and masculine contexts, associated with Charles Baudelaire's nineteenth-century pronouncement "Always be a poet, even in prose." This panel revises that

pronouncement to read, “Always be a poet, especially in queer and feminist prose.” Five queer women panelists reveal through reading and conversation an alternative and empowering legacy for the prose poem.

**T157. Diasporic Dreaming: Jewish Writers on Anti-Zionist Possibility.**

(Temim Fruchter, Emma Specter, Hannah Lillith Assadi, Sam Cohen, noam keim)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Our writing provides a space for us to dream of a diasporic world where our Jewishness is about liberation and solidarity, and not bound up in a nation-state. As we bear witness to genocide in Gaza, centering anti-Zionist values in our work feels essential. What can an anti-Zionist Jewish literature look like? Five Jewish writers discuss how radical imagination shows up in our pages, in our hearts, and as we move through the world.

**T158. WITS Alliance Meeting.**

(Asari Beale, Olivia Jones Hall, Michele Kotler)

. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join other teaching writers and writer-in-the-school programs to discuss the rewards and challenges of the field at this moment. Goals for this meeting are to forge stronger connections within the network of WITS

Alliance organizations and practitioners and to set the coalition's agenda for the year ahead.

This meeting is open to anyone interested in the work of writer-in-the-school teaching artists, programs, and organizations.

**T159. The Matrilineal Saga: Redefining Generational Histories.**

(Lauren Alwan, Ilze Duarte, Montéz Jennings, Peg Alford Pursell, Thais Miller)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Recent novels like *Pachinko*, *Homegoing*, and *Girl, Woman, Other* center family histories from a matriarchal perspective. What defines a matrilineal narrative? How do female lineage and kinship inform generational stories—and how, within the constraints of patriarchy, does the matriarch influence the family system?

Writers whose fiction concerns family culture discuss domestic sagas, subverting traditional gender roles, and crafting diasporic and diverse family narratives that center women's lives.

**T160. From Submission to Page: A Day in the Life of a Literary Magazine Editor.**

(Elizabeth Kadetsky, Kyla Kupferstein Torres, Gerald Maa, Stephanie G'Schwind, Emily Mitchell)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.



In the movie version, the literary magazine editor is an alchemist who finds the soul in a manuscript. In real life, an editor also handles the nuts and bolts involved in the day-to-day running of a journal. In this panel, editors from four journals that regularly place work in the annual Best of... anthologies—Callaloo, Colorado Review, Georgia Review, and New England Review—discuss the fine points, from copyright issues to fact-checking to bringing editing to the classroom.

**T161. Birthing Books & Babies: Navigating the Double Bind of Caregiving & Writing.**

(Kaitlin Solimine, Natasha Deon, Camille Dungy, Marie Mutsuki Mockett, Daniel Tam-Claiborne)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The double bind of caregiving and artistic pursuit can feel incongruous—yet why does the metaphor of “birthing a book” exist, and is that

what publishing is like? Are parenting and writing in competition with one another, or can both identities exist simultaneously and, dare we consider, fruitfully? Published authors at diverse stages of child-rearing and the publication journey share their experiences and provide new frameworks for conversation and engagement on this nuanced subject matter.

## **T162. Writing Our Way: Career & Self-Care Insights from First-Gen Women.**

(Hannah Eko, Amanda Awanjo, Connie Pertuz, Tanya Shirazi)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join us for “Writing Our Way: Career and Self-Care Insights from First-Gen Women”! This powerhouse panel features first-generation women of color sharing their real wisdom on thriving in the writing world. Expect unfiltered advice on breaking into the industry, juggling life and creativity, and essential self-care

practices. It's not just about surviving—it's about thriving with savvy, wisdom, and a plan. Get ready to be inspired and empowered to chart your writing life, your way.

**12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. PT**

**T165. National Jewish Book Award Poetry Reading & Conversation.**

(Maya Pindyck, Carlie Hoffman, Erika Meitner, Michael Dumanis, Jared Harél)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five poets whose books have been honored by the National Jewish Book Awards come together to read from their collections and discuss what it means to write on Jewish themes today. The poets reflect on their writing relationships with Jewish histories, joy, trauma, and political injustices and brutalities. The reading includes both winners and finalists of the National

Jewish Book Award in the category of poetry between 2018 and 2023.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**T166. Not Cue Cards or Assignments: The Magic of Prompts in Poetry Workshops.**

(Tyler Mills, Traci Brimhall, Dorothy Chan, Kai Coggin, Rachel Richardson)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The creative impulse is always inside you. Period. That is what this panel of poets and educators believe. Whether contemporizing forms or innovating images, prompts can have a pedagogical impact that reaches outside the walls of a classroom or Zoom room. Panelists

will share favorite prompts and ways we have taught with prompts and used them in our own work, and offer a prompt to invite the audience to write a poem with us at the conference in Los Angeles.

**T167. From Research to Recognition:  
Cultivating Public Visibility as an Academic.**  
(NANDA DYSSOU, Brittany Friedman, Donna Nicol)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This presentation will offer a road map for academics interested in extending their influence beyond scholarly circles. Publicist Nanda Dyssou and panelists will focus on publicity and media engagement for academic and crossover books. Attendees will learn practical strategies for promoting their books, including best practices for media outreach, articulating research to the public, collaborating

with nonacademic organizations and individuals, and tactics for enhancing online visibility.

**T168. Alternative Funding Options for Literary Magazines & Presses, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Montana Agte-Studier, Diane Goettel, Maria Maloney, Alyson Sinclair, Krystie Yen)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Publishers cannot live on sales alone. In this panel, hear from presses and magazines that have found success pursuing creative strategies for generating revenue, including membership/subscription models, crowdfunding campaigns, merch sales, and local business partnerships. Join us to learn how to set up and pursue alternative funding strategies to support your publishing work for years to come.

**T169. Crowned with Laurels: The Role of the Poet Laureate in a Contemporary Age.**

(Jennifer Militello, Oliver de la Paz, Mag Gabbert, Patricia Jones, Tess Taylor)

Program Development. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The first poet laureate was named to office in 1315. But what does it mean to be a poet laureate in 2024, amid a digital age marked by political unrest, widespread threats to the arts, and a continually evolving poetic landscape? How do laureates build and sustain literary community? Address access and representation? What is the state of poetry in their jurisdictions? Five poets representing various states, cities, and counties will discuss what it takes to champion this enigmatic genre.

**T170. Combining Community & Mentorship to Help Build a Screenwriting Career.**

(Colette Sartor, Eirene Donohue, Winnie Kemp, Lisanne Sartor, Patrick Tobin)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As solitary as writing can be, it also requires a supportive community of peers and mentors, particularly for emerging TV writers and screenwriters, who must master not only the craft of writing for the screen but also the intricacies of the entertainment business and a writer's place in it. This panel will discuss how emerging TV writers and screenwriters can establish a community of writers, producers, development executives, managers, and agents who can support and mentor them throughout their careers.

**T171. The Art of the Uncanny.**

(Heather Scott Partington, Carribean Fragoza,  
Rita Bullwinkel, Anita Felicelli, Kate Folk)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.



Does “realism” carry the same weight as a genre that it once did? Increasingly, literary writers seek new techniques to represent our weird age. As a writer, how might you use elements of the speculative, the uncanny, the surreal, horror, and black comedy to speak to what it’s like to be alive today? Authors of fabulist literary fiction with varying backgrounds gather to discuss how they push boundaries and excavate strange, fantastic, and absurd truths of experience in their work.

**T172. Radical (Re)Vision: The Gift of Starting Not Quite New.**

(Sarah Blackman, Jessica Alexander, Ray Levy, Vi Khi Nao)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The act of making is often thwarted by time constraints, life changes, or shifting perceptions on the society into which the piece once spoke.

What to do when the piece's original impetus has failed, or metamorphosed beyond recognition, but the author is in too deep to quit? Sometimes the solution is intentional unmaking, an act that allows for revelation. Panelists will share their experiences of radical revision, as well as a variety of techniques for reanimating old work with new revelations.

### **T173. Celebrating Seventy-Five Years of the Beloit Poetry Journal.**

(Rachel Contreni Flynn, Kemi Alabi, Eduardo Corral, Katie Farris, Michael Wasson)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Since 1950, the Beloit Poetry Journal has published poetry that speaks complex, necessary truths in startling, beautiful ways, producing literary magazines and chapbooks beloved by a diverse community of poets and readers. Join BPJ editors and contributors as they celebrate a remarkable seventy-five years of continuous

publication and discuss the journal's seven decades of dedication to expanding the definition of the term "American poetry."

**T174. Afterwards: Veteran Writers Reflect on Reintegration, Mental Health & Healing.**

(Bronson Lemer, Jacqulyn Cope, Lauren Kay Johnson, Michael Ramos, Ricardo Ruiz)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Feelings of isolation and a missing sense of belonging have become familiar to many during the COVID-19 pandemic, as have challenges around reintegrating back into "normal" society.

Join five veterans as they discuss writing about what comes after life-changing experiences.

Panelists reflect on surprises and difficulties in writing about mental health, advocating for well-being through storytelling, how these issues intersect and clash with cultural norms, and the myriad forms healing may take.

**T175. Across Borders: Latine Writers Respond to the Crackdown on Immigration.**  
(Tess O'Dwyer, Carlos Labbé, Mónica-Ramón Ríos, Giannina Braschi, Frederick Luis Aldama)  
Fiction Readings. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Latine writers read original pieces to respond to the recent immigration wave from South America. This session proposes that literature, specifically fiction and hybrid genres, illuminates how labeling the movement as a “crisis” economically manages and attacks one specific population: Spanish-speaking from the South of the Americas. We then reveal a long literary, geopolitical, racial, mythical, and classed connection between Latin America and the US.

**T176. African Diaspora Caucus.**  
(Dante Micheaux)  
Caucus. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Uniting attendees from across disciplines, the African Diaspora Caucus will provide a forum for discussions of careers, best practices for teaching creative writing, and obtaining the MFA or PhD. We will work with AWP's affinity caucuses to develop national diversity benchmarks for creative writing programs, and will collaborate with board and staff to ensure that AWP programs meet the needs of diaspora writers. This caucus will be an inclusive space that reflects the pluralities in our community.

**T177. Irresistible Openings: The High-Wire Act of a Novel's First Pages.**

(Danielle Harms, Lydi Conklin, Lauren Francis-Sharma, Gene Kwak, Marie-Helene Bertino)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do you get right to the good stuff in a novel so that a reader can't help but devour the

text and turn the page? These authors guide us through the openings of their published books, sharing their journeys to the first sentence, paragraph, and chapter. Learn how the work evolved across drafts and get a behind-the-scenes look at the approaches they tried, discarded, and embraced. Pull back the curtain on the stories behind the words that audiences eventually saw in print.

**T178. Older & Wiser or Older & Invisible?  
Five Authors Reflect.**

(Valerie Miner, Gary Lilley, Nancy Lord, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Lex Williford)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Is ageism the last “acceptable” prejudice? How does ageism affect the writing community? Zora Neale Hurston said, “There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” Five writers over sixty-five consider what answers they have found and whether a world focused on the new

is willing to listen. What benefits and what obstacles come to writing lives with age? What can the voices of elders add to the diversity of human experience?

**T179. When I Was Straight: A Tribute to Maureen Seaton.**

(Nicole Tallman, Dustin Brookshire, Denise Duhamel, Caridad Moro-Gronlier, Diamond Forde)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This event honors the life and work of award-winning poet, professor, and LGBTQ+ activist Maureen Seaton (October 20, 1947–August 26, 2023), author of more than two dozen solo and collaborative books. Participating poets pay tribute to Maureen by reading favorite poems from her expansive collection, in addition to reading their own work from the new LGBTQ+ anthology *When I Was Straight: A Tribute to Maureen Seaton* and discussing her craft,

influence, and enduring contributions to the canon.

**T180. A Singing Wound: Poetry of the Ukrainian Diaspora Since 2014.**

(Olga Livshin, Judith Baumel, Valya Dudycz Lupescu, Julia Kolchinsky, Luisa Muradyan)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Descendants of those who left Ukraine in the middle of traumatic events exist in between: one foot in our current home, and one foot in the ancestral home. These writers and translators speak to the trauma of displacement, identity, and cultural fragmentation due to ongoing war. What language, imagery, and literary traditions help speak the unsayable? How does the multilingual Ukrainian diaspora speak? What can we do as poets, writers, essayists, and translators to bridge, connect, and heal?



**T181. When Words Are Not Enough:  
Graphic Literature & Diasporic Histories.**

(Kelcey Ervick, Tessa Hulls, Erica H Isomura,  
Teresa Wong, Victoria Chang)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

The blank spaces surrounding migration, diaspora, and intergenerational trauma can't always be filled with words alone. Join four Asian American writers and artists who dove into their families' lost histories and found stories that could only be told through a combination of text and image. From poetry to memoir to history, discover how the graphics medium brings richness and nuance to diasporic works, helping creators find their way into and out of their families' complicated pasts.

**T182. Twenty Years of Reimagining Place:  
An Ecotone Anniversary Reading.**

(Oindrila Mukherjee, Rebecca Makkai, Jennifer Tseng, Geoffrey Brock, Patricia Smith)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Ecotone was founded in 2005 with a mission to reimagine place. Over the past twenty years, the magazine has created a welcoming space for a wide range of place-based writing and art. To celebrate this milestone, contributors will read from their work, and contemplate the value and the responsibilities of a magazine of place and environment in a time of climate crisis.

### **T183. AI-Proofing the Creative Writing Classroom.**

(Amorak Huey, Michael Dean Clark, Carla Sofia Ferreira, Chris Haven, Dionne Irving)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The emergence of generative AI and its increasing use by students may force a

reckoning from writing teachers everywhere. So let's reckon with it! This panel will move beyond complaint and hand-wringing and fearful policing of student work to reconsider and name what it is we value. We'll discuss strategies for designing curricula, learning outcomes, assessments, assignments, and overall course structures that focus on habits of mind and creative expression and can't be circumvented with ChatGPT or similar so-called artificial intelligence.

**T184. New Styles for the Immigrant Novel.**

(Yuka Igarashi, Shubha Sunder, Bruna Dantas Lobato, Maya Binyam)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

How can the familiar contours of the migrant narrative be reshaped? In this panel, three writers discuss how their recent novels find unique approaches to dialogue, detail, scene setting, point of view, and other aspects of

language and structure to tell a new story about an individual's experience in a foreign country. They explore how they cast their characters not only as outsiders adapting to a culture but as participants in larger conversations about race, precarity, ambition, and kinship.

**T185. Pain & Prose: Navigating Difficult Emotions in Storytelling.**

(April Davila, Faith Adiele, Steve Almond)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel explores how writers can effectively portray emotionally challenging scenes in fiction and narrative nonfiction. Topics include embracing vulnerability, finding emotional truth, and navigating ethical considerations. Panelists will share techniques for rendering emotions on the page while protecting their own mental health. This discussion offers practical advice and heartfelt insights for writers of all levels.

**T186. Mizna Presents: Arab Time—  
Hybridizing Form, Language & Temporality.**  
(George Abraham, Sarah Aziza, Abdelrahman  
ElGendy, Jameelah Lang, Zeina Hashem Beck)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

To write in relation to Arabic in the US is to  
confront problematic “East meets West”  
discourse through contrapuntal processes that  
unlock entire canons, forms, and genres.  
Intergenerational Mizna contributors from  
diverse backgrounds explore how hybrid  
language generates formal possibility that  
embraces orality and interrogates homogeneity.  
Panelists discuss how vast Arabophone  
traditions provide innovative techniques for  
attending to narrative structure, time, language,  
voice, and more.

## **T187. Poetry in Translation: Satisfactions & Discontents.**

(Fatemeh Shams, Ahmad Almallah, Armen Davoudian, Huda Fakhreddine)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel brings together writers/translators from Iranian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Armenian backgrounds, all living in the American diaspora, and writing in their native tongues and in English. As poets, novelists, and literary scholars, the panelists tackle a wide array of issues, including linguistic transgressions, gains and losses, dual identities, and politics of translation at times of calamity.

## **T188. Building a Creative Writing Program: A Student's Perspective.**

(Josh Wood, David Bae, Anika Desai, Sam Holt, Olivia Le)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Creative Writing Conservatory at the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) is the largest high school writing program in the country, with 180 students and over thirty semester courses. Graduates include YoungArts Presidential Scholars, a Yale Clapp Award recipient, and countless regional award winners. OCSA's sister campus in the San Gabriel Valley houses a similar conservatory of 100. Current students will discuss the curriculum and events that help them develop their voices best.

**T189. “Getting Out of Our Own Way”:  
Cultivating a Sustainable Writing Practice.**

(Lorinda Toledo, Karen Connelly, Janet Fitch, Reyna Grande, Amanda Churchill)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How can writers cultivate a sustainable creative practice while paying the bills, growing a career,

and accounting for domestic responsibilities? Award-winning authors with multiple books and diverse lived experiences discuss their ongoing journeys to do so—while also taking into consideration the roles of culture and institutions—as well as their best advice for tending to the mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of the writing life.

### **T190. Big & Bodied: Writing Against Fatphobia.**

(Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Carmen Maria Machado, Isle McElroy, Jasmine Guillory, Megan Milks)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

In a world where fat bodies are disdained and eating disorders are stigmatized, how can fiction illuminate what it feels like to live and hunger in a body today? How do the answers to these questions change when the bodies are also bodies of color and trans bodies? How do we



navigate a fatphobic professional industry? Five fiction writers of recent and critically acclaimed novels and short story collections with a focus on bodily experience read from their work and discuss their strategies.

**T191. Craft for Crafters: How Fiber Arts, Book Arts & More Shape Our Writing.**

(Meg Cass, Felicia Rose Chavez, Emrys Donaldson, Genevieve Kaplan, Sarah Minor)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Crafts such as sewing, quilting, and collage can enrich creative writing. Working across genres, we explore how our practices with form and language, fabric and scissor, overlap and expand one another. We consider the direct connections between revising prose and the physicality of fiber arts, how freely crocheted garments can offer a story structure, how a knot can be a period, how book arts can inspire creative

nonfiction and more. Through craft(ing), we find new ways to be writers.

**1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. PT**

**T191A. Meditation for Writers: Quieting the Inner Critic.**

(April Davila)

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join April Dávila, a certified mindfulness meditation teacher, for a calming, one-hour meditation session. The session will begin and end with fifteen minutes of guided meditation. The middle thirty minutes will explore a specific mindfulness topic. On Thursday, March 27, participants will focus on quieting the inner critic. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT**

**T192. Lily Poetry Review Books.**

(Eileen Cleary, Jennifer Martelli, Heather Treseler)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Lily Poetry Review Books presents Heather Treseler, Jennifer Martelli, Robert Carr, Gloria Monaghan, Shari Caplan, Max Heinegg, M. P. Carver, Nicole Callihan, Meghan Sterling, Sheila Black, Darren Black, and Eileen Cleary reading from their new collections.

**T193. Writing Toward Community,  
Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts & Anaphora  
Literary Arts.**

(Mahtem Shiferraw, Safia Elhillo, Fatimah Asghar, Ladan Osman)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

To be a member of any community is to be held in tension between familiarity and isolation, between unity and individuality. Join these three artists as they continue the work of their poetry, fiction, film, and organizing work in navigating this tension, finding space for new connections and community to flourish—networks sustained by art and honesty, built for all of us still seeking our place. Blue Flower Arts and Anaphora Literary Arts are proud to present readings by Safia Elhillo, Fatimah Asghar, and Ladan Osman followed by rich conversation moderated by poet Mahtem Shiferraw, founder and executive director of Anaphora Literary Arts.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**T194. Queering Form, or Weird Fiction,  
Sponsored by the Center for Fiction.**

(Henry Hoke, Kazim Ali, Andrea Lawlor)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Writing fiction is finding your way to something true. What if you were permitted to abolish the binaries, break every rule you were given in workshop, and dare to be as weird as your story demands? Join us for a discussion of what it means to make form work for your story, and how to find readers and editors who will help you realize your highest ambitions and imaginings.

Read the panelists' bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**T195. Anywhere but Here & Now: California Writers Speculate on Our Past & Future.**

(micah perks, Sesshu Foster, Karen Tei Yamashita, Cathy Thomas)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

From reimagining the history of Japanese internment to speculating on several possible California futures, both ugly and beautiful, four acclaimed California writers read from their work and discuss the ways speculating about our history and our future can inform our present. Join us in imagining what if things were otherwise.

**T196. Publishing Paths 101: Big Five, Indie, Hybrid, or DIY?.**

(Amy Brill, Chloe Caldwell, Clifford Thompson, S. Kirk Walsh, Donaldson Brown)  
Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As landing a “traditional” book deal becomes ever more elusive, a range of publishing options, from hybrid models and tiny presses to self-publishing, has opened up for seasoned as well as debut authors to explore. What can a writer expect with regard to editorial process, design, marketing, publicity, and sales? The panel includes memoirists, fiction writers (graphic novels, too), and nonfiction writers who have taken each of these roads to market and will share their experiences and lessons learned.

**T197. Teaching Financial Literacy & the Material Realities of Being a Writer.**

(Lara Williams, Courtney Maum, Susan Meyers, Lucas Southworth, Sharlene Teo)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Financial literacy, candor, and a focus on the material realities of making a living as a writer rarely appear in a creative writing curriculum. With a panel consisting of four authors, plus a moderator—who all publish fiction but also make a living through editing, freelance journalism, teaching, corporate writing, and content creation—we will interrogate how candid we have a responsibility to be about the material and financial realities of our writing lives.

**T198. Celebrating the Golden State: A Reading by Poets Laureate from California.**

(Lee Herrick, Tongo Eisen-Martin, Yosimar Reyes, Joseph Rios, Lynne Thompson)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What do a queer undocumented immigrant, a former packinghouse worker, an organizer around issues of extrajudicial killings of Black people, a Korean adoptee, and a lawyer by



training have in common? They are all poets laureate from various parts of California. These poets celebrate California but also challenge positions of power and privilege. The laureates will discuss their roles, read from their books, and engage in a Q&A with the audience.

### **T199. Multilingual Poetics & Futures.**

(Rahat Kurd, Dominique Bernier-Cormier, Klara du Plessis, Khashayar Mohammadi, Yilin Wang)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five poets based across Canada discuss the immense pleasures and rewards of deepening our relationships with inherited languages, and writing poetry in English from diverse multilingual perspectives. To sustain our fluencies, expand contemporary poetry readership to new audiences, and create thriving multilingual futures, we discuss the tools and supports we wish to see from publishers and

literary communities within our predominantly Anglophone environments.

**T200. Many Voices, One Novel: Fiction That Contains Multiple POVs & Truths.**

(Hannah Bae, Vanessa Chan, Caro DeRobertis, Hannah Michell, Michael David Lukas)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Drawing inspiration from classic polyphonic novels such as James Baldwin's *Another Country* and Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, contemporary polyphonic novelists make music from overlapping and often conflicting voices. In this panel, four accomplished novelists explore how polyphonic narrative forms can be used to depict vibrant and sometimes contentious multiethnic societies like our own, and how they provide the tools to tell stories that might not otherwise be told.

**T201. Rewriting the West.**

(Taylor Brorby, Camille Dungy, Jennifer Sahn, Nina McConigley)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will explore the increasingly diverse writing of the American West with three multigenre writers as well as an editor from High Country News. Exploring the writing from the region, which has historically privileged the white, straight, able-bodied male gaze, this panel will reckon with the deeper history of the American West—its writing, and the opportunities that lie ahead for writers interested in the issues that face one of the most exciting geographies of American writing.

**T202. Using Open Educational Resources in Literature & Creative Writing Courses.**

(Joseph Klemens, Tammy Wolf, Austin Eichelberger, Jared Valdez, Genevieve Betts)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will explore the use of open educational resources (OER) in literature and creative writing college courses. What are the legal limitations and best practices when it comes to using OER? What resources (such as podcasts, online videos, and free online textbooks) exist, and how can instructors use them in the classroom, both in person and online? What are the benefits of using OER versus textbooks and materials that students are required to pay for?

**T203. Our Own Name: Writing Jewishness Beyond Zionism, Assimilation & Fear.**

(Robin Beth Schaer, Jennifer Gilmore, Irina Reyn, Courtney Zoffness, Moriel Rothman-Zecher)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How can contemporary poetry and prose trouble and disrupt associations, confluences, and assumptions about Jewish identity? In this panel, a diverse group of Jewish writers will grapple with the possibilities and limitations of writing about diasporic Jewish lives—beyond stereotype, assimilation, and Zionism. They will explore urgent and shifting questions about intention and audience for work that reflects the multiplicity of Jewish experience and confronts the weaponization of antisemitism.

#### **T204. How to Teach Diné Literature.**

(Shaina A. Nez, natanya pulley, sherwin bitsui)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Teaching Native American literature often incorporates concepts of culture, place, and storytelling. This panel discussion will embrace those ideas, including linguistic elements, sound symbolism, race, and institutional constructs

that all have influenced how Indigenous writers story their complex narratives within this place called the United States. This panel signifies the importance of considering tribally specific literary histories, which is critical toward decolonizing our classrooms.

**T205. Beyond Blind Prophets & Saintly Sufferers: Writing Disability in YA.**

(Sophie Trist, Jasminne Mendez, Nikki Lyssy)  
Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person.  
Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Millions of teens live with disabilities both visible and invisible, but they almost never see themselves accurately represented in the fiction they read. This panel features three disabled women who write about disabled teens in contemporary, historical, and fantastic settings. Each author will read briefly from her work and discuss the joys and pitfalls of writing disability in YA, with a focus on how we shatter ableist

stereotypes and function in YA spaces as disabled authors.

**T206. That Thin Fire Racing Under Skin:  
Writing Sapphic Desire.**

(Claudia Cortese, Donika Kelly, M. Mick Powell, Rachel M. Simon, Zefyr Lisowski)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

This panel explores the craft of writing lesbian desire. Poetry has long been an art form that expresses amorous passion—from Sappho’s songs of seduction in which a thin fire races under the speaker’s skin to Petrarca’s sonnets of unrequited love. This panel evokes the tradition of erotic poetry in the context of contemporary queer identity, discussing how writers can use lyric elements—including image, metaphor, music, voice—to write sapphic pleasure, connection, obsession, passion, love.

**T207. Obsidian at Fifty: Activating the Archive—Editors’ Roundtable.**

(Duriel E Harris, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Douglas Kearney, Sheree Renée Thomas)  
Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora is marking its fiftieth anniversary of continuous publication. To celebrate the living legacy of Obsidian, editors past and present discuss their strategies for and experiences working with archival content as Black editors and writers/makers navigating publishing and artistic practice in contemporary climates of white supremacy as a means of activating past voices and blueprints of survival to create thriving, embodied presents.

**T208. Cancer & Creativity: Turning Personal Challenges into Plays.**

(Alice Eve Cohen, E.M. Lewis, Catalina Florescu, Lia Romeo)



Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.  
Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Panelists discuss how they bring their experience with cancer into playwriting, using humor, theatricality, and magic realism to engage with the overwhelming real-life drama of a medical diagnosis. Using personal experience with cancer as a springboard for theatrical or nonrealistic storytelling for the stage, these intergenerational playwrights share approaches to writing about cancer's effect on relationships with family and with self, and ways of conjuring the internal drama of the body.

**T209. Beyond Definitions of Diaspora:  
Korean Women Poets Breaking & Building  
Poetics.**

(Sarah Audsley, Ae Hee Lee, Tiana Nobile,  
Rosanna Oh, Eugenia Leigh)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Korean American women poets will offer their insights on what it means to break and build poetic identities, to move beyond perceived definitions of Korean diaspora, displacement, kinship, and (un)belonging. Korean women poets' contributions to contemporary American poetry will be highlighted through their individual contributions, and will demonstrate how their work advances the field. Each poet will read a poem, which will be followed by a moderated discussion.

**T210. Creative Confinement: Using Constraints to Amplify Your Work.**

(Kathleen Rooney, Naomi Cohn, Sharon De La Cruz, Tom McAllister, Darien Hsu Gee)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Though it may seem counterintuitive, one of the best ways to generate and shape material is to impose constraints on your work. These multigenre panelists will discuss various restrictions they've applied to their writing, both in early drafts and in revisions, and will discuss techniques that apply to poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and graphic literature. This panel will also offer methods for bringing generative constraints into the classroom to help students develop their work.

**T212. Advancing Craft & Community:  
Different Literary Center Approaches &  
Strategies.**

(G.E. Patterson, Kathryn Kysar, Rebecca Makkai, Marissa Morrow, Marianne Manzler)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

Given their common goal of engaging diverse audiences, amplifying marginalized voices, and promoting the connective power of the arts, how

do the Loft Literary Center, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and StoryStudio Chicago converge and diverge in their approaches? Administrators and teaching artists across a range of viewpoints, ethnicities, and geography will discuss their experiences working with writers of all backgrounds through local and digital programming and look to what's next.

**T213. LA Confidential: Novelists on Noir.**

(David L. Ulin, Steph Cha, Tod Goldberg, Rachel Howzell Hall)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What is it about Southern California that makes the perfect setting for so many noir novels? The noir authors on this panel have explored Los Angeles through stories of dark corners, vast deserts, and car chases that keep readers hooked. They will dive into how they came to write noir fiction, why they set their stories in Los Angeles, and what “noir” really means.

Expect tips on crafting the perfect shady characters and a deep dive into Los Angeles's most mysterious stories.

**T214. In Memoriam: Four Feminist Legacies of Poetry, Poetics & Art.**

(Chris Santiago, Cynthia Arrieu-King, Eileen G'Sell, Margaret Rhee)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel pays tribute to the enduring influence of four feminist masters who challenged conventions and inspired generations over long careers, and whom we recently lost: Lyn Hejinian, Yong Soon Min, Helen Vendler, and Marjorie Perloff. Each reshaped their respective disciplines and thrived in collaboration. Our panel will highlight the powerful contributions of these figures while not shying away from any difficult, controversial, or polarizing aspects of their work.

**T215. The Sky Above the Roof: Community & Creativity in Carceral Environments.**

(Alison Pelegrin, Jane V. Blunschi, Geffrey Davis, Nik de Dominic, Sally Keith)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Facilitating creative writing in carceral settings is vital work that demands flexibility and careful planning. This discussion will explore roadblocks one might encounter while setting up workshops, as well as ways to foster community so that incarcerated writers can explore their own stories, invent and give shape to the kind of writing they would like to develop, and share their work in a supportive setting. Panelists bring a range of experience working with juveniles and adults.

**T216. Beyond Syd Field: Decolonizing the Screenwriting Workshop.**

(Sara Graefe, Zac Hug, Fabio Montanari, Kathryn Mockler)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Since the publication of Syd Field's seminal text *Screenplay* in 1979, three-act dramatic structure has been the cornerstone of screenwriting pedagogy. But as literary circles engage in conversations around race, diversity, and inclusion (e.g., with Chavez's *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* and Salesses's *Craft in the Real World*), is it time for screenwriters to have the same moment of reckoning? Join four screenwriting instructors as they discuss approaches to making their classrooms more inclusive.

**T217. Ghosting: The Privileges & Perils of Writing Someone Else's Book.**

(Aimee Liu, Jennifer Carr, Amy Friedman, Victoria Veldhoen)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Ghostwriting plays a bigger role in the publishing ecosystem today than ever before. It's not just celebrities who hire ghosts, but industry leaders and online influencers, as well as grandparents who want their story immortalized for future generations. There are even agents who specialize in matching writers with "authors." This panel of new and veteran ghostwriters shares tips for securing a successful ghost project, as well as the professional pitfalls and rewards of this literary masquerade.

**T218. From Satire to Dad Jokes: How Humor Can Be Literary, Political & Funny.**

(Kathryn Fay, Isle McElroy, Kristen Arnett, Z. Hanna, Alana Saab)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As a fiction writer, how can you use humor to tell stories that describe human experiences, while also addressing forces such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia? What



literary devices can you use? How do you work with editors who do not share your sense of humor? In this panel, four fiction writers—with different literary styles and types of humor—will share their new work and how they use humor in their novels and short stories.

### **T219. Writers and/as Artists Seizing the Image.**

(Ronaldo V. Wilson, Angela Penaredondo, S. Erin Batiste, Paul Cunningham, Addie Tsai)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do writers working at the margins of race, gender, and sexuality seize the possibilities of the image in verbal language through visual art? This panel negotiates the interplay between drawing, collage, video, and graphic art against the usual means of writing: story, metaphor, and plot. This panel presents five writers who practice visual art to resist conscripted identities

to present radical possibilities of the imagined across verbal and visual language via the image, icon, and picture.

**2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

**T220. HBCU MFA Think Tank.**

In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The HBCU MFA Think Tank at #AWP25 will convene creative writers and creative writing educators working at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). In this collaborative space, participants will consider developing MFA programs at HBCUs, where none currently exist. The cultural, curricular, and programmatic demands of developing MFA programs at HBCUs will be discussed, with a long-term goal of elevating the existing cultural presence of the HBCU within the literary community.

**3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. PT**

**T221. Wrangling the Doubt Monster:  
Helping Writers Fight Fears & Find  
Inspiration.**

(Amy Bernstein, Caroline Topperman)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Amy L. Bernstein's new book, *Wrangling the Doubt Monster: Fighting Fears, Finding Inspiration*, is helping writers and artists of all stripes to acknowledge and cope with doubts around creative expression and capacity.

Bernstein's book grows out of her own experiences as an author and as a book coach consulting with writers who admit that fear often holds them back. Bernstein will read from her new book and hold a moderated conversation and Q&A as a way to normalize this sensitive topic.

**T222. Nurturing a Green Heart: Staying Soft in the Face of Adversity, Sponsored by Alice James Books.**

(CM Burroughs, Joshua Jennifer Espinoza, Ayokunle Falomo, Dorianne Laux)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Alice James Books presents four celebrated writers to share their most recent work and engage in conversation. Joshua Jennifer Espinoza and Ayokunle Falomo will read from their 2024 books, and Dorianne Laux from her book *Life on Earth*. The event is led by CM Burroughs, who will guide the conversation as the group grapples with an important question—in a world of unrelenting violence, how does one tend a green heart? How do we refuse to harden in conditions where becoming hard seems so natural?

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**T223. Rich Benjamin & Sloane Crosley in Conversation with Amelia Possanza, Sponsored by the Authors Guild.**

(Amelia Possanza, Sloane Crosley, Rich Benjamin)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person. Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do writers fill absences? Great literature is often created when the author writes the book only they can write—the book they want to read but that does not yet exist. Rich Benjamin is the author of the award-winning *Searching for Whitopia* and, most recently, *Talk to Me: Lessons from a Family Forged by History*, a grandson's account of the coup that ended his grandfather's presidency of Haiti. Sloane Crosley is the author of the New York

Times bestselling books *Grief Is for People*, *How Did You Get This Number*, and *I Was Told There'd Be Cake*, as well as *Look Alive Out There* (a 2019 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor) and the novels *Cult Classic* and *The Clasp*. Benjamin and Crosley will read from their work, followed by conversation with Amelia Possanza, book publicist and Lambda Award–winning author of *Lesbian Love Story: A Memoir in Archives*.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**T224. Outside of Academia: Poems Born in & for Community.**

(KC Cullinan, Desiree Dallagiacomo, Olivia Gatwood, Yesika Salgado, Alyesha Wise)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How can poems be vessels for us to find, commune, and walk alongside our communities outside of institutions? From viral readerships galvanized on Instagram to poems inside the confines of incarceration, these poets know a thing or two about the transformative magic of writing with and for the people and places we belong to. Join us and grapple with the questions: How can poetry be an act of community and kinship? Where can it live and thrive among our loved ones? With dialogue and Q&A, we will tackle big topics like finding an authentic audience and building a community-centered writing life.

**T225. Theories of Vastness: On Capaciousness in Poetry.**

(Issam Zineh, Roger Reeves, Brenda Hillman, Kazim Ali)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What does it mean for a poetic work to be “capacious”? This term implies an expansiveness of scope and experience—the possibility for the primordial and the vatic to converge, the promise of poem as sprawling event. This panel explores the mysteries of the capacious poem, while demystifying capaciousness from a craft perspective. It asks what craft tools can be brought to bear to enact cultural, linguistic, and spiritual vastness in poetic space.

**T226. Beyond Large PR Budgets: Launching a Book & Reaching Your Readers.**

(Namrata Poddar, Myriam Chancy, Susannah Rodriguez Drissi, Madhushree Ghosh, Ruchika Tulshyan)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.



Writers from diverse backgrounds share ways in which authors can attract and nurture the intended audience for their work, especially within an industry documented to be predominantly white at the highest levels of gatekeeping. This panel is especially geared toward writers who are finishing or shopping a manuscript or are about to publish a book through a traditional publisher, and who do not have access to a large budget—their own or their publisher’s—to pay for book-promotion services.

**T227. Creating Your Own Solo Show.**

(Steve Budd, Mark Kenward, Joyful Raven, Kenny Yun)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Do you have a story you’d like to take from the page to the stage? Our panel of award-winning solo performers, writers, directors, and producers will speak about how to get to the

heart of your story; how to turn narration into scenes and dialogue; how to create distinct characters using dialogue, physicality, and vocal changes; and, most importantly, how to tell an engaging story that needs to be told. Other topics to be discussed: working with a director and taking your show on tour.

**T228. Still Surreal: A Poetics of Revolution.**

(C. Francis Fisher, Joyelle McSweeney,  
Danielle Pafunda, Will Alexander)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

This event considers US surrealist poetics. How do contemporary practitioners grow from, resist, or reenvision André Breton's 1920s movement? What does it mean to be surrealist amidst the postmodern horror of climate collapse, hyperrealist global warfare, and the absurdity of the twenty-four-hour news cycle? Witness writers on the margins—women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+—adopt surrealist practice for

personal and political expression, to engage its long-standing ideologies and revolutionize its anachronistic tactics.

**T229. Holy F\*\*k: Women, Faith & Sex in Fiction.**

(Deesha Philyaw, Felicia Berliner, Candice Marie Benbow, Aaliyah Bilal, Dantiel Moniz)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Funny, offensive, or both—fiction that centers faith and sex breaks taboos on so many levels. For five authors writing about women and girls in various religious communities, the friction between religious beliefs and sexuality also offers a deeply generative context for revealing female protagonists' identities. Panelists explore craft approaches to bringing the body and soul alive, together, on the page, and discuss strategies for navigating the public discourse about hot-button topics.

## **T230. Losing Species: Integrating Conservation Science into the Writing Process.**

(Claire Wahmanholm, Ching-In Chen, Donika Kelly, Marco Wilkinson, Jane Wong)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

For those who want to write about biodiversity loss and extinction, engaging with scientific research can be an invaluable source of inspiration. A diverse range of writers across genres will discuss their process of integrating science into their contribution to *Creature Needs: Writers Respond to the Science of Animal Conservation*. They will present their work and explore what transpires when writers incorporate scientific research in all its complexity and precision.

## **T231. Bennington Writing Seminars at Thirty: A Celebratory Reading.**

(Mark Wunderlich, J. Mae Barizo, Shawna Kay Rodenberg, Claressinka Anderson, Kelly Sather)  
Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The Bennington Writing Seminars—one of the oldest and best-known low-residency MFA programs anywhere—teaches creative writing through a process of intimate correspondence and brief periods of intense togetherness. Founded in 1994, the Writing Seminars celebrates thirty years of helping writers to realize their literary ambitions, publish countless books, and participate in literary communities. Four distinguished Bennington alumni will read from their books and new work as we look to the future.

**T232. A Narrow Bridge: Jewish Writers on Resilience in an Antisemitic Climate,  
Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council.**

(Sarah Einstein, Amy Fish, Elissa Wald, Howard Lovy, Jennifer Lang)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Since Hamas attacked Israel in October 2023,  
Jews have been increasingly targeted for  
exclusion in both the journals and events of  
American letters. In this panel, Jewish American  
and Israeli authors will discuss how this has  
affected their work and the reception of that  
work, as well as share strategies for resilience in  
the face of overt hostility to Jewish voices.

**T233. The Setting Gap: Deconstructing  
Patriarchal Environments Through World-  
Building.**

(Gloria Muñoz, Alisa Alering, Tyler Gillespie,  
Felicia Zamora, Nora Shalaway Carpenter)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Setting is more than vibes. For BIPOC, female-  
identifying, and queer writers, it's a means of

entering spaces that have been historically inaccessible and prohibitive. From the margins, setting is political, and literary canons and societal gender norms have perpetuated these delineations. Authors from across genres discuss ways they build environments—real and fantastic—to close the setting gap, code-switch, raise social questions, and reckon with the gendered politics of how worlds are built.

**T235. Remembering What Is Vanishing:  
Poets on Ecology, History & Race.**

(Tony Barnstone, Angie Estes, Mark Irwin,  
Douglas Manuel, Lynne Thompson)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

This panel explores aspects of erasure, evanescence, and loss, as in erasure of one's identity and subjectivity through racial and historical lenses, as in the extinction of 150 species in an average day, and how poets can “knock on silence,” in the words of Chinese

poet Lu Ji, so as to give voice to those rubbed out by ideology, history, and time, to reach across the void instead of staring into it and becoming monsters.

## **T236. Using Stories to Fight Overreliance on AI in Community College Class.**

(Emmanuel Sigauke, Heather Hutcheson, Kakwasi Somadhi)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

AI is a reality in all aspects of modern life, including our writing classes. How do we prevent AI from becoming the voice of student writing? Allowing students to connect their personal and community stories to writing assignments is one way. Guiding students to discern differences between their ideas and AI-generated prose will nudge them to rely less on the artificial and more on their own creativity. This workshop will inspire participants on how to make AI part of the classroom, responsibly.



## **T237. Small Press Ecologies: How Can We Make Them More Robust?.**

(Beth Castrodale, Feliza Casano, Lucas Mann, Tonya Todd, Jee Koh)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Small presses are essential, yet readers know little about them. Chain bookstores do not prioritize small presses, and libraries rarely offer a broad range of small press books. With the shuttering of SPD, small presses sustained devastating losses, and readers lost their best chance to discover wonderful new books and authors. Organized by Necessary Fiction's books editor Diane Josefowicz, this panel of publishers, critics, and booksellers will explore forms of literary citizenship that make small press ecosystems more robust and advance goals of representation and inclusion.

## **T238. On Translating Environmental Literature, Sponsored by ALTA.**

(Kathleen Maris Paltrineri, Johanna Domokos, Eirill Falck, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Saskia Vogel)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel brings together four translators to discuss the translation of environmental literature. We are interested in exploring the range of tasks and challenges that come with translating environmental literature—from needing specific ecological vocabularies to unpacking theoretical frameworks, and from exploring craft and formal demands to contextualizing works within their sociopolitical histories, including Indigenous rights movements.

## **T239. Podcast Guesting: How to Get Booked & Be a Great Guest.**

(Annmarie Kelly-Harbaugh, Laura Davis, Jia Rizvi, Harriett Jernigan)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Podcast guesting is a great way to promote your book and grow your audience—but there’s an art both to getting booked and to being a great guest! This panel of award-winning podcast hosts and interviewers provides insights and strategies that will help you pitch yourself as a guest and be an engaging guest who gets invited back.

**T240. Beyond Tiger Moms & Model Minorities: Imagining the Asian American Family.**

(Kim Liao, Kirstin Chen, Jimin Han, Beth Nguyen, Matt Salesses)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

When crafting family dynamics in literature, avoiding stereotypes is paramount; but what if you had a tiger mom? What if you played both piano and violin? How can we render the experiences of our cultural upbringings in ways that are both broadly recognizable and uniquely specific? In a lively discussion, Asian American fiction and nonfiction authors will tackle this important writing question: How do we give voice to cultural family values that feel both authentic and universal?

## **T241. Teaching Amidst Trauma: Practices for Our Times.**

(Miranda McLeod, Diego Báez, Marcus Jackson, Becca Klaver)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Creative writing classrooms can be repositories for artifacts of traumas both personal and public.

As university instructors, how do we teach in a time of accelerating emergency? How can we effectively invite students into the time-honored tradition of making art in the face of existential crisis? How can we do so without turning workshop into group therapy? In this panel, we'll share lesson designs, community practices, and tips for classroom management and self-care for teachers and learners.

**T242. Come to Play: Incorporating Play & Games in the Creative Writing Classroom.**

(Gwen Niekamp, Lydia Paar, Esther Okonkwo, Chloe Rodriguez, Li Zhuang)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

In 1996, Harvard educator Colette Daiute pointed out the critical role of play in teaching writing. By integrating playful activities like storytelling games, role-playing, and collaborative writing exercises, teachers can create more interactive and supportive

workshops. In this panel, five multigenre, college-level instructors/writers from the United States, Nigeria, and China discuss the specific ways they incorporate play into hands-on activities and cultivate a learner-centered classroom.

**T243. Nonfiction as Poem, Photograph, Song, or Fable.**

(Samuel Ace, Brian Blanchfield, Lily Hoang, Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Caryl Pagel)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The panelists will present and discuss their recent works of nonfiction, all of which obviate the boundaries of linear narrative and autobiographical account. What is made possible for an essay or memoir when it uses structures and devices more aligned with poetry, visual art, music, or fable? This conversation is an examination of cross-disciplinary techniques

to achieve expansive and emotionally rich work that surpasses mere account.

**T244. Women Writers Talk Shame in the Classroom, Academia & Their Writing Lives.**

(Uche Okonkwo, Ava Winter, Tara Ballard, Alina Nguyen, Silvia Park)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Women panelists discuss how they navigate feelings of shame as teachers, as functionaries in academic institutions, and as writers. How much of our performance and presentation in these spaces is shaped by shame? How complicit are institutional structures in shaming? What added dimensions of shame do marginalized folks experience in these spaces? How does shame affect the creative process? Can shame be a force for good in our work, or is it always destructive?

**T245. Beyond English: Multilingual Creative Writing Pedagogies.**

(José De Pierola, Francezca Kwe, Sarah Lumba-Tajonera, James Shea)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Multilingual creative writing programs and pedagogies remain quite rare, but they do exist. Ranging from universities in El Paso, Hong Kong, and Manila, such unique programs allow students to express themselves across more than one language and more than one culture. This diverse panel of educators from around the world explores the nature of multilingual creative writing pedagogies with an eye toward their value for students and their resistance to the global dominance of English.

**T246. Voices from the “Other” California: A Sense of Place—Belonging & Divisions.**

(Mas Masumoto, Susan Straight, Lee Herrick)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.



Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Often lost and overlooked are the hidden and “other” voices—specifically from Inland California. Voices of outsiders that are marginalized: rural, working class, mixed-race families, agrarian, communities of color—all explore a new meaning of diversity. A unique sense of place and history are woven into the voices from these hidden perspectives—with a brutal honesty from those who live in a different world in the shadows of the established. Connect with revealing legacies.

**T247. Judging by the Cover: Trends & Strategies for Designing Beautiful & Market-Worthy Books, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Nicole Dewey, Mary Austin Speaker, Kit Schluter, Justin Carder)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

A beautiful cover on the bookstore shelf can attract readers and sell a book. How do publishers work with in-house and freelance designers to create cohesive, contemporary designs that represent the best of the work inside? What do small presses need to know about cover design on a budget? And how much should authors be involved in the process? Designers and marketing professionals will address these questions in discussing their approach to cover design for literary titles.

## **T248. Performance & the Presentation of the Self: Identity on & off the Page.**

(Annie Wenstrup, Kalehua Kim, Erin Marie Lynch, M.S. RedCherries)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Workshop leaders and instructors encourage writers to mimetically recreate voice on the page and strive for authenticity in their representations of self and community. But how

can one authentically express themselves when their identity is exoticized or othered, on and off the page? As Indigenous writers and poets, we'll discuss craft strategies, including form and curation, as methods of deconstructing the concepts of the authentic other in poetry.

**5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. PT**

**T249. Art School Writing Faculty Caucus.**

(Lee Griffith, Tyler Gillespie, Amy Lemmon, Lauren Strawbridge)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Art School Writing Faculty Caucus provides a forum for writers to consider issues unique to art and design environments, their students, and their curricula. This year we welcome new members and guests to an open-forum discussion of topics including pedagogy, technology, and craft. We also seek input concerning the coming year's caucus

programming, executive board elections, and the needs of our caucus members and their respective institutions.

**T250. Latinx Writers Caucus.**

(féi hernandez, Claudia Castro Luna, Amairani Pérez Chamu, Karina Muñiz-Pagán, Amy Alvarez)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Latinx writers are becoming increasingly visible in literary spaces. However, there is still work to be done to address inequalities in access and visibility. The Latinx Writers Caucus creates space for new, emerging, and established writers of varied Latinx identities to network, discuss obstacles to publication (e.g., active oppression and the cultural marginalization of Latinx writers), and discuss panel and event planning that will increase Latinx participation at future AWP conferences.

## **T251. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. PT**

## **T252. AWP TCU Fellowship Program Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room I, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Join us in celebrating the launch of the AWP Tribal Colleges & Universities Fellowship Program! Enjoy refreshments, meet the #AWP25 faculty and student fellows, and hear from the inaugural creative advisor, Jake Skeets.

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. PT**

## **T253. Writer to Writer Mentorship Program Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room II, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Celebrate twenty wonderful seasons of the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program! Former mentors and mentees are invited for a reunion and celebration. Bring a plus one, mingle with fellow participants and AWP staff, and enjoy a drink and some light fare.

## **T253A. A Celebration of Beyond Bars' Inaugural Issue.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room III, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Come meet with the editors of Beyond Bars. Copies of the issue will be available and the first twenty-five attendees will receive a free drink ticket. Light bites will be served.

## **T254. Emerson @ AWP.**

Reception. In-Person.

Georgia Room I, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Join us to engage with Emerson alumni, students, and faculty members attending the conference. Refreshments will be provided by The Office of Alumni Relations. RSVP [here](#).

### **T254A. Creative Writing Program at Texas Tech.**

Reception. In-Person.

Georgia Room II, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

A reception for current students, prospective students, and alums! Join us to discuss our new MFA program, to meet faculty, current, and former students, and to chat about all things writing in West Texas. There will be a selection of desserts and beverages.

### **T255. Litowitz MFA+MA Faculty & Northwestern University Press Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Gold Ballroom 4, First Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

A book signing and reception with Litowitz faculty and Northwestern University Press authors. Faculty include Natasha Trethewey, Sarah Schulman, Charif Shanahan, and Juan Martinez. Food and beverages will be provided.

**6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. PT**

**T256. Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus.**

(Mary Leana Christensen, Abigail Chabitnoy, M.S. RedCherries)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Indigenous writers and scholars participate fluidly in AWP by teaching and directing affiliated programs, working as independent writers/scholars, in language revitalization, and local community programming. Annually imparting field-related craft, pedagogy,



celebrations, and concerns as understood by Indigenous-Native writers from the Americas and surrounding island nations is necessary. Essential program development continues in 2025.

### **T257. Two-Year College Creative Writing Caucus.**

(Stephanie M. Lindberg, James Ducat, Dan Kirk, Ethan Klein, Courtney O'Banion Smith)  
Caucus. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Do you teach at a two-year college? Interested in job opportunities at two-year colleges? Join us for our annual networking meeting. With almost half of all students starting at two-year colleges, and increasing numbers of MFAs landing two-year college teaching jobs, the future of creative writing courses and programs at our campuses looks bright. We will discuss teaching creative writing at the two-year

college, hold a short business meeting, and provide tangible resources.

**8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. PT**

**T258. #AWP25 Keynote Address with Roxane Gay.**

(Roxane Gay)

In-Person.

Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Roxane Gay is an author and cultural critic whose writing is unmatched and widely revered. Her work garners international acclaim for its reflective, no-holds-barred exploration of feminism and social criticism. With a deft eye on modern culture, she brilliantly critiques its ebb and flow with both wit and ferocity.

Words like “courage,” “humor,” and “smart” are frequently deployed when describing Gay. Her collection of essays, *Bad Feminist*, is universally considered the quintessential

exploration of modern feminism. NPR named it one of the best books of the year, and Salon declared the book “trailblazing.” Her powerful debut novel, *An Untamed State*, was longlisted for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize. In 2017, Gay released her bestselling memoir, *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*, which was called “Luminous. . . . intellectually rigorous and deeply moving” by *The New York Times*. She also released her collection of short stories, *Difficult Women*. *The Los Angeles Times* says of the collection, “There’s a distinct echo of Angela Carter or Helen Oyeyemi at play; dark fables and twisted morality tales sit alongside the contemporary and the realistic.”

Read Roxane Gay’s full bio.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences.

The livestreamed keynote address will include open captions and ASL interpretation.

# **Friday, March 28, 2025**

**7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. PT**

## **F100. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PT**

## **F100A. Los Angeles Writers Gathering Space.**

In-Person.

Room 512, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

We invite local Los Angeles-area writers to meet up in this informal space to share stories, swap resources, and make new connections.

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

**F101. Conference Registration.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP's registration area located to the right of the escalators in the West Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, level 1. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

**F102. Dickinson Quiet Space 1.**

In-Person.

Room 506, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. "There is a solitude of space, / A

solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these /  
Society shall be, / Compared with that  
profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul  
admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily  
Dickinson

### **F103. Dickinson Quiet Space 2.**

In-Person.

Room 507, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your  
thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary  
commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A  
solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these /  
Society shall be, / Compared with that  
profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul  
admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily  
Dickinson

### **F104. Low-Light Space.**

In-Person.

Room 511C, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the Convention Center.

### **F105. Lactation Lounge.**

In-Person.

Room 517, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The lactation lounge is located in Room 517 of the Los Angeles Convention Center and is available for any nursing parent to use.

**8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. PT**

### **F106. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**

In-Person.

Room 505, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and

your work. Returning for a sixth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: In Adrienne's Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$950.) Additional images: \$75 each. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/am-photography/awp25>

**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

**F107. AWP Bookfair.**

In-Person.



West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With more than seven hundred literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

### **F108. Bookfair Concessions.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Concessions are available in the West Lobby and inside West Hall A in the Los Angeles Convention Center. Debit, credit cards, and tap to pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. PT**

## **F109. Yoga for Writers.**

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PT**

## **F110. Black Words Are Black Wealth: A Lecture by Tayari Jones, Sponsored by IngramSpark.**

(Tayari Jones)

In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

HBCUs have long been the incubator for African American literature, and also for robust debate. The gift of self-definition is the true endowment of our institutions. This lecture, part of the #AWP25 HBCU Fellowship Program, discusses this long legacy and also the route forward for Black writers who come of age at HBCUs—as students and as faculty members. This is about how we honor our proud past as we shape our meaningful and consequential future.

Read the #AWP25 HBCU creative advisor's bio.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F111. All Mixed Up: The Experience of Writing Mixed Race/Ethnicity.**

(Latifa Ayad, Summer J. Hart, Sophia Khan, Jennifer Maritza McCauley, Kimberly Quiogue Andrews)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Mixed writers have a powerful cultural placement, able to understand and access the experiences of multiple races/ethnicities. Yet those of mixed race/ethnicity often struggle with a sense of identity and belonging. Five mixed writers discuss the challenges they've faced in defining their identities, how they have navigated being mixed on the page, and how their work illuminates the experience of being mixed, in addition to speculating about the future place of mixed-race writers in the literary canon.

**F112. Our Dirty Little Secret: On How (& Why) to Find a Book Coach.**

(Rajpreet Heir, Marita Golden, Steph Liberatore, Courtney Maum, Eraldo Souza dos Santos)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

You're at your desk, plugging away on a project you love. Shouldn't it be easier? If you're plagued by uncertainty and have been pushing around the same paragraphs for a year, or maybe ten, you are not alone. This is where the invaluable role of a book coach comes in. In this panel, writers who have found success using book coaches offer advice on making the most of the experience, and book coaches explain their personalized approaches to supporting writers.

### **F113. Becoming a Debut Novelist: The Journey from Agent Queries to Book Launch.**

(Laura Spence-Ash, Megan Cummins, Denne Michele Norris, Lilliam Rivera, Jemimah Wei)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The path from finishing a book draft to launching a debut novel into the world is thrilling and exciting, but it is also long and full of twists and turns. This panel of debut novelists—with publication dates in 2024 and 2025—will discuss all aspects of this journey, including finding an agent, selling the book, working with an editor, and navigating marketing and publicity. The aim of the panel is to be transparent and to provide helpful advice for all debut novelists to come.

**F114. Women of a Certain Age on Sex & Death: “I Took the Lake Between My Legs”.**

(Rebecca Foust, Mahogany Browne, Susan Browne, Julia Levine)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In her poem “Morning Swim,” Maxine Kumin defies societal expectations that sexuality is exclusively for the young. In this reading, five award-winning poets aged from mid-forties to mid-seventies will share frankly erotic work that makes a bulwark of bodily sensuality against death, time, and our aging selves. Shoring these fragments against our ruins can be exhilarating, painful, or painfully funny. Sometimes it nurtures a rare and fierce flame, building beauty that lasts.

### **F115. Uncertain Characters in Uncertain Times.**

(Annell Lopez, Jai Chakrabarti, Sheila Sundar, Felicia Berliner)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do novelists craft characters who are coming into their own in a fractured and uncertain world? How do we infuse stories with the intimacy of characters’ self-awareness and

their emergent understanding of the social order? Spanning the ultra-Orthodox community of Brooklyn, to contemporary South India, to the gentrifying Bronx and post–World War II Poland, this panel brings together four novelists whose writing sheds light on the internal and external struggles of finding one’s way.

**F116. The Art of Noticing in the Age of Disappearance.**

(Brittany Torres Rivera, Marie Mutsuki Mockett, Harryette Mullen, Mai Der Vang, Robin Walter)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel brings together writers whose new works in various genres perform intense observations of the world. The panelists discuss how careful acts of noticing—as in poems devoted to an endangered mammal in Laos and Vietnam and in a novel that begins with a sick



tree in a California garden—give them an entry to contend with environmental exploitation and human isolation. They ask, What are the limits of language in describing and repairing our relationship to nature and to one another?

**F117. On Truth & Family Relationships in the Memoir: Bock, Qu, Khan, Lovato & Solomon.**

(Dorothy Solomon, Roberto Lovato, Charles Bock, Hanae Jonas, Anna Qu)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five well-known memoirists—Charles Bock, Anna Qu, Sorayya Khan, Roberto Lovato, and Dorothy Solomon—present examples from their work and discuss how each has negotiated the often-difficult balance between writing the full truth and/or withholding because of sensitivities to family relationships. How faithful to truth must a memoir be when writing about family relationships? What are the ethics (if any) for

when to tell all and when to withhold?  
Moderated by Dorothy Solomon, UNLV.

**F118. Beauty of the Unwanted: Exploring the  
New Literary Terrain of California.**

(Carribean Fragoza, Melissa Hidalgo, Jenise  
Miller, Ruth Nolan)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Pushing beyond clichés of the “California  
Dream,” the Golden State, as embodied in a new  
literary terrain, is deviant and recalcitrant, proud  
and humble, joyful and communal and  
powerfully honest as it reclaims the beauty of  
the unwanted, the quotidian, and the out-of-  
place. This panel represents distinct literary  
voices of several contemporary essayists from  
California who are drawn to reenvisioning “the  
spirit of a place” in ways that challenge and  
fulfill the literary imagination.

**F119. Writing Jewishly, Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council.**

(Stephanie Butnick, Benjamin Resnick, Jessica Elisheva Emerson, Sasha Vasilyuk)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

For centuries, Jews have written stories inspired by their own circumstances, making art out of the realities of Jewish life. The styles and specifics differ, but the stories endure. Today a new generation of authors continue the rich tradition of Jewish storytelling, bringing compelling, modern novels to life. In doing so, they sustain a legacy of thoughtful and inquisitive conversation.

**F120. Callaloo Literary Journal: The Revitalization of a Legacy.**

(Kyla Kupferstein Torres, Vievee Francis, Jacinda Townsend, Matthew Shenoda)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Dr. Charles H. Rowell founded Callaloo in 1976. It quickly emerged as the most essential journal for African American and African Diaspora studies worldwide. Upon his retirement, the journal struggled to continue publishing, but is now undergoing a revitalization. This panel will feature a conversation with Callaloo contributors and editors, past and present, about the challenges faced by small publications, particularly those that are run by and champion the work of Black people.

**F121. Adjunct Writers Caucus.**

(Stephanie M. Lindberg, Cara Diaconoff, Elizabeth Donald, Joseph Hess, Mike Spry)  
Caucus. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Are you an adjunct or part-time instructor at a college or university? Do you support adjuncts,

maybe as a former adjunct yourself? Join us! The Adjunct Writers Caucus provides a space for writers who are also instructors to connect with others to learn and grow in their personal and professional lives. The caucus strives to provide visibility for this large subset of instructors, as well as space for discussion, support, and resources for its members.

### **F122. The Alchemy of Adaptation: The Screenwriter's Approach.**

(Patricia Meyer, Beth Serlin, Stacy Spruill, Karol Hoeffner)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In a panel discussion, four professional screenwriters/educators will share their approach to the challenging alchemy of adaptation. Dramatic structure for screenplays and series is distinctive from other story forms. The panelists will share the tools they use to distill and transform source material into the

cinematic form, no matter the format or genre. To illuminate the process, they will offer specific examples from their own experience of adapting source material for the studios and networks.

### **F123. Tricks of the Trade: Teaching Literary Editing & Publishing.**

(Jeremy Schraffenberger, Elijah Burrell, Jennifer Case, Sarah Matthes, Mary Ann Miller)  
Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Five magazine editors offer advice and share their experiences of teaching project-based literary editing and publishing courses. The unique pedagogical and production challenges of involving students in this collaborative work are discussed. Panelists describe the benefits to students, teachers, departments, and institutions of including the publication of a literary magazine in the curriculum, outlining the most

effective models for creating and sustaining a robust learning laboratory.

**F124. The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Founders Archive Project.**

(Kendra Sullivan, Lois Griffith, Vallerie Matos, Jonathan Toro, Joseph Caceres)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel focuses on the hybrid literary works created by writers working in an Afro-Caribbean organization dedicated to preserving the fifty-year legacy of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe—an Afro-Puerto Rican cultural organization located in Manhattan’s Lower East Side—from being elided by revisionist history. These writers will discuss the difficulties of producing work that documents the lives of those silenced by colonial violence while highlighting the importance of such work in liberatory projects.

**F125. This Book Is Free & Yours to Keep.**

(Katy Ryan, Destinee Harper, Steven Lazar, Ellen Skirvin)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Panelists introduce *This Book Is Free and Yours to Keep: Notes from the Appalachian Prison Book Project (APBP)*, a new collection of letters, creative writing, and art by people in prison. APBP mails free books to people imprisoned in six states, creates book clubs in prisons, awards scholarships, and engages the public in conversation about abolition and transformative justice. Our book draws from twenty years of nonprofit work in West Virginia. We describe the book's extensive editing process and advocate for educational access and equity.

**F126. Color/Line/Collage: Readings at the Edge of Comics.**

(Sarah Leavitt, Johnny Damm, Mita Mahato)



Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

This reading features cartoonists who use poetry, abstraction, and collage to push the boundaries of the comics medium. The trio will read from their work and discuss the importance of formal experimentation when dealing with complex and rapidly evolving issues, such as climate catastrophe, state-sanctioned police violence, and medical assistance in dying. The reading will showcase how hybrid forms open space for multiple perspectives, alternate realities, and new vocabularies.

**F127. Poetry & Climate: Building Eco-Resilience Through Poetry & Community Action.**

(Nickole Brown, David Hassler, Kimberly Blaeser, Sean Hill, Jane Hirshfield)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

How can poetry build resilience during the climate crisis by connecting us to one another and the more-than-human world, while giving us courage to act? Poets for Science founder Jane Hirshfield and three other poets will share initiatives and collaborations that bring poetry to the most urgent and evolving needs of our time. This panel will showcase multimedia creations stemming from research-based and scientifically informed approaches to poetry that use innovative methods to build community.

**F128. The Long & Short of Craft: Authors Publishing Novels & Flash Fiction.**

(Sherrie Flick, Venita Blackburn, John Dufresne, Alan Michael Parker)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Many writers struggle with when and how to compress and expand their fiction. These panelists, experts in both the flash and novel form, will discuss tips and strategies for finding

the best size for your story, what the two opposite ends of the writing spectrum have to learn from each other, and how stretching your expertise helps a career.

**F129. Pedagogy of the Distressed: Mental Health in the Postpandemic Writing Classroom.**

(Lisa Page, janan alexandra, Joseph J. Capista, Adrienne Perry, Annie Liontas)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

Chronic absence, disengagement, and trauma in workshop: How has our postpandemic pedagogy evolved in response to Gen C's ongoing mental health struggles? Hear an array of creative writing instructors share instructional strategies designed to nurture creativity and to build competency while supporting student mental health needs. Joining us is a poet and psychotherapist who will speak to writing's

efficacy as a tool for healing and wellness.  
Bring questions, anecdotes, and ideas!

**F130. Eyes Wide: Exploring the Extended Ekphrastic.**

(Tess Taylor, Victoria Chang, Tyree Daye, Dean Rader, Allison Rollins)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Ekphrasis—“adding commentary”—traditionally lets a poet meditate on a single work of art. But increasingly poets are upending and enlarging ekphrastic forms, extending the ekphrastic to include art practices, artist’s lives, and historic, familial, and personal archives. Extended ekphrastic touches other forms—autobiography, memoir, criticism, documentary poetry. In this panel, five poets with diverse working methods will examine the challenges and rewards of extending the frame.

**F131. Away from Her: Canadian Writers on the Work & Evolving Legacy of Alice Munro.**

(Holly Flauto, Dionne Irving, Kathryn Mockler, Kasia Van Schaik, Kevin Chong)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Shortly after Alice Munro's death in 2024, a family history of child sexual abuse and silence was revealed by the Nobel laureate's daughter, Andrea Robin Skinner. A year later, fiction writers from her home country reflect on the life and suddenly contentious legacy of an artist once described by New Yorker critic James Wood as "our Chekhov." In what ways have they been influenced by her portrayals of domestic lives and Canada? Can they continue to read and teach her writing? And if so, how?

**F133. Preparing Students for Life Beyond the Writing Program.**

(Marian Crotty, Katie Cortese, Amina Gautier, Rochelle Hurt, Jack Wang)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Many students leave writing programs with uncertainty about their careers and questions about how to keep writing and publishing after graduation. From developing marketable job skills to querying agents and applying for grants and residencies, this group of panelists will share practical strategies for teaching undergraduate and graduate students how to support their writing, publish their work, and maintain an active writing practice outside a writing program.

**F134. Art & Craft of Speculative Memoir.**

(August Grimm, Shannon Gibney, Carmen Maria Machado, Jami Nakamura Lin, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Writing outside the boundaries of the verifiable in memoir can feel like being lost in the woods. But speculative memoir provides the space to interrogate truths through fabulism, folklore, imagined lives, hauntedness, and other slanted lenses. Authors will discuss how the speculative operates in their own books, the philosophy of their choices, the definitions of the genre, and the freedom it offers marginalized communities to challenge and renegotiate society's definition of reality.

### **F135. Positionality in Publishing.**

(Andrew Hoe, Mary Fan, Frankie Huang)

Writers' Conferences & Centers. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Panel discussion on how positionality (one's station as community member or earnest ally) informs the editorial and writing process.

Marginalized authors have many stories of well-meaning yet problematic treatment by dominant gatekeepers (white editors, publishers, agents,

etc.). Even marginalized editors misstep dealing with other marginalized authors. In this panel, experienced authors advise publishers and authors on how positionality alleviates problematic decision-making and behaviors.

**10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PT**

**F136. Divergent, Delusional & Inspired: The Stories We Choose to Tell.**

(Erin Wood, Charlotte Maya, Natasha Williams, Agata Szczeszak-Brewer, Lisa St John)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Stories are essential to making sense of our lives, but when they are hidden or silenced, we miss out on what makes us exceptional. These writers are looking to claim lost narratives. Beyond the stigma and headlines, they share the challenges and losses and also the triumphs of living with schizophrenia, coping with suicide and illness, or choosing celibacy in



middle age—charting a way forward, learning self-care and advocacy while embracing the truth of life’s complexities.

**F137. Big Ideas, Short Forms: Sarabande Writers on the Art & Craft of the Short Form.**

(Kristen Renee Miller, Khaled Mattawa, Kiki Petrosino, Whitney Collins)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As a publisher of hybrid works, chapbooks, novels in stories, and experimental prose, Sarabande has championed the short form for more than three decades! Here, four nationally acclaimed writers will present and discuss original short form works of various genres, including poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. They will address structure, density, beginnings and endings, sudden moves, white space, and other tools in the short form writer’s toolbox.

Read the presenters' bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F138. Library of America & Rigoberto González Present: Latinx Poetry Then & Now.**

(Rigoberto González, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Alexandra Lytton Regalado, Brandon Som, Eduardo Corral)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology is an unprecedented collection that brings together more than 180 poets whose work testifies to the multifaceted past and present of Latinx poetry—its linguistic inventiveness, and its critical reimagining of

questions of exile, language, ancestry, identity, and place. In a reading and conversation moderated by editor Rigoberto González, four poets read from the anthology and discuss the ongoing impact of Latinx poetry on American literature.

**F139. California Counternarratives: Stories That Remap the State.**

(Keenan Norris, Alex Espinoza, Jean Guerrero, Vanessa Hua, Susan Straight)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will feature award-winning writers Alex Espinoza, Jean Guerrero, Susan Straight, and Vanessa Hua in a dialogue about how their narratives, fictional and real, have countered prevailing understandings of the state from the 1980s through the present. Keenan Norris will moderate the panel. Looking beyond their work,

the writers will discuss how emerging writers based in the state continue to recast California.

**F140. Whose Fault Is It, Anyway?.**

(David St. John, Aimee Bender, Maggie Nelson, Danzy Senna, Dana Johnson)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

When, in Julius Caesar, Cassius says, “Our fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars but in ourselves,” we see a question implicit in all genres of writing: Do characters and history equal destiny? Does circumstance erase choice and personal agency? Four distinguished writers of fiction, poetry, and essay consider how, in their own work, the fault lines of experience intersect with both one’s present and our collective pasts.

**F141. Somehow I Manage: Managing Editors Who Manage Editors.**

(Emily Stowe, duncan barlow, Jessica Poli, Stephanie G'Schwind)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The office of every literary magazine operates differently. Panelists discuss their experiences as managing editors, describing some of the challenges and triumphs of overseeing the publication of a literary magazine. They share practical tips, helpful resources, and necessary advice to ensure their magazines run smoothly, no matter the size of the staff. Topics include internal business processes, subscription and marketing campaigns, printing and distribution, website management, and others.

**F142. Dear Yusef: Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes For & About One Mr. Komunyakaa.**

(John Murillo, Deborah Paredez, Didi Jackson, Adrian Matejka, Nicole Sealey)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Yusef Komunyakaa is not only one of the most influential poets of the last half century, but also one of its most beloved teachers and mentors. This panel features fellow poets, friends, and former students reading from the anthology gathered in his honor, *Dear Yusef: Essays, Letters, and Poems, For and About One Mr. Komunyakaa*.

### **F143. Novels in Stories, Fragments & Constellations.**

(Helen Georgas, Nicole Haroutunian, Yiming Ma, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Ananda Lima)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What defines a novel? Publishing can be binary and risk averse; it also rewards innovation. It's confusing! These panelists' published or forthcoming books play with form in "novel" ways. Each writer will address why a structural

in-betweenness was essential to their work and the reception they've received from readers, agents, and editors. Hear reflections on form and craft from writers across speculative and realistic fiction, emerging and established voices, and small and Big Five presses.

### **F144. LA Storytellers & Writing for the Stage.**

(Kona Morris, Chris De La Cruz, Cara Lopez Lee, Miyo Yamauchi, Antonio Sacre)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

LA has a diverse and vibrant community with some of the best storytellers in the world. Join us for a unique craft talk focusing on how to compose your personal life experiences for the timeless art of live storytelling! We will discuss the way this medium differs from other forms of literature, and how to adapt your stories for distinct styles, such as for The Moth Radio Hour (NPR), the RISK! podcast, and comedy and solo

shows. Storytelling inspires memoir writing, and it strengthens communication skills!

**F145. From Dusk till Dawn: Exploring Nocturnes & Aubades.**

(Amy Ash, Amorak Huey, Curtis L. Crisler, Tatiana Johnson-Boria, Kevin McKelvey)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Nature's voltas, dusk and dawn are periods of tension, anticipation, and dramatic change. As poems of beginnings and endings, longing and leave-taking, dreamlike wonder and song, the nocturne and the aubade engage liminal spaces of possibility and transformation. How do poets harness the power of these twilight periods? How do they draw from the inherent tensions of these poetic modes? This panel will explore the complexity and abundant offerings, the push and pull of these evocative poems.



**F146. Advocating for Your Story in YA as a BIPOC author.**

(Clare Osongco, Jade Adia, Alex Brown, Trinity Nguyen, Ream Shukairy)

Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person. Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

We are a group of BIPOC authors who've published novels in different genres of young adult—romance, thriller, contemporary, and horror—and we're holding a panel where we'll discuss different nuances and challenges of navigating the YA world in traditional publishing as BIPOC authors, and ways that we've had to advocate for our stories at different points throughout the process, from querying through the editorial process, all the way to marketing.

**F147. Here & Now: Thoughts on the Second Indigenous Literary Renaissance.**

(Conley Lyons, Stacie Denetsosie, Kinsale Drake, Chelsea Hicks, Tiana Kahakauwila)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The first Indigenous literary renaissance brought us thoughtful luminaries who influenced generations of writers with their craft and knowledge. Today, we're continuing that cultural movement as authors of many Native nations are writing dynamic, forward-thinking stories. Our panel discusses the craft of writing in our native languages, leveraging our unique perspectives and life experiences, and engaging in futurist thinking, all of which help us shape the future for other Indigenous writers.

**F148. Jewish Writers Caucus.**

(Jessica Jacobs, Lauren Grodstein, Josh Rolnick,  
Margot Singer)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

The Jewish Writers Caucus invites writers to meet each other, discuss challenges and

opportunities, share resources, and suggest how AWP can better support Jewish writers, all in a space welcoming to Jews of all denominations, degrees of religious engagement, races, ethnicities, sexualities, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, and political affiliations. An often-invisible minority—invisible at times even to each other—we aim to connect Jewish writers and celebrate the significance of our stories.

**F149. Failing Again, Failing Better: The Joys of Revision.**

(Chris Feliciano Arnold, RO Kwon, Camille Rankine, Lauren Markham, Ingrid Rojas Contreras)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Must revision be all tax and toil? How might it be a process of exaltation and discovery, of further connecting with the thing we're making to better understand what it needs of us? This

cross-genre panel featuring widely published writers of poetry, memoir, journalism, essays, and fiction will engage with the challenges and demands of revision, and offer insight into their own revision strategies, including before and after samples and visual portrayals of their revision processes over time.

### **F150. Connecting Communities Through Creative Writing.**

(giovanni singleton, Lauri Scheyer, Will Alexander, Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Mike Sonksen)  
Program Development. In-Person.  
Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

At Cal State LA, creative writing is integral to the university's mission and history as a means to build internal and external community. In 2025, *Statement Magazine*, a past winner of AWP's National Program Directors' Prize, celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, and the Center for Contemporary Poetry and Poetics celebrates its twentieth anniversary. A variety of

stakeholders discuss ways that creative writing strengthens universities and builds beneficial bonds with the community, using Cal State LA as an example.

**F151. Sumud Motifs: Woven Inheritances in Arab Visual & Literary Storytelling.**

(Micaela Kaibni Raen, Doris Bittar, Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Marguerite Dabaie, Samah Fadi)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Award-winning Arab, Black, and Indigenous creators are weaving literary and visual elements, rendering multicultural multimedia modalities grounded in sumud/steadfastness and decolonial resistance to oppression. Award-winning Womanist/Queer/Trans creatives will share cutting-edge storytelling structures through graphic novels, installation art, poetry based on Palestinian Tatreez, dance/movement,

graphic art, multilingual printmaking, and text within painting/audio/video/visual poetics.

**F152. The Long Haul: Sustainability for Small Literary Arts Nonprofits.**

(Helene Achanzar, Amanda Johnston, B. Metzger Sampson, Erin Quick, Matt Weinkam)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join leaders of the Chicago Poetry Center, Literary Cleveland, Torch Literary Arts, and the Saint Louis Poetry Center as they discuss sustainability and their commitment to empowering communities. Learn how to offer expansive programming on a limited budget, forge capacity-building partnerships, and steward the next generation of writers with resources and opportunities outside of the MFA. With a history of innovation and reinvention, these organizations prove that inclusivity and community focus are vital to organizational longevity and success.

**F153. A Desert Full of Color: Creating & Supporting BIPOC Spaces in LA.**

(Peter Woods, Sarah Rafael Garcia, Romeo Guzman, traci kato-kiriyama)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Can a handful of established institutions serve the communities of a sprawling desert properly? Should BIPOC talent and labor be used to fight for access to PWI, or are we better served by creating and building our own spaces? Four writers, publishers, teachers, and community builders from the Los Angeles area discuss who benefits from inclusion into historically white spaces and whose work gets co-opted and ultimately wasted when BIPOC communities don't build their own institutions.

**F154. Making Meaning out of Work: The New American Labor Poetry.**

(Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, Ama Codjoe, Edgar Kunz, Rosanna Oh, Joseph Rios)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Labor—retail work, entrepreneurship—is entwined with the American Dream, shaping our values and informing our relationships with others. We equate our worth and identities to our jobs and may even reduce others to theirs. This panel features five poets who will discuss how poetry’s antagonism to capitalist structures can be a means to limit and expand personhood, as well as explore the impact of mechanization in daily life. How does writing about labor negotiate a poem’s aesthetics?

**F155. Perfecting the Pivot: Starting Over (or in the Middle) in Academia.**

(Amy Butcher, Brooke Champagne, Rebecca Pelky, Molly McCully Brown)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.



Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As universities across the nation endure the impacts of the impending enrollment cliff, many faculty feel forced to make the difficult decision to start over, often despite established careers, their own desires, and a sense of safety traditionally secured by tenure. In this panel, participants will discuss the way their careers have necessarily shifted in response to higher ed's ever-evolving landscape and the insights they've gleaned that have helped them navigate the process of starting over.

**F156. The Pedagogy of Climate Change.**

(Lawrence Coates, Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Laura-Gray Street, Pamela Uschuk)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

In the era of climate change, how can teachers of creative writing introduce our concerns for

the earth, humans, animals, plants into the classroom? How can we transform our pedagogy in a way that fosters student engagement with the urgent ecological issues of our times? Participants specializing in various genres will share strategies and approaches to encourage our students to be conscious and aware of the challenges we face, and to make that awareness integral to their own creative work.

**F157. Can I Write That? At the Crossroads of Social Change & Conscious Language.**

(Stephanie Lenox, Kavita Das, Sonya Huber, Paisley Rekdal, Karen Yin)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writers know words matter, but they are not all that matters. Our craft exists within a personal, social, historical, and cultural framework. We face constant linguistic change and concerns

about cultural appropriation, tokenism, stereotypes, and other harmful representations. This session investigates how we can adopt inclusive, socially responsible approaches to creative projects. Presenters steeped in how writing inspires change will explore creative freedom and cultural sensitivity.

### **F158. New Mythologies in South Asian Literature.**

(Jafreen Uddin, Aparna Verma)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What happens when South Asian futurities and mythologies collide? How do we envision that which has yet to exist? This panel of speculative fiction, science fiction, and postcolonial writers from South Asia and the South Asian Diaspora will collectively share their practices and processes for reimagining, remixing, and reunderstanding mythologies, including South

Asian folklore, legends, and epics through and beyond time.

**F159. Santa Fe's School for Plays: Bilingual Adventures in Playwriting Education.**

(Jacob Kaltenbach, Maritza Sánchez, Norah Tullman-Kaltenbach)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do you build a playwright? What can playwriting mean to a new generation? As fears about AI complicated teaching plans, we encouraged our students to create in motion: to put down computers and phones, explore their communities, record words and impressions, and make plays in Spanish and English. The presenters will share tips drawn from training high school students in collaborative research and devising and writing short Spanish, English, and bilingual plays rooted in shared experience.

**F160. The Translator's Note: Bridging Linguistic & Cultural Chasms, Sponsored by ALTA.**

(Blas Falconer, Armen Davoudian, Sandra Alcosser, Nancy Naomi Carlson, Wayne Miller)  
Translation. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Translator's Note is an indispensable companion to poetry in translation, acquainting readers with new poets, helping editors to evaluate poems, positioning a poet's significance within a literary landscape, defining challenges in a particular piece, and more.

Translating from Albanian, French, Persian, Portuguese, and Spanish, our panelists will address how the Translator's Note bridges linguistic and cultural chasms while fostering an understanding and appreciation for diverse voices.

**F161. Going Indie: Why & How to Work with Independent Publishers & Bookstores.**

(Lori Feathers, Suzette Mayr, Yuka Igarashi,  
Corinna Vallianatos, Alana Wilcox)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

How do independent presses and their authors collaborate throughout the process of publishing a book, from submission, acceptance, and editorial, to marketing, sales, and beyond? How do these publishers work with distributors and indie bookstores to raise the profile of their authors and maximize sales? Representatives of indie presses in the US and Canada, their authors, and an indie bookstore owner share their practices and elaborate on their methods to foster a writer's work.

**F162. Writing & Publishing in the AI Era,  
Sponsored by the Authors Guild.**

(Mary Rasenberger, Rich Benjamin, Vauhini  
Vara, Umair Kazi)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.

Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Artificial intelligence has sparked existential questions about what it means to be a writer. It has also brought real, material changes to the lives of writers. What is gained and lost with increasingly powerful AI? How do we reconcile the need to retain humanity in the arts while navigating a world in which many writers and the publishing industry itself embrace AI? This discussion convenes acclaimed authors with advocates from the Authors Guild to discuss AI's impact on writing as an art and a profession.

**F163. Revisions: Performing Heart Surgery  
on Yourself Without Anesthesia.**

(Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Maria  
Kuznetsova, Sanjena Sathian, Andrea Jurjevic,  
Caroline Kim)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

To be a successful writer, one has to develop two essential yet opposite skills: generating a first draft and revising. Five prizewinning authors will lead a discussion on the often painful, often brutal process of revision; the choices they had to make, whether on their own or while working with editors/publishers; and what determined those choices.

**10:35 a.m. to 1:25 p.m. PT**

**F163A. AWP Writing Organization Council Meeting.**

In-Person.

Room 512, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Previously called the WC&C Meeting, this meeting is the official convening of all AWP writing organization members. Please join us for a lunch and an informal working session with Writing Organization Council chair Mimi



Herman and director of membership services & publications Miranda González.

**12:10 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. PT**

**F164. Meditation for Writers: Seeing Clearly.**  
(April Davila)

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join April Dávila, a certified mindfulness meditation teacher, for a calming, one-hour meditation session. The session will begin and end with fifteen minutes of guided meditation. The middle thirty minutes will explore a specific mindfulness topic. On Friday, March 28, participants will focus on seeing things as they truly are, in the present moment, without judgment. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. PT**

**F165. Poems for Our Nonhuman Kin: A Reading from The Uncollected Animals.**

(Kimiko Hahn, John Kinsella, Fred D'Aguiar, Holly Amos)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How have poets throughout the ages amplified the animal rights discussion? Sampling original and historical work from *The Uncollected Animals*, a global anthology that places the welfare of nonhuman animals at the forefront, we will explore the material and the questions surrounding it. The participants will read their own contributions plus other poems from the book and will speak about the poems and the topic. In a time of human-induced mass extinctions, this subject could not be more vital.

**F166. Nightboat Books Through the Ages: A Twentieth-Anniversary Reading.**

(Kazim Ali, Brian Teare, Brandon Som, Jackie Wang, Dawn Lundy Martin)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Over the last two decades, Nightboat Books has developed audiences for writers whose work resists convention and transcends boundaries, publishing more than two hundred books rich with poignancy, intelligence, and risk. To celebrate, a constellation of our authors—Dawn Lundy Martin, Brandon Som, Brian Teare, and Jackie Wang—together with our cofounder Kazim Ali, will read from their work as well as texts by other beloved Nightboat authors, from Etel Adnan and Fanny Howe to Assotto Saint and Lou Sullivan.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be

livestreamed for virtual audiences. All  
livestreamed events include open captions.

**F167. NBF Presents: Page to Screen.**

(Ruth Dickey, Emily St. John Mandel, Charles  
Yu)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What is the relationship between writing for the  
page and for the screen? Join National Book  
Award–honored authors Emily St. John Mandel  
(Station Eleven, 2014 fiction finalist) and  
Charles Yu (Interior Chinatown, 2020 fiction  
winner) for a conversation on what it means to  
have your work adapted for film and TV, and  
the many different professional hats worn by  
contemporary writers. Moderated by Ruth  
Dickey, executive director of the National Book  
Foundation.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F168. Parenting as a Creative & Creating as a Parent.**

(Holly Taylor, Erin Khar, Mackenzie Smith Sajan, Krys Malcolm Belc)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In addition to creative work, parent writers take on the added work of teaching, parenting, and working. We act as though these roles are mutually exclusive, but those who parent and create in any endeavor bring a difficult, exhausting, unsupported, and oftentimes unacknowledged amount of labor to their work. This panel is meant to bring working parents together for support—a safe space to listen and collaborate, share resources, and bring

necessary attention to these interconnected roles.

### **F169. To Publicist or Not to Publicist?.**

(Viet Dinh, Jody Hobbs Hesler, Federico Erebia, Wendy J. Fox, Renee Simms)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Marketing and publicity is a mystery to even seasoned authors, yet writers are expected to contribute significantly to book promotion, usually without guidance or expertise. What is involved in book promotion? What do publicists do? Why do some writers engage them? Can writers create a successful M&P plan on their own? Panelists, representing an array of backgrounds and disciplines, will address why they did or didn't hire a publicist and will discuss the pros and cons of their choices.

## **F170. Leaving the Writing Cave: When, Why & How to Pursue Representation.**

(Maggie Cooper, Lucy Cleland, Lauren Scovel, Amy Bishop-Wycisk, Michaela Whatnall)  
Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Most authors have heard that to get published, they need a literary agent. But is that true? And if it is, when should they start querying? In this panel, five agents will break down when to pursue representation and the scenarios in which authors might seek other paths to publication. We'll also address at what stage of writing and/or conception authors should consider querying, how to find agents who feel aligned with their project, and how writers can put their best querying foot forward.

## **F171. Ecopoetics in a Time of Grief: Queer & Trans Perspectives.**

(Cass Donish, Luther Hughes, Elijah Guerra,  
Paul Tran, S Yarberry)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

What is queer and trans about ecopoetics? In this panel, five poets—with intimate connections to LA—will respond to the conditions of our shared world. We'll explore relationships between queer poetics, trans grief, colonial violence, and environmental justice to arrive at why we must queer our contact with a suffering planet and its communities. We'll consider speculative aesthetics, prosody, and genre hybridity as forms of resistance—and as forms of engagement with bodies and climates in transition.

**F172. The Virtual Workshop: Tips for  
Teaching Creative Writing Online.**

(Kali White VanBaale, Kirsten Imani Kasai,  
David Maduli, Donald Quist, Mathieu Cailler)

Pedagogy. In-Person.



Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Asynchronous online writing workshops have existed for years, but how can instructors and students generate fruitful discussions of creative works without synchronous conversations?

What approaches must instructors consider for virtual classrooms with diverse student populations? Five experienced educators from various institutions will discuss tips on generating community and engagement, inclusivity and equity, hybrid models, and best practices to build thriving virtual workshop spaces.

**F173. Unapologetically Uncanny & Unsettling: Bending Reality in Short Fiction.**

(Marguerite Sheffer, Anjali Sachdeva, Cleo Qian, Chelsea Sutton, Lena Valencia)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Short fiction is a rich playground for the weird! Panelists—all of whom have published short fiction collections that bend reality and the border between “literary” and “speculative” genres—will share what attracts them to the uncanny and how they write (and publish) fiction that embraces the strange, wondrous, and unsettling in the short form. These five women writers will also discuss how weird fiction is a vehicle for expressing experiences of marginalization, gender, and sexuality.

**F174. Crafting the Memoir in Essays.**

(Nicole Graev Lipson, Eiren Caffall, Freda Epum, Emily Raboteau, José Vadi)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

The memoir in essays has taken off as a form in recent years, appealing to writers and readers alike. What distinguishes this genre from its closest siblings—the memoir and the essay collection—and what are its unique imaginative

possibilities? Is there something about our current age that lends itself to this nonlinear storytelling mode in particular? In this panel, five authors discuss their journeys conceiving, developing, and publishing their memoirs in essays, sharing what they've learned.

**F175. The Explosion of Oral Storytelling:  
The Power of Moving from Page to Stage.**

(Beth Ann Fennelly, Jitesh Jaggi, Andrea Askowitz, Devan Sandiford)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What can we learn by standing spotlit before an audience and telling our truths with no notes, no book in hand? Four nonfiction writers who've successfully moved from page to stage will tell of their experiences with TED Talks, The Moth, spoken word, videos, and storytelling podcasts such as Writing Class Radio. We'll explore what writers can learn from this most authentic form of storytelling, and we'll provide craft tips for

audience members who wish to give out-loud storytelling a try.

**F176. Beyond a Homeland: Celebrating Iranian American Women Writers.**

(Shideh Etaat, Jasmin Darznik, Sahar Delijani, Marjan Kamali, Porochista Khakpour)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do writers make sense of the Iranian diasporic experience? This reading highlights Iranian American women fiction authors, all with incredibly varied connections to Iran. How do their relationships with a homeland that has been taken from them help shape the stories they tell? This is Iran beyond the news headlines. Discussion will follow the reading.

**F177. The Sisterhoods: Friendship, Feminism, Lineage & Perseverance.**

(Jennifer Firestone, Tonya Foster, Erica Hunt, Harryette Mullen, Patricia Jones)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Four feminist avant-garde poets will discuss how “the Sisterhood,” a network of black feminist writers and activists formed during the Black Arts Movement in the 1970s, deeply informs how they think about their own self-identified lineages and contexts today. The panelists will share how the Sisterhood, as documented in a 1977 photograph taken at June Jordan’s home of writers and activists, catalyzed their contemporary enactment of a peer support system for black feminist avant-garde poetics.

**F178. Beyond Translation: Two Writers, Two Languages.**

(S.L. (Sandi) Wisenberg, Mary Hawley, Michael Warr, Chun Yu)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

A community workshop for African American and Chinese writers. An exchange between two bilingual poets, one American, one Uruguayan born, who translate and respond to one another's poems with more poems. A collaboration between a French professor and a creative writer based on prison letters written by a female Resistance fighter. We describe our experiences, projects, and our processes in creating our own new work, and teaching others to create new work.

### **F179. Do the Hustle: How to Publicize Your Book.**

(Sasha Vasilyuk, Rasheed Newson, Kathy Daneman, Elise Hu, Ruth Madievsky)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In today's crowded publishing landscape, getting publicity for your book is essential for reaching readers, supporting sales, and

increasing your chances of publishing your next book. Yet many in-house publicists—if you're lucky to be assigned one—are stretched thin, making it essential for writers to learn how to garner publicity on their own. Come get PR tips and tricks from four debut authors and a freelance publicist, including building media contacts, placing op-eds/essays, and using social media for PR, all to build Big Buzz for your book.

**F180. Reimagining Futures Through Innovative & Speculative Writing.**

(Danielle Pafunda, Ching-In Chen, Katie Jean Shinkle, Dior J. Stephens, Kenning JP Garcia)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writers know that who imagines the future and how they imagine it has a profound cultural impact on the eventual present moment. Just as Octavia Butler influenced 2024 when she set

Parable of the Sower there in 1993, we BIPOC, LGBTQIA, and disabled innovative and speculative writers rescript those bleak futures spun from our present-day marginalization that have been imagined for us. We offer world-building strategies to construct futures rooted in our resistance, liberation, safety, and joy.

### **F181. Concatenations of LA.**

(Ruben Martinez, Alex Espinoza, Raquel Gutierrez, Vickie Vertiz)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person. Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Our point of departure is author Raquel Gutiérrez's seminal essay "A Concatenation of Sprawls," which explores the '90s queer Latine underground in LA as a site of creative liberation on the margins of the raced, heteronormativized city. We propose to explore literatures that reveal the under-, alt-, DIY, and organic communities that gather in clubs, ethnic enclaves, and other diverse subcultures. We



bring together a poet (Vickie Vértiz), novelist (Alex Espinoza), and essayist (Raquel Gutiérrez), all of whom have intimate knowledge of the city, to conjure an oft hidden geography.

**F182. Of Two Minds: Cultivating a Liminal Space of Poetry & Translation.**

(Kristin Dykstra, Daniel Borzutzky, Laura Cesarco Eglin, Aaron Coleman, Vivek Narayanan)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In this panel, composed of poets who are also translators, we explore how we shift through varied personas, both when we write poetry and when we translate. Does it change or expand our creativity as we are merging or moving between these personas? Does modeling the composition of poetry on translation—or vice versa—make deeper or more distinctive work possible? Can

working at the intersection between poetry and translation enable us to move away from a dependence on “originality”?

**F183. Poetry as Preservation: Other Californias & Beyond.**

(Emily Fernandez, Gina Duran, Steven Sanchez, Cynthia Guardado, Michelle Brittan Rosado)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Believing a poem can be a vessel for preservation, this reading will gather poets writing about “other Californias” often overlooked and underrepresented. Along with a slideshow of rich visual representations, panelists will share their poetry and discuss the preservation of histories, environments, and cultures of the Sacramento Valley, the eastside of Los Angeles, Inglewood in the South Bay, the Inland Empire, and the San Joaquin Valley, as well as family histories of migration.

## **F184. Poetic License or Neurodivergence?.**

(Abriana Jette, Nazifa Islam, Robyn Lear,  
Nathan Spoon, Leslie McIntosh)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As boundaries between poetic license and neurodivergent thinking are examined, what seems like deliberate choice might sometimes be the standard way of thinking for a dyslexic, autistic, or ADHD poet. From the leaping ADHD brain to autistic hyperfixation to the dyslexic languaging of E. E. Cummings's "helves surling out of eakspeasies" or "you in win / ter who sit," this panel investigates ways neurodivergent traits weave into poetic process while extending the understanding of poetry itself.

## **F185. Writing Political Conviction: A Discussion with Three Novelists.**

(Faisal Mohyuddin, Kirstin Chen, V.V. Ganeshanathan, Sheila Sundar)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

This panel will address the subtle and overt ways novelists position characters to bear witness, from a student coming of age during the Sri Lankan Civil War, to an immigrant sociologist's awakening to caste and nationhood, to a pair of Chinese American women who band together to subvert the model minority myth. We will discuss the creative process of political world-building, the balance of research and imagination, and the task of drawing readers into the emotional and ideological heart of the story.

**F186. Parts of the Sum: Workshopping the Novel Excerpt.**

(Andrea Bewick, Michelle Huneven, Daniel Orozco, Angela Pneuman)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Traditional workshops lend themselves most easily to short stories; when discussing novel excerpts, the group will not have read the entire manuscript. This can be a challenge, but the creative writing professors on this panel have led fiction workshops in MFA programs, at the Napa Valley Writers' Conference, and for many other community writing programs; they have developed approaches to managing discussion of novel sections in ways most useful to the longform writer.

**F187. Writing Sex Beyond Survival: From Traumatic to Erotic & the Awkward In-Between.**

(Jeannine Ouellette, Natashia Deon, Gina Frangello, Rebecca Woolf, Lidia Yuknavitch)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Gertrude Stein said, "Literature—creative literature—unconcerned with sex, is

inconceivable.” Maybe that’s because sex itself is so creative, powered as much by our dreams and our divinity as by our animal needs and desires. Writing real sex reveals characters’ fears and wounds, but also their secret yearnings and human vastness. Five multigenre writers talk about writing that fully embodies and claims sex, with all its paradoxical harms, pleasures, and ecstasies of “life’s longing for itself.”

### **F188. Wandering Jews: Poetics of Diaspora & Land.**

(Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Mónica Gomery, Dan Alter, Jacqueline Osherow, Hila Ratzabi)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In a time of climate crisis and societal instability, diasporic Jewish poets contribute to the work of repair and healing with poems that connect to lands we live on and memorialize lands left behind. Repeated exiles and homecomings inform our poems on making

home where we are. How do ecopoetics converse with histories of immigration? Our poems answer the call of unfolding catastrophe and explore challenges and opportunities of our cultural and political context.

**F189. This Centre Holds & Spreads: Writing & Learning in Northern Ireland.**

(Jenny Browne, Glenn Patterson, Stephen Sexton, Connie Voisine, Dawn Watson)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Acclaimed poets and scholars from Belfast, Northern Ireland, will join together with two former Fulbright Distinguished Scholars at the Seamus Heaney Centre to discuss the cross-cultural work of the Centre, and options for US students to pursue graduate work in creative writing there, as well as opportunities for the development of research and study abroad programs. The panel will also discuss a range of

additional rich opportunities for Fulbright scholars in creative writing around the globe.

**F190. Golem, Dybbuk, Leviathan, Azazel Goat: Jewish Folklore in Contemporary Fiction.**

(Maya Sonenberg, Thomas Balazs, Kate Bernheimer, Anca Szilágyi)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Biblical stories and Jewish folktales deploy what might be called “magical realism” to preserve Jewish customs and elucidate religious, cultural, political, and ethical concepts central to Judaism. While the connection may be to specific tales or solely stylistic, this panel explores the ways contemporary Jewish fiction writers deploy these tropes and allow the intrusion of the unexpected, the uncanny, or the mystical to capture the complexities of Jewish life.



## **F191. The Daily & Long-Term Nuts & Bolts of Writing a Novel.**

(Sally Wiener Grotta, Kim Coleman Foote, Elysha Chang, Roohi Choudhry)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Step inside the minds of novelists to learn how they handle the daily and long-term challenges of their craft. What creative practices—and time management tricks—have worked for them?

What methods do they use to plan and edit their books? How do they sculpt characters into flesh-and-blood individuals? What are their approaches to research and integrating fact into the fiction? This panel will offer hard-earned reality checks on writer's block, plot twists, dialogue, and so forth.

## **F192. Poets Who Edit: The Joy & Conundrum of Wearing Two Hats.**

(Jill Bialosky, Major Jackson, Walt Hunter, Meghan O'Rourke, Shrikanth Reddy)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Poetry editors from W. W. Norton, Yale Review, The Atlantic, Harvard Review, and Paris Review discuss what it's like to be both a poet and a poetry editor. Panelists will seek to answer questions such as, Does one's own poetics interfere or highlight the poets you publish? Do you see yourself primarily as an editor or a poet? What's it like to have to turn down so many labors of love? What are you looking to publish? How do you maintain your own poetic process while publishing other poets' work?

**F193. Perspective & Perseverance in Writing  
Sobriety: Hemingway Is Not the Only Way.**

(Caitlin McGill, Kerry James Evans, Paul Haney, Natalie Lima, Darius Stewart)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Writing is better without alcohol for these award-winning, multigenre writers. A sober perspective has unlocked epiphanies in their work, but sobriety isn't easy. In this conversation, panelists celebrate community and encourage perseverance by reading their work about sobriety. They also discuss questions like, How do we write about our drunken pasts with honesty and kindness? How do we have fun alcohol-free at conferences and residencies? What do we do when writing—and life—get hard?

**1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT**

**F194. A Newly Discovered Galaxy of Words: Unsolicited Press Authors & Recent Books.**

(Douglas Cole, Terrence Tierney, Amy Shimshon-Santo, Jackson Bliss)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person. Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This event features authors with recent releases from Unsolicited Press, a small literary press in the Pacific Northwest. Home to many talented and award-winning writers, including readers Amy Shimshon-Santo, Jackson Bliss, and Douglas Cole, Unsolicited Press proudly publishes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction based on merit. The press is woman-owned and committed to publishing only women in 2025. Moderating the event will be Terry Tierney.

**F195. Cave Canem Presents Magnitude & Bond: A Field Study on Black Literary Arts Organizations.**

(Lisa Willis, Duriel E Harris, Clint Smith, Meta DuEwa Jones, Mark McBride)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Cave Canem has been engaged in a study which explores the organizational needs, strategies, and models that enable Black literary organizations to thrive despite adverse

socioeconomic conditions. The learning gained from the operations, programming, strategic planning, and leadership of such organizations is discussed in its historical and cultural context by literary powerhouses and leaders in literary arts administration. This panel will benefit anyone seeking best practices from successful arts organizations with more than 140 years of collective experience.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F196. Like a Hammer: Poets On Mass Incarceration Book Launch, Sponsored by the University of Arizona Poetry Center.**

(Diana Marie Delgado, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal, Angel Nafis, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Tongo Eisen-Martin)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Join us for launch reading of *Like a Hammer: Poets on Mass Incarceration*, an anthology of poems that unearths the shared traumas produced by America's carceral system. These powerful poems of witness address the oppressive systems that define the US prison-industrial complex, exposing cracks in a criminal justice system that often feels unchangeable. The impact of this system reverberates across generations. The poets gathered here foreground the real experiences of those affected, challenging dominant narratives, exposing injustice, and serving as a fulcrum for organizing communities. *Like a Hammer* explores how art and imagination can be vehicles for endurance, offering hope to envision a better future.

Read the panelists' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F197. A Poetics of Radical Parenting.**

(Stacey Waite, Saddiq Dzukogi, Brandon Som, Hope Wabuke, Katie Schmid Henson)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

For writers, becoming a parent can be the occasion of an intense reckoning and reenvisioning of the self, the communities one is a part of, and the work of writing. Poet parents who locate themselves within complex intersections of racial, sexual, and gender identification discuss the radical work of writing and parenting with a vision toward reimagining ties of kinship and reimagining artistic institutions that undervalue the domestic sphere.

## **F198. Landing Literary Funding & Letting Go of Scarcity.**

(Emily Smith, Robin Miura, Stephen Motika, Khalisa Rae, Bernardo Wade)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do you contextualize your publishing program or literary festival in one thousand compelling characters? Five arts leaders, publishers, editors, and writers representing Blair Publisher, Griot & Grey Owl Conference, Lookout Books, Nightboat Books, and Obsidian journal share their approaches to grants and fundraising. Learn best practices for identifying state and national opportunities, evaluating guidelines, preparing strong narratives and budgets, and collaborating with partners to build support.

## **F199. Alchemizing Belonging Outside of Academia: Writers Creating Careers Without MFAs.**



(Camille Hernandez, Camari Hawkins, Elontra Hall, Heidi Lepe)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Will my voice be heard? Do I get to be here/play in this space? Writers of color ask these questions as they enter workshops, the publishing industry, and beyond. This internal dialogue deepens in the absence of “the right degrees” that provide access and permission to question belonging in spaces not designed for them. This panel features cross-genre authors of color as they examine how to navigate the publishing industry on their own terms, while alchemizing a code of belonging.

**F200. From Prose to Screen & Back Again.**

(Dani Hedlund, Charlie Jane Anders, Hart Hanson, Bart Nickerson)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

How do writers transcend medium to bring impactful characters and gripping tales to the page and the screen? What challenges face a writer adapting their work, or simply shifting from the written to spoken word and vice versa? This panel will explore the meaningful differences between screenwriting and novel writing, the obstacles inherent to creating deep internal character arcs using dialogue and stage direction alone, and how writers mold their style for success in wildly different media.

**F201. Persea Books Fiftieth-Anniversary  
Poetry Reading.**

(Molly McCully Brown, Cameron Awkward-Rich, Patrick Rosal, Lisa Russ Spaar, Alexandra Teague)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Since its founding, Persea Books has centered poetry in its mission to discover essential literary voices. It has introduced readers in the

United States to indispensable poets like Molly McCully Brown, Paul Celan, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Nâzim Hikmet, Thylia Moss, Les Murray, Marie Howe, Patrick Rosal, and many others. This reading brings together five of Persea's core contemporary poets. Each will read their own work as well as that of others published by Persea in the past half century.

**F202. Meet Me Halfway: On Writing Other Cultures & Avoiding Self-Exoticization.**

(Dalia Azim, Suchitra Gururaj, Chaitali Sen, Jenny Tinghui Zhang, Megan Kakimoto)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will feature writers from historically marginalized groups whose work grapples with how to write for an American/Western audience. We celebrate bringing our cultures to life on the page, while assuming a diverse readership with varying degrees of knowledge of the worlds we build. When does cultural translation through

stories tip toward self-exoticization? This panel discussion will explore the complexity of writing culturally diverse stories for American publishers.

**F203. (Re)Writing History: Disrupting Mythologies & Reclaiming Real-Life Characters.**

(Natasha Zaretsky, Katie Gee Salisbury, Laurie Gwen Shapiro, Suzanne Cope, Michelle Young)  
Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Nonfiction writers, by definition, reckon with the past. But how can authors research who and what has been under- and misrepresented in history books and scholarship? Using archives, interviews, on-the-ground investigation, and other forms of research, these recently published authors, whose work covers diverse stories and time periods, will discuss how they have recreated lives and times on the page, forging a

counternarrative that separates myth from truth, while navigating bias in research.

## **F204. Making the Cut: What Judging Story Collection Contests Taught Us.**

(Lori Ostlund, Jenny Shank, Hasanthika Sirisena, Michael Wang, Toni Ann Johnson)  
Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

These five panelists—all of whom have published story collections—discuss what they learned from reading about seventy-five story collection submissions to the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction, an experience that one judge calls “transcendental.” The panel—which includes editors, reviewers, professors, and scholars—offers insight and advice for those working on or trying to publish story collections; trend observations; and thoughts on how and why reading for the contest altered their own work.

**F205. Poetry at Large: The Joys & Perils of Translating Long Poems, Sponsored by ALTA.**

(Derick Mattern, Edith Adams, Conor Bracken, Katherine M. Hedeem, Mira Rosenthal)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

From Paterson to Omeros, from The Descent of Alette to Drafts, American poetry readers are all too familiar with long poems and their critical weight. Although long poems in translation have long been neglected in English, publishers have lately shown a resurgence of interest. This panel assembles a group of translators to discuss the joys and perils of their own work amid a recent slate of book-length poetic projects appearing for the first time in English.

**F206. The Personal Is Always Political.**

(Sumita Chakraborty, Jericho Brown, Rachel Mennies, Tariq Luthun, Ally Ang)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Confessional poetry and the phrase “The personal is political” have parallel histories. While some have claimed that autobiographical poetry is apolitical, that claim has always been fallacious—and never more so than in the poetry of the present. This panel gathers five poets to share their strategies for infusing even their most “private” or “interior” poems with their politics and their ethics, read brief examples of their own and others’ work, and engage the audience collaboratively.

**F207. Women’s Caucus.**

(Rahima Ullah, Joan Gelfand, Shalini Rana)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

The Women’s Caucus offers an inclusive space for networking, event planning, and discussing issues like resources, access to literary power

structures, childcare, and publication obstacles. Welcoming diverse perspectives, we support women writers, enhance understanding of gender and creative writing, and expand literary dialogue across genres. We encourage feminist literary perspectives, advocate for equity, and provide support for women writers.

**F208. You're So Money & You Don't Even Know It: Funding Your Creative Writing.**

(Julie Hensley, Charissa Menefee, Robert Krut, James Wells)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A panel of mid-career writers will discuss strategies for securing funding for creative writing projects, including community, state, and regional arts endowment awards; residency fellowships; travel grants; and freelancing in correlation with a particular project. Participants will highlight resources for finding funding opportunities, offer advice on crafting effective



proposals and applications, and share hacks for making funds go further.

**F209. Fragmentos: Reclaiming Hybridity & Fragmentation Through Latine Narratives.**

(Ofelia Montelongo, Emily Prado, Viktoria Valenzuela, Norma Cantu, Gloria Muñoz)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Latin American literature has a rich history of fragmented storytelling paved by Borges, Luiselli, and other contemporary Latines. From the borderlands to Colombia, authors from the Latine diaspora are reframing Latin America's rich history of fragmented storytelling.

Fragmentation is a means of self-preservation to stitch back and forth through time and space, echolocate personal truth and examine histories, and help us protect ourselves while writing through layers of colonization.

**F210. Preserving Voices: Narrative  
Guardians of Identity & Resilience.**

(Bahar Momeni, Clara Burghilea, Manuel Luis  
Martinez, Moniro Ravanipour)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

This panel brings together a diverse group of authors whose works embody the power of writing to preserve history and personal narratives. The discussion will explore how creative writing serves as a vessel for documenting marginalized communities and individuals' unseeable and silent experiences and the impact of historical and social changes on individual lives. The four panelists, each a creative author, will offer critical insights on this topic along with brief readings from their works.

**F211. Our Memory Will Not Be a Weapon:  
On Jewish Writing After October 7.**

(Leora Fridman, Mónica Gomery, Moriel Rothman-Zecher, Penina Eilberg-Schwartz, Shelby Handler)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

American Jewish writing has long been influenced by Holocaust memorialization. For decades, Jewish trauma has been weaponized to justify Israeli occupation of Palestine and military attacks on Gaza, and to censor dissent. As Jewish writers and organizers, we invite audiences to consider alternatives to militarized responses to genocidal histories. How does literature honor or mourn? How can we as writers grapple with collective inheritances without contributing to further harm?

**F212. Future Work / Beauty Work: A Reading Featuring New Diné Poets.**

(esther belin, Jalen Charley, Chris Hoshnic, Yitazba Leigh, Jalen Smallcanyon)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

“Future Work / Beauty Work” will feature a panel of exciting, new, and bold voices in Diné poetry—a school of poetics grounded in Hozhó. Diné poets are beginning to receive national acclaim and recognition, and it is vital to begin illuminating the histories and futures of Diné literature and poetry. The event will include a reading from four exciting poets from the Navajo Nation as they map new worlds for us and a brief Q&A at the end of the event to help introduce these necessary voices.

**F213. We Are Still Here: A Reading for Palestinian & Armenian Solidarity.**

(Gina Srmabekian, Nancy Agabian, Mai Serhan, Raffi Wartanian, Priscilla Wathington)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

IALA (International Armenian Literary Alliance) presents a reading of multigenre writers of Palestinian and Armenian descent. Their works in prose, poetry, and nonfiction examine culture and heritage in the diaspora despite ongoing campaigns of silencing by colonialist and fascist governments. In the face of exile and violence, our coalition fights for the recognition of our peoples' safety and autonomy while celebrating writing as a continued form of resistance and survival.

### **F214. The Ghosts That Haunt Us.**

(Kate Maruyama, Chiwan Choi, Tanzila Ahmed, Latoya Jordan, Xochitl Bermejo)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How can hauntings be used to illustrate larger human stories? How can our own personal hauntings create and inspire stories that will haunt readers? From cities haunted by displacement and erasure, to haunted

battlefields, to family ghost stories, five writers discuss how hauntings, real and metaphorical, have inspired their poetry and fiction.

**F215. On (Re)Learning Our Place(s):  
Literary Citizenship In & Beyond the  
Workshop.**

(Shonda Buchanan, Christopher Coake,  
Alexandra Kleeman, Barney Haney, Jameelah  
Lang)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The writing workshop necessitates a communal contract, and course outcomes are strongly contingent upon empathy and sympathy, often seen as organic by-products of collaboration. However, making literary citizenship explicit within classroom discourse, assignments, and course requirements emboldens students to build and foster communities both in and beyond the classroom. Through this practice, students can explore their subject-positions and

contexts with an eye toward diversity and inclusion.

**F216. The Hidden History Memoir: A Panel of Writers Who Were Never Meant to Speak.**

(Deborah Taffa, Brittany Means, Lenika Cruz, Jenisha Watts)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel focuses on lived experiences, street smarts, and oral storytelling as an approach to memoir writing. How do marginalized writers—artists from humble backgrounds and/or geographic distances—bring nontraditional forms of wisdom to the page? Is a lived approach to craft particularly suited to the intertwining of personal and political topics? To write boldly, to speak from unique backgrounds, these panelists will address how they found their voices through embodied narratives.

## **F217. Gil Cuadros: Queer Literary Love & AIDS in Latino/Chicano LA.**

(Terry Wolverton, Pablo Alvarez, Omar Gonzalez, Kevin Martin, Amy Scholder)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Trailblazing writer Gil Cuadros left an indelible mark on queer and Latinx literature with his groundbreaking 1994 book, *City of God*.

Cuadros's essential work continues to inspire and challenge. In 2024, City Lights released *My Body Is Paper*, a poignant collection of Cuadros's previously unpublished writings.

Powerful themes permeate Cuadros's writing, including his unflinching portrayal of HIV/AIDS, his profound exploration of Chicanx identity, and the transformative potential of love and desire.

## **F218. Young Adult & Middle Grade Short Stories: Craft & Market.**



(Aaron Aceves, Lauren T. Davila, Jen Ferguson, Rex Ogle)

Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person.  
Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The process of writing and publishing short fiction for an adult audience and novels for young people has been often discussed, but what about the craft and market for short stories intended for young adult and middle grade audiences? Five professional kidlit short story writers are here to talk about not only how to write these types of stories but also where to place them (journals, magazines, anthologies, collections, special edition novels, etc.).

**F219. Around the World: Incorporating Translation into a Creative Writing Class.**

(Wendy Chen, Maryam Ala Amjadi, Rohan Chhetri, Takami Nieda, Cindy Juyoung Ok)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 514, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Translations offer students new and exciting ways to engage with literature from around the world and incorporate diverse perspectives into the classroom. How can educators initiate and introduce conversations on translations with intention? What best practices should educators consider when crafting assignments on translation? In this session, panelists discuss inclusive strategies for bringing the art and study of translations into a creative writing class.

**F220. It Takes a Village: Blurbs, References, Editing, Organizing & More.**

(Rosamond S. King, Faith Adiele, JP Howard, Swati Khurana, Serena W. Lin)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Organizing readings, writing blurbs and reference letters, and editing journals are foundations of the literary world. But there's not a lot of conversation or guidance for how to do

these things well and ethically. Writers with years of experience provide tips and best practices, whether you're just getting started in literary service or looking for ways to do it better. We include time to brainstorm ideas and meet other participants, so you'll leave with useful information and new connections.

**F221. Magazine Archives & What to Do with Them, Sponsored by CLMP.**

(Mary Gannon, Kevin Craft, Joy Garnett, Emily Wallis Hughes)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Accumulating a sizable magazine archive is an impressive feat—a mark of longevity and success over years of publishing. Deciding what to do with a growing collection of old issues is another question. The magazines on this panel have found success in storing, sharing, monetizing, and/or digitizing their archives. Panelists will discuss how to store physical

archives, options for monetizing back issues, how to undertake a digitization project, and more.

## **F222. How Do You Know When You're Done? Poets on Revision.**

(James Fujinami Moore, Megan Pinto, Diannely Antigua, Taneum Bambrick, Michael Dhyne)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Are poems ever finished, or just abandoned? In this panel, five poets will explore the process of a single published poem, from initial inspiration and drafting, through the process of revision, and focus on the moment they decided their work was finished—if it ever was. Focusing on works that experienced deep and significant changes throughout their writing, this panel will explore the way revision can reveal hidden rooms within an initial draft, and examine the moments those revisions end.

**3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. PT**

**F223. Barrow Street Press: New Authors Reading.**

(Phillis Levin, Peter Covino, Ruben Quesada, Ronald Palmer)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person. Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This multigenre event will feature poetry and nonfiction from our new authors; topics covered include LGBTQ+ identity and multicultural intersections. Poetry and philosophy and current issues such as Jewish identity, world citizenship, and poverty and mental health challenges will also be addressed.

**F224. The Vacancies We Name: Poetry of Global Perspectives, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press.**

(Michael Wieggers, Shangyang Fang, Tishani Doshi, Pádraig Ó Tuama)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

When we leave home and move through the world, what vacancies get created inside us? What does it mean to be severed from belonging—and to find it again? And how does poetry give us a mouth with which to tune our empty spaces? In this reading, three celebrated, international poets explore the intersections between distance, home, and spirit, offering a window into the energies we use to make a place in which we can live, whether here, there, or both at once.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**F225. NBCC Fiftieth Anniversary: All-Stars Breaking New Ground in Fiction.**

(Heather Scott Partington, Jonathan Escoffery,  
Jonathan Lethem, Justin Torres)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall D, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

A special fiftieth-anniversary literary partner  
National Book Critics Circle featured reading at  
the 2025 AWP Conference & Bookfair in Los  
Angeles, with all-star fiction writers Jonathan  
Escoffery, Jonathan Lethem, and Justin Torres,  
three authors honored as NBCC finalists or  
award winners, whose work is breaking new  
ground. Readings and conversation, moderated  
by NBCC President Heather Scott Partington,  
will cover inspiration, research, influences on  
their work, writing in these times, and evolving  
forms.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los  
Angeles Convention Center and will be

livestreamed for virtual audiences. All  
livestreamed events include open captions.

## **F226. Creating Literary Community in an Isolating Landscape.**

(Brian Dunlap, Eddy M. Gana, Marilynn  
Montano, Cati Porter)

Writers' Conferences & Centers. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

In a city and region famous for being so spread  
out, Southern California can be a lonely and  
isolating place. So, how does one build and  
sustain community, much less a literary  
community, that is authentically supportive and  
inclusive? What are the issues the literary  
community faces in building such a community,  
and how can it improve? A panel of authors and  
arts administrators from across the region  
discuss how they help to build and sustain the  
literary community in such an isolating region.



**F227. Though It May Look like Disaster:  
Poetic Forms to Save Your Life.**

(Marianne Kunkel, Melissa Fite Johnson,  
Matthew E. Henry, Ashley M. Jones, Faisal  
Mohyuddin)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Do poetic forms have lifesaving properties?  
Five poets will discuss how meter, rhyme,  
syllable count, and other constraints have been  
sources of constancy and control during  
personal and political upheaval: layoffs, death,  
addiction, religious trauma, racism, and the  
Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They will examine  
the healing power of classic forms—sonnet,  
abecedarian and #ceasefire haiku—as well as  
remixed/invented forms, and share how forms  
can be a balm for a writer’s (or reader’s)  
heartbreak.

**F228. The Agent Plot: Authors on Finding &  
Working with the One.**

(Emma Komlos-Hrobsky, Amy Bishop-Wycisk, Jasmine Guillory, Nancy Jooyoun Kim, Holly Root)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Nothing makes an aspiring author more jittery than the idea of a literary agent reading their manuscript. Queries (oh my!) seem like the first big step toward going “public” with one’s work. Bestselling authors Jasmine Guillory and Nancy Jooyoun Kim discuss finding and choosing agents in conversation with their agents, Holly Root and Amy Bishop-Wycisk. Come and learn about the lesser-known ways of connecting with agents and the ins and and outs of the writer-agent relationship, and for the chance to have your burning questions answered.

**F229. Beyond Nostalgia: Writing & Rewriting Diaspora.**

(Danni Quintos, Marianne Chan, Grisel Yolanda Acosta, Luisa Igloria, Yalie Saweda Kamara)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five poets explore the different tactics they call on in order to expand on received notions of writing in the diaspora. How does nostalgia inform or redefine our ideas of home and belonging? How do we seek to rewrite dominant, colonial histories from within, while navigating the obstacles of erasure and rejection? Through shared personal experiences and insights on craft, this panel aims to illuminate the richly unfolding complexities of diasporic literature and its transformative power.

**F230. Sixty Years of Community at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program.**

(Charles Jensen, Cole Kazdin, Malia Marquez, Sehba Sarwar, Chris Terry)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

The UCLA Extension Writers' Program begins its sixtieth year of operation in 2025. In that time, we have helped thousands of writers find their voices and reach their writing goals in every genre of literature and screenwriting. To celebrate this achievement, join us for a reading of works by our distinguished instructors.

### **F231. The Love & the Work of the Short Story.**

(Dustin M. Hoffman, Heather Carr, Michelle Brower, Gwen Kirby, Brenda Peynado)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Novels seem to get all the attention when it comes to book deals and publicity. Is there still a place for the short story and its collection? Are agents willing to champion these shorter works? This panel of fiction writers and agents will discuss the joys and challenges of this form and

its value in the literary culture. The speakers will share strategies for making, selling, and marketing both collections and individual stories.

## **F232. Authors & Actresses: Writing for the Stage & the Page.**

(Maggie Andersen, Sam Bailey, Ines Bellina, Jennifer Rumberger, Lindsey Trout Hughes)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Memoirs and personal essays require many of the same ingredients as live theater: voice, energy, trust, discipline. In this reading, five writers use the theater as a way to investigate themselves and the world around them through: the politics and Catholic schools of Latin America, a newly articulating disability, the highs and lows of motherhood, the joys and challenges of working as a Black artist, and living apart from a partner while pursuing an artistic career.

**F233. On the Line: Ethical Approaches to Writing from the US-Mexico Border.**

(Jo Blair Cipriano, Logan Phillips, Sophia Terazawa, Raquel Gutierrez)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As writers, we are often told to be a “voice for the voiceless”—but what does this mean exactly? In this panel, award-winning alumni of University of Arizona’s Southwest Field Studies in Writing—a summer research, writing, and teaching program that sends fellows to collaborate with nonprofit community partners—will discuss the importance of reciprocal learning in art making, writing in the borderlands, and how, no matter our location, grappling with borders affects each one of us as writers and as people.

**F234. Spiritual Outsiders United: Writing Our Way to Collective Liberation, Sponsored by the Jewish Book Council.**

(Magin LaSov Gregg, Isra Cheema, Sufiya Abdur-Rahman, Sarah Einstein)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This multigenre panel brings together Muslim and Jewish authors with complex cultural, ethnic, or racial identities at a time of escalated antisemitism and Islamophobia. Each will reflect on what it means to be a Jewish or Muslim author now, the struggles of belonging that inform their work, and how literary art fosters understanding amidst heightened conflicts. Join us to grapple with what it means to be an outsider within and beyond the communities we inhabit while working to build solidarity and collective liberation through literature.

## **F235. The Politics of Imagining: Poetry as Social Practice.**

(Issam Zineh, Courtney Faye Taylor, Cindy Juyoung Ok, Solmaz Sharif, George Abraham)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The political dimension penetrates every intimate aspect of human life—who is allowed to love whom and on what terms, who lives, who dies. Yet, “the political” is often relegated to a subgenre rather than being seen as the primary field of experience out of which the poetic imagination arises. This panel considers poetry within “a web of other social practices historically weighted with enormous imbalances of power” (Rich) and argues for a liberatory poetics that centers political consciousness.

## **F236. Asian American Caucus.**

(Devyn Manibo, Jason Bayani, Gina Chung, Neela Banerjee)

Caucus. In-Person.



Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What is literature's role in liberation? How do we as Asian American and Pacific Islander writers and readers steward spaces of care, emergence, legacy, and belonging? How can we think expansively about what it means to be Asian American and what it means to be a writer?

### **F237. How to Pitch like Hollywood.**

(Karol Hoeffner, Weiko Lin, Michelle Gille, John Strauss)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Mastering the art of pitching is essential for writers working in Hollywood to secure assignments, sell scripts, and push projects forward. Four seasoned, diverse, award-winning screenwriters will divulge insider tips acquired from their experiences in the film industry

trenches that apply to the publishing world. They will explore strategies on effectively selling yourself, your completed work, and your story concepts to industry professionals such agents, publishers, publicists, and booksellers.

### **F238. Joyful Revision: Finding Hope in Change.**

(Alix Ohlin, Vanessa Hua, Peter Ho Davies, Allegra Hyde, Nina McConigley)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

To thoroughly revise a piece of writing is to believe in the possibility of change and transformation—a fundamentally optimistic act. In this panel, five distinguished writers will share ideas for finding joy in revision. They'll discuss how to approach revision as a generative practice that invites discoveries and deepens meaning. The conversation will include both big-picture advice for tackling resistance to

revision, and concrete strategies to make the process work.

**F239. FUSE (Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors) Caucus.**

(Catherine Dent, Emi Harris, Sarah Ledet)  
Caucus. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do we create, build, and sustain undergraduate literary magazines? How do we garner greater technical, administrative, and financial support? What editorial skill sets are most important, and how do we engage with the larger publishing scene? Come meet other undergraduate writers, editors, and designers, and discuss the many opportunities and resources available to support you and your team.

**F240. How to Serve Queer & Trans Writing: Learning from Ten Years of Foglifter.**

(Dior J. Stephens, Maria Picone, Rob Macaissa Colgate, Michal 'MJ' Jones, Chad Koch)  
Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With its award-winning literary journal, chapbooks, anthologies, readings, and community events, Foglifter has become a vital platform for uplifting LGBTQIA2S+ writers and writing since its founding a decade ago. Five staff members—Foggies—reflect on the joys and challenges of their work, highlighting what they've learned (and what they're still figuring out) about nurturing innovative writing and cultivating a queer literary community with profound commitments to its most marginalized members.

### **F241. Jack Gilbert: A Centennial Celebration.**

(Dan Albergotti, Terry Kennedy, David Kirby, Dorianne Laux, Crystal Williams)  
Tributes. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel celebrates the achievement and influence of American poet Jack Gilbert near the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. Born in Pittsburgh in February 1925, Gilbert became one of the most accomplished poets of his generation. Though he avoided the limelight, his impact on readers and poets of all types has been immense and has only grown since his death in 2012. In this tribute, five poets discuss the influence of Gilbert on their work and teaching, followed by a Q&A with the audience.

**F242. Tales of the Town: Writers Speak to Oakland's Resilient Urban Culture.**

(Nayomi Munaweera, Thaddeus Howze, Nazelah Jamison, Norma Smith, Aimee Suzara)  
Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Urban environments play a special role in American culture, providing safety, sanctuary,

and community for many, including immigrants, people of color, low-income people, and LGBTQ people. This intergenerational group of authors and activists with deep roots in the East Bay and involved in ecological and social justice movements will temper some media pundits' "doom loop" narrative of fear and despair with tales of cultural survival and innovation. We speak from our experiences and read from our work.

### **F243. Poets in the City of Movies.**

(Suzanne Lummis, William Archila, Dorothy Barresi, Ramon Garcia, Ron Koertge)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As a complement to the anthology to be published in 2025, *Poetry Goes to the Movies* (Pacific Coast Poetry Series, imprint of Beyond Baroque Books), five longtime poets and teachers/professors of poetry in Los Angeles will explore the potential power of movies to

generate poems—via visuals, scenes, theme, dialogue, sound, mood, and other cinematic elements—as well as the occasional influence imparted by the surrounding movie industry on our poetry.

**F244. Goin’ B(l)ack Home: Exploring Notions of Home, Migration & Return.**

(M Shelly Conner, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Sanderia Faye Smith, Marci Blackman, Deesha Philyaw)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

From “going down south” to going to the Motherland, Black writers have often been tasked with the discourse of home and belonging. But home has as much to do with place as it has to do with people—“who all over there?” Five contemporary Black writers place their work in conversation with Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, and other Black canonical writers to examine narratives of leaving, returning, and

(un)belonging in home spaces—and home as a contested space for queer and marginalized bodies.

**F246. Beyond Our Labor: Writing Our Lives as Farmworkers.**

(Miguel M. Morales, Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, Aideed Medina, Manuel Muñoz, Oswaldo Vargas)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Driven to honor farmworker creativity and resiliency, especially in the current political climate, contributors to The Common magazine's Farmworker Portfolio (issue 26) invite you to witness our farmworker pasts and to explore and celebrate texts that influence our writings and pedagogical choices in traditional and nontraditional classrooms. We're diverse in age, education, location, orientation, and stages



of our writing careers. We'll also share our #FarmworkerLit inspirations and aspirations.

## **F248. Literary Production During Authoritarian Governments.**

(Alexandra Lytton Regalado, Emily Jungmin Yoon, Christopher Soto, Sally Wen Mao, Myriam Gurba)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Panelists explore literary history and resistance tactics used during authoritarian governments that actively work to silence and exile writers.

We consider the colonial and patriarchal histories of Korea, the authoritarian governments of El Salvador, and the looming warning signs in the US, such as book banning. Panelists share their writing and discuss the work of notable authors to provide strategies for understanding, surviving, and resisting authoritarianism as it sprouts across the globe.

**F249. The Intimate Podcast: A Path to Community.**

(Farnaz Fatemi, Julia Chiapella, Julie Murphy, Roxi Power, Dion O'Reilly)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Members of The Hive Poetry Collective discuss the value of intimate conversations with poets on their weekly Santa Cruz radio show and podcast series. These conversations nurture community and their own poetic growth.

Circumventing tribalism, the collective shares how their differences—identities, poetic tastes, interviewing techniques—are strengths. This woman-run collective in its sixth year will share examples and history, and conduct two lightning interviews of volunteer audience members.

**F250. Excuse My Beauty: Queer Indigenous Poetics, Story & Time.**

(Jake Skeets, Billy-Ray Belcourt, No'u Revilla, Michael Wasson)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

“Excuse My Beauty” is a phrase borrowed from the late Stephanie Yellowhair. “Excuse My Beauty” will be a celebration of the diverse and vibrant work of queer Indigenous poets who span landscape, waters, and histories. The poets will read from their own work and the work of others, while engaging in a vital discussion on how time and story are entangled in poetry and how they each invigorate Indigenous sovereignty both here in the United States and abroad.

**5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. PT**

**F251. K–12 Caucus.**

(Molly Sutton Kiefer, Allison Campbell)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The caucus creates a space where teachers in K–12 schools, as well as those who work part-time with young writers, can share their classroom experiences with the hope of helping one another understand the complex and diverse needs of young writers in the twenty-first century. The meeting will feature presentations by caucus members to help generate discussion around issues of pedagogy and how to build a creative writing curriculum that is accessible to students no matter their identity or background.

**F252. SWANA Writers Caucus.**

(Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Sophia Babai, Rabha Ashry, Tariq Luthun, Pinar Banu Yasar)

Caucus. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This will be a town hall–style meeting, creating a much-needed space for SWANA writers to build and connect within AWP. We invite

established and emerging writers, editors, students, scholars, and organizers, and aim for the caucus to facilitate networking and exchange on literary endeavors, craft, publishing, poetics, and praxis. Our caucus seeks to empower and center the voices of underrepresented Americans with roots in SWANA cultures and communities.

**F253. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. PT**

**F255. Coast to Coast: A Preview of 2025 Trio House Press Titles.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room II, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Trio House Press is pleased to host a meet and greet with our authors! The first twenty attendees will get a free 2025 pre-sale Trio House Press title, signed by the author! Come meet our 2025 authors, including Rhoni Blankenhorn, Anthony Borruso, Renee Gilmore, Elline Lipkin, Kalehua Kim, Samina Najmi, and Martheaus Perkins, along with our past authors, editors, and friends of the press. Books will be available for sale/signing, including 2025 pre-sales available only at AWP.

### **F255A. AWP HBCU Fellowship Program Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room III, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Celebrate the AWP HBCU Fellowship Program's third year at the reception, where you can enjoy refreshments, meet the #AWP25 faculty and student fellows, and hear from this year's creative advisor, Tayari Jones.

## **F256. The Helen Zell Writers' Program Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Atrium Room I, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

We welcome students, faculty, alumni, and recently accepted students of the Helen Zell Writers' Program to join us for an evening of drinks, snacks, and catching up. Reservations required.

## **F257. Vermont Studio Center's Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Atrium Room II, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Vermont Studio Center celebrates its writers, authors, Visiting Writers Program, and partnerships with a reception on Friday evening. Come and have a drink on us, meet other VSC alums, and gather together before your off-site events. For prospective writers, learn about an international residency program nestled in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Meet and connect

with VSC staff: Executive Director, Hope Sullivan, Chief of Advancement, Bill Belcher, and Writing Program Director, Sarah Audsley.

**F257A. NYU Creative Writing Program Public Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Atrium Room III, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Please join the NYU Creative Writing Program's Director Deborah Landau as well as faculty, students, and alumni for a festive reception.

**F258. Sewanee Writers' Conference Alumni Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Gold Ballroom 4, First Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

Cocktail reception for Sewanee Writers' Conference alumni.



# **Saturday, March 29, 2025**

**7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. PT**

## **S100. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PT**

## **S100A. Los Angeles Writers Gathering Space.**

In-Person.

Room 512, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

We invite local Los Angeles-area writers to meet up in this informal space to share stories, swap resources, and make new connections.

**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PT**

**S101. Author Portraits by Adrienne Mathiowetz Photography.**

In-Person.

Room 505, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Stop being embarrassed of your author photo! A great portrait is not only flattering, but actively invites your audience to get to know you and your work. Returning for a sixth year at AWP, author photographer Adrienne Mathiowetz will be offering twenty-minute studio sessions on-site. See your proof gallery of images immediately; any portrait you choose will be fully processed and digitally delivered in high resolution for \$125. (Conference discount: In Adrienne's Boston studio, hour-long portrait sessions with one image included are priced at \$950.) Additional images: \$75 each. Fine processing (spot adjustments beyond usual file preparation): \$175/file. Rush processing: \$100/file. Put your best face forward on

websites, book covers, social media, and published interviews. Advanced sign-up required:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/am-photography/awp25>

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

## **S102. Conference Registration.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Attendees who have registered in advance, or who have yet to purchase a registration, may secure their registration materials in AWP's registration area located to the right of the escalators in the West Lobby, Los Angeles Convention Center, level 1. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details. A \$50 fee will be charged for all replacement badges.

## **S103. Dickinson Quiet Space 1.**

In-Person.

Room 506, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily Dickinson

## **S104. Dickinson Quiet Space 2.**

In-Person.

Room 507, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A dedicated quiet space for you to collect your thoughts, unwind, and escape the literary commotion. “There is a solitude of space, / A solitude of sea, / A solitude of death, but these / Society shall be, / Compared with that profounder site, / That polar privacy, / A Soul

admitted to Itself: / Finite Infinity.” —Emily Dickinson

### **S105. Low-Light Space.**

In-Person.

Room 511C, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A darkened, quiet, and more private space for attendees to gather their thoughts, reset, or take a break from the lighting of the Convention Center.

### **S106. Lactation Lounge.**

In-Person.

Room 517, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The lactation lounge is located in Room 517 of the Los Angeles Convention Center and is available for any nursing parent to use.

**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT**

### **S107. AWP Bookfair.**

In-Person.

West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

With more than seven hundred literary exhibitors, the AWP Bookfair is the largest of its kind. A great way to meet authors, critics, and peers, the bookfair also provides excellent opportunities to find information about many literary magazines, presses, and organizations. Please consult the bookfair map in the AWP mobile app for location details.

### **S108. Bookfair Concessions.**

In-Person.

West Lobby, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Concessions are available in the West Lobby and inside West Hall A in the Los Angeles Convention Center. Debit, credit cards, and tap to pay are accepted at all food and beverage locations. Please consult the maps in the AWP mobile app for location details.

## **S108A. Baggage & Coat Check.**

In-Person.

Business Service Center, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A baggage and coat check area will be open in the Los Angeles Convention Center's Business Service Center on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Business Service Center is located on level one in Concourse Hall between the West Hall and South Hall lobby. The cost for all day service is \$10.00, and the cost for four hours or less is \$5.00. Cash, debit or credit card, or tap to pay are accepted.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. PT**

## **S109. Yoga for Writers.**

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join Manisha Sharma, a certified yoga practitioner, for a gentle, one-hour yoga and meditation practice, appropriate for practitioners

of all levels and abilities. The hour-long practice will focus on stretches, asanas, physical postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PT**

**S110. Emergence & Becoming—Framing Native Poetics Beyond the “Renaissance”: A Lecture By Jake Skeets.**

(Jake Skeets)

In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The term “Native American Renaissance” has long been used to describe the surge of Native literary production in the 1960s and ’70s.

However, this label risks implying that Native literature lacked sophistication or vitality prior to this moment. Drawing from Diné poetics and cultural frameworks, this lecture—part of the #AWP25 Tribal Colleges & Universities



Fellowship Program—will examine how these ideas illuminate the continuity and innovation of Native storytelling traditions, offering a more expansive understanding of Native literature’s past, present, and future.

Read the #AWP25 TCU creative advisor's bio.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**S111. A Lyric Freedom: Asian Americans, Racial Legibility & Poetic Subjectivity.**

(Hana Widerman, Derek Chan, Kimiko Hahn, Sandra Lim, Haolun Xu)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Asian American poet (and more broadly, the racialized subject) is expected to occupy a legible, ethnographic, and autobiographical

position. How can we wield the lyric to complicate normative assumptions of racial/ethnic subjectivity and representation? How can we be at once intellectual and embodied, unlocated and specific? In this panel, a diverse group of Asian American poets discuss how they champion their racialized subjectivities even as they revolt against performative pressures.

### **S112. Media Mastery: Sharing Your Voice with the Public.**

(NANDA DYSSOU, Hajar Yazdiha, Chuck Rosenthal, Ericka Verba)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This presentation will serve as an introductory media training session for writers who wish to adequately prepare themselves for interviews with popular media outlets, from print and digital publications, to podcasts and radio, to

YouTube and TV. Publicist Nanda Dyssou and a panel of local writers will offer case studies and invaluable insights on strategies they've used to effectively promote their books and author brands through the media.

**S113. Can Writers “Live the Dream”?: On Paying the Bills While Doing What You Love.** (Namrata Poddar, Jennifer Baker, Bruna Dantas Lobato)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel confronts the controversial relationship between art and money, and the many ways in which writers support themselves financially on the path, pay their bills, navigate publishing (which isn't known to be transparent with money, numbers, book advances, and outreach), advocate for themselves, ask for fair compensation for their labor, and do the work they love. This conversation is especially geared

toward writers who don't have access to generational, family, or spousal wealth.

### **S114. Forms of Grief: The Craft of Writing Elegiac Poetry.**

(Kate Gaskin, Amanda Gunn, Carolina Hotchandani, Cintia Santana, Jim Whiteside)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

When writing contemporary elegies, how does utilizing a variety of forms—fixed, hybrid, broken, nonce, etc.—influence our individual poems, as well as our poetic projects as a whole? How do expressions of spirituality, sexuality, gender, and race intersect with elegiac forms? How can the act of writing poetry organize and provide structure for grief, if such a thing is even possible? Five poets discuss the intersection of craft, practice, and experience when writing in the elegiac mode.

## **S115. Peeling the Layers of Race & Identity Through Narrative Craft.**

(Diana Diaz, Edward Gunawan, Vincent Toro, Grisel Yolanda Acosta, Connie Pertuz)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

“The ethnic writer creates not only literature but also people.” —Toni Morrison

When writing characters outside of our own race, writers have to pay particular attention to ensure characters are three-dimensional and go beyond stereotypes. We all know that we should avoid two-dimensional characters when presenting the ethnicity or identity of characters. How can writers push past imago (the first impression) and reveal the nuanced complexity of race and identity as it serves the narrative arc?

## **S116. Scene Work Makes the Dream Work.**

(Marie-Helene Bertino, Mira Jacob, Tracy O'Neill, Cleyvis Natera, Tiana Kahakauwila)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

On the metaphorical ocean of the page, a writer must make a reader—usually a stranger—feel the mist, notice the call of gulls, and (most impossibly) want what the characters want. Scenes are where stories (prose, film, graphic memoir) can fail or soar. How does one calibrate character, detail, dialogue, and the crucial gestural level to render an affecting picture that lingers in a stranger’s mind? Five acclaimed writers share practical, cross-genre guidance for constructing (and teaching) life’s vivid moments by sharing scenes from their own work that failed and/or soared.

**S117. To Speak with Silence: Writing the Unsayable.**

(Kristen Millares Young, Lilly Dancyger, Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum, Cameron Dezen Hammon, Sonora Jha)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writing requires that the writer locate a narrative voice and plumb its depths like a divining rod, pursuing the story it has to tell. But what about pursuing the silences, portraying the voiceless, and revealing the unspeakable? Five writers will discuss their experience of imbuing silence with meaning. Considering both fiction and nonfiction, they will share practical strategies for structure and technique while also revealing their intuitive work to uncover the mysteries held in the silences.

**S118. Beyond Beaches & Colonialism:  
Writers from the Caribbean Diaspora.**

(Tanya Rey, Yalitza Ferreras, Lilliam Rivera, Gabriela Garcia)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

One of the most ethnically diverse regions worldwide, the Caribbean is an area defined by colonization, immigration, and a history of violence. As writers from the diaspora, how do we contend with that history in an American context? Whose stories are we beholden to, and how do we balance the responsibility to represent our communities with that of representing ourselves? Writers from various diasporas read from their work and discuss how these histories and identities inform their choices.

**S119. The Broken World: Contemporary LGBTQ Writers on Research & the SFF Canon.**

(Maya Deane, Kai Cheng Thom, Alina Boyden, S.G. Demciri)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.



As queer SFF writers dreaming freer ways of being, we work in the shadow of strange, powerful writers who wove disparate influences into compelling worlds. Join four groundbreaking LGBTQ SFF writers in drawing lessons for current writers from the transformative research of J. R. R. Tolkien, open homophobe Frank Herbert's sincere engagement with Islamic knowledge transfer, and Octavia Butler's liberatory queer storytelling, and how contemporaries like Rebecca Roanhorse bring in once-excluded traditions.

**S120. Feeling FATastic: The Poetics of Pleasure, Sexuality & Liberation.**

(Claudia Cortese, Emilia Phillips, Diamond Forde, Ysabel Y. González, Omotara James)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel explores the craft of writing fat pleasure and joy. Narratives about fat people often center harm—eating disorders, bullying,

body shaming. These topics are important components of the fat experience, but reducing people to their trauma is ultimately dehumanizing. The panelists will discuss how to use sensory details, musicality, voice, lineation, and storytelling to write poems that celebrate the pleasures of eating, sexuality, embodiment, belonging.

**S121. Future Forms: Inventing Literary Forms for the Twenty-First Century.**

(Kai Carlson-Wee, Kate Folk, Alexandria Hall, Keith Wilson, Hua Xi)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

From the epic poem to the lyric essay, literary forms have often been used to reflect the spirit of their age. With the advent of AI and digital technologies, the way we imagine literary genre and poetic form is changing. Five award-winning writers will share their work and

discuss the ways in which they have subverted traditional forms, blurred genres, incorporated technology into narrative, and invented new forms to reflect our contemporary moment.

## **S122. Speaking Volumes: Crafting Impactful Monologues in Your Scripts.**

(Leslie Kreiner Wilson, Andrea Baltazar, Rosanne Welch)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

In this session, panelists offer examples and tips for writers who want to craft impactful monologues for stage, television shows, and movies. The event concludes with a workshop in which attendees read their monologues out loud while others in the room offer support, comments, encouragement, and notes.

## **S123. For the Love of the Novella: A Reading & Conversation.**

(Anne Elliott, Matt Bell, Sasha Hom, Ashley Honeysett, Rion Amilcar Scott)

Fiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The novella is a form that is in-between—not quite a short story, not quite a novel. Perhaps that in-betweenness is the reason fans of the form are so devoted; or, as Debra Spark suggests, “The novella is a Goldilocks form, not too much this and not too much that but just right.” This panel celebrates the form with readings by four novella writers, followed by a discussion of craft possibilities and challenges, favorite novellas to use as models, and the publication landscape.

### **S124. An Early Spark: Writing Poems with Young People.**

(Catherine Pierce, Kai Coggin, Meg Leonard, Matt Mason, C.T. Salazar)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writing poems teaches children confidence in their own voices and imaginations, and is an early way for them to experience firsthand the joys of language. But what writing prompts will really engage young poets? How should we modify our teaching for different ages? How can we connect with and support our communities? Panelists who have written poetry with children from kindergartners through middle schoolers will share stories, prompts, and practical advice.

**S125. Once Upon a Prompt: Including the Fantastic in Your Workshop.**

(Brooke Wonders, Alisa Alering, Annah Browning, Diana Ma, Jennifer Pullen)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Students want to write fantasy, but few academic programs prepare teachers to support

these students. Five writers who have published fantastical work and taught it for decades will share classroom-tested resources that challenge students to write effective fantastical fiction, fabulist nonfiction, and speculative poetry. Audience members will leave with new tools and an appreciation for the unique pedagogy of the fantastic.

**S126. Poets' Debut Nonfiction: Poetics, Process & Things We Wish We'd Known.**

(Jessica Johnson, Tyler Mills, Jane Wong, Michael Kleber-Diggs, Chet'la Sebree)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Poets come to nonfiction with undeniable strengths, but a new genre—and a different publishing landscape—may ask poets to consider new approaches to craft and process. In this panel, poets will talk through the joys and growing pains of moving into nonfiction. How can poets unfold poetics across a book-length

work of prose? What rewards and challenges come with writing and publishing autobiographical nonfiction? What do panelists wish they'd known at the beginning or middle of the process?

**S127. Writing (& Publishing!) Short Fiction in a World Built for Novels.**

(Jeremy Broyles, Gina Chung, Lan Samantha Chang, Gwendolyn Paradise, Leslie Pietrzyk)  
Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The publishing industry remains largely geared toward novels. Many writers, however, come to fiction through the short form. How, then, to reconcile the disconnect between what we feel called to write and what the industry prefers to publish? Whether attendees are seeking publication strategies or simply fresh, urgent discussion about the validity of the short form, this panel promises insightful conversation led

by five writers with robust experience using four thousand words or fewer.

**S128. Dark-Lit Awakening: Rethinking the Lyric Moment.**

(Dion O'Reilly, Luke Johnson, Francesca Bell, Jessica Cuello, Farnaz Fatemi)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The lyric moment might be described as a moment of ecstatic awe when time stops.

Rilke's "You must change your life" comes to mind. But what about those time-stopping moments that feel hopeless or horrible?

Regardless of labels like "triggering," "brutal," "confessional," or "trauma-laden"—any emotion can conjure the lyric moment and possess its own beauty. We will discuss aspects of craft and attitude that—despite difficult content—facilitate the ignition of the lyric moment.



## **S129. The ABCs of the Creative Writing PhD.**

(Thomas Renjilian, Leesa Fenderson, Natalie Villacorta, S Yarberry, Gwen Niekamp)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

PhD programs offer invaluable time and resources, but the demands of a PhD and bias within academia can stifle writers' creative practices. With attention to the ways students writing from the margins resist whiteness, heteronormativity, and ableism at each stage of the PhD, this panel of current PhD students and recent graduates addresses how to frame a course of study that complicates the canon, balance creative projects with the rigors of exams, and craft dissertations that innovate traditional scholarship.

## **S130. The Challenges to Speaking Our Truth: Filipino Women Writing Nonfiction.**

(Monica Macansantos, Jen Palmares Meadows, Laurel Flores Fantauzzo, Melissa Chadburn, Anna Cabe)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What craft techniques, including storytelling styles from our own culture, can we utilize to write into and around truth(s)? How can nonfiction subvert or defy expectations imposed on us as women and nonbinary people in underrepresented communities? Filipino women and femme nonfiction writers discuss the complexities and nuances of sharing their experiences, while confronting the uncomfortable truths of a culture that hasn't always looked favorably on the act of public disclosure.

**S132. The Name Game: Literary Journals That Have Changed Names & Flourished.**

(Marianne Kunkel, Jonathan Bohr Heinen, Katie Mihalek, Viva Padilla, Gary Jackson)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

There are risks to a literary journal deciding to change its name, but with risks can come rewards. Five editors of journals that have recently undergone name changes—reemerging as swamp pink, Redivider, sin cesar, and Kansas City Review—will discuss reasons for the new name, practical steps to make such a change, and positive effects on branding, funding, and growing an audience. A name signals a lot about a journal's mission and values; changing it could be a solution for struggling journals.

**S133. Behind the Acronym: Empowering  
Ethnic Voices - Launching a Literary  
Nonprofit.**

(Shahe Mankerian, Zeyn Joukhadar, Ellina  
Kevorkian, Arthur Kayzakian)

Writers' Conferences & Centers. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What does it mean to be a literary nonprofit dedicated to a specific ethnic group? What are the benefits of highlighting diverse voices within a community that others see as defined by their cultural background? Hear from founders and arts administrators of the International Armenian Literary Alliance, Mizna, and the Radius of Arab American Writers on the importance of visibility, diversity, and practicalities in launching and maintaining a successful nonprofit.

**S134. It's Personal, Not Strictly Business: Networking for Writers.**

(Katie Manning, Jessica Jacobs, Abayomi Animashaun, Elizabeth Dark)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Some writers think “networking” means chasing after important people who might be useful for their career. (Spoiler: It's not that.) Others think networking is just an obnoxious thing that

business types do—writers are too introverted and devoted to the art to do that, right? (Also no.) Join our panel of writers who run workshops, readings, organizations, and publications for a discussion about networking: If it's really about building relationships and community, how can writers do it well?

### **S135. The Legacy of Lyn Hejinian.**

(Grant Matthew Jenkins, Kaveh Bassiri, Jessica Lewis Luck, Anis Shivani)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Native Californian poet, professor, and activist, Lyn Hejinian died at 82 on February 24, 2024, at her home in Berkeley. This panel pays tribute to her life and work by reflecting on her importance to contemporary poetry in the US and beyond. Panelists will reflect on her innovative poetry as well as her philosophical essays and will explore the nature of thought and human subjectivity, the significance of sex

and gender to writing, and the ethical aspects of language.

**9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PT**

**S136. LitNet Meeting.**

In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

LitNet is a coalition of literary organizations from across the United States that works to promote the importance of the literary arts in American culture, build the capacity of the literary field, and broaden funding for the literary arts. Join us for a meeting from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. to learn more about what we do, followed by a breakfast mingle with literary leaders and other advocates from the field.

**10:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PT**

**S137. The Bottom Line: Comparing Book Sales to Overall Earnings.**

(Jane Friedman, Allison Williams, Russell Nohelty, Laura Portwood-Stacer)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Book advances and book sales can be disappointing: The average book advance does not provide a full-time living for even a year. Four authors will offer transparency into their book sales and compare them against other forms of professional income. You'll see royalty statements, earnings reports, and the bottom line for each author. When writers open up about the financial realities of publishing, it empowers all writers to make the best decisions for their careers.

**S138. Our People Shall Live: Mizna Gathers Lena Khalaf Tuffaha & Mosab Abu Toha in Conversation.**

(Lena Tuffaha, Mosab Abu Toha)  
Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

As we mourn Gaza's destruction by the recent campaign of Zionist genocide and watch a tenuous ceasefire evolve under an appalling new threat of American imperialism, we seek voices from Palestine to render, deconstruct, and reimagine these realities and our relationships to them. Toward that, Mizna is thrilled to host a critical conversation and reading with two major Palestinian poets: National Book Award winner Lena Khalaf Tuffaha and acclaimed Gazan poet Mosab Abu Toha. The two will share work responding to the ongoing catastrophe and engage in dialogue about Palestinian sumud, literature's role in resisting genocide, and our collective futures in and beyond the world of poetry.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be



livestreamed for virtual audiences. All  
livestreamed events include open captions.

**S139. Sounding All Voices: Creative Writing  
in the Developmental English Classroom.**

(James B. De Monte, Ekaterini Kottaras, Daniel  
Ruiz, Wendy Silva, Tobin F. Terry)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

This panel explores different approaches to  
engaging community college developmental  
English students through creative writing.

Topics include the diversity of the overall  
student population and their unique needs;  
barriers to their success, whether structural or  
personal; and how in-class creative writing  
exercises can lead to their overall self-efficacy  
and persistence. The panelists reflect on  
obstacles—some common, some unique—as  
well as creative solutions and opportunities.

**S140. Book-to-Screen: The Legal & Creative Sides of Film Adaptation, Sponsored by the Authors Guild.**

(Cheryl Davis, Sherryl Clark, Caitlin Dimotta, Franklin Leonard, Graham Moore)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What happens when a literary work gets adapted for the screen? Writers dream of a nice paycheck, creative input, and a chance at greater fame, but the reality can go a lot of different ways. Join us to learn about the legal, financial, and artistic issues at stake for book-to-screen adaptations. Lawyers, producers, and writers will discuss what writers should consider before optioning a work and what to expect from the experience of seeing your work transformed on film.

**S141. I'll Tell You What I Want, What I Really, Really Want: Agents Explain MSWLs.**

(Roma Panganiban, Natalie Edwards, Mina Hamedi, Marin Takikawa, Michaela Whatnall)  
Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With so many agents, it's hard to know who to query. How do you find that elusive "right fit" when you're cold-emailing strangers? Five agents who represent a broad range of books will discuss the purpose of manuscript wishlists (including #MSWL tweets) and where to find them, what thinking goes into crafting theirs, and how writers can use MSWLs to their advantage and maximize their chances of finding an agent who will be interested in, understand, and maybe even fall in love with their book.

### **S142. Read Write South: Thirty Years of Hub City Press.**

(Kate McMullen, Neesha Powell-Ingabire, Carter Sickels, Minrose Gwin, Halle Hill)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

Since its founding in Spartanburg, South  
Carolina, in 1995, Hub City Press has grown  
from a publisher of local writers and history into  
the premier literary publisher in the South,  
putting out more than one hundred high-caliber  
literary works and championing writers living  
and working in the South, our country's most  
diverse and least funded arts center. Join  
Executive Director Meg Reid and Hub City  
authors Carter Sickels and Neesha Powell-  
Ingabire as they share their experience working  
with a nonprofit press.

**S143. This Beautiful Body: Writing into  
Illness.**

(Andrew J Romriell, Patrick Milian, Katherine  
Standefer, CR Grimmer, Elissa Washuta)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Our bodies hold influence over the way we write, what we write, and how we physically come to the page. While writing into illness and disability is often an act of liberation, it also raises difficult questions. How do we truthfully represent such personal experiences? How do we reclaim a narrative of illness steeped in erasure? How does writing about our bodies shape our relationship with them? In this panel, five writers discuss navigating the intersections of creativity, illness, and life.

**S144. A Tribute to Brenda Hillman:  
Meditations on a Radical Poet & Advocate.**

(Rachel Morgan, Major Jackson, Suzanna Tamminen, Brian Teare, Rachel Richardson)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

A formally innovative poet, Brenda Hillman writes poetry that pushes boundaries of lyricism using meditation, collage, and activism to interrogate the act of experimentation. A poet of

possibilities, Hillman invokes the environment, politics, theory, and religion to “open the lyric” (Hillman). This panel will explore Hillman’s forty years of verse that has given contemporary American poetry new perspectives on form and craft, and will consider her contribution to teaching, poetry, and publishing.

**S145. Family Secrets: A Storyteller’s Bounty, or Curse?.**

(Aimee Liu, Colette Sartor, David Francis, Elle Johnson, Toni Ann Johnson)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Many writers use their families’ most closely held mysteries and secrets as subject matter. But not all relatives cooperate. And not all stories make sense when pulled from hiding. Vital pieces may be missing, essential informants deceased. Transforming artifacts and shards of memory into literature that rings true can be

both vexing and seductive. In this panel, five award-winning fiction and nonfiction authors and screenwriters discuss the perils and rewards of writing around family secrets.

**S146. The Joy & Magic of Afrofantasy:  
Celebrating African Storytelling Traditions.**

(Candace Denson, Didi Anofienem, Karen A. Parker, Omari Richards)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

From Nigeria to South Central, Afrofantasy presents readers and writers alike with the opportunity to overcome colonial histories and create new legacies. This conversation explores Afrofantasy's origins in African oral storytelling traditions, folktales, and mythology. Through discussions of their works and the authors that inspired them, three panelists challenge Western storytelling conventions in the hopes of empowering future storytellers across the African diaspora.

**S147. The Defiance of Pink Poetry Books.**

(Xochitl Bermejo, Chen Chen, Anatalia Vallez, Cathy Linh Che, Zefyr Lisowski)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

To see the world through rose-colored glasses means to have a positive outlook that may be naive or weak. But in a violent world, it is an act of defiance to choose love and joy over alienation and uncertainty. Celebrating titles that feature the color pink on their covers, poets will read work that highlights the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and identity, and discuss how pink came to be a prominent element of their book, and what the color means to them and their writing.

**S148. Saying the Unsayable: Writers & Editors on Experimental Forms.**

(Michelle Donahue, Michael Ramos, Jason Daniels, Felicia Zamora, Kate Gale)



Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writers often reach for experimentation when conventional forms cannot contain their work, when something more—or less—is needed to convey the tangled, traumatic, and expansive. In this panel, editors and writers across genres will discuss strategies and techniques to use experimentation to get at the unsayable in creative work, and how certain topics—like the climate crises, sociopolitics, trauma, and complicated identities—lend themselves to experimental approaches.

**S149. Spirit Work: Talking (with) Sacred Texts Through Poetry.**

(Philip Metres, Padraig O Tuama, Angela Penaredondo, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Jessica Jacobs)  
Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Drawing upon inherited or chosen faith traditions as we face our contemporary world and its spiritual predicament, poets Sarah Ghazal Ali, Jessica Jacobs, Philip Metres, Angela Peñaredondo, and Pádraig ó Tuama will offer brief remarks and readings of poems (their own and others') that wrestle with God and religion, the architecture of awe and belief, of grief and unbelief, offering new ways of thinking of poems as spiritual practice—through imaginative contemplation, midrash, and ritual.

**S150. Out of Many, One: Writers of Color Writing the Multiple-POV Novel.**

(Kimberly Garza, Rubén Degollado, Jonathan Escoffery, Sidik Fofana, LaToya Watkins)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Even in an industry that prizes novels over story collections, many writers of color turn to novels in stories, books composed of multiple storylines. What can the multi-point of view

book offer to us—and our stories about family, diaspora, and community—that maybe no other form can? Fiction authors with acclaimed multi-POV books discuss the powers and pitfalls of the mosaic novel, crafting distinct voices and characters, representation, and creating a larger narrative out of many.

**S151. Disability & the Residency Experience.**

(Monika Burczyk, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Leslie McIntosh, Orchid Tierney, Beth Weeks)

Program Development. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As residencies seek to expand inclusion and widen engagement, how do those who identify as disabled navigate the expectations, facilities, and cohort combinations so that they can engage fully in the residency experience? What are best practices for organizations in providing essential accommodations as well as meaningful stipends to offset travel and associated costs of a residency? We will explore these questions

through the experiences of four writers who self-identify as disabled.

**S152. Shaking Up the 3 Percent: Publishing Transnational Genre Lit.**

(Neela Banerjee, Rakesh Khanna, Jee Koh, Nadine Santoro)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Only 3 percent of books published in the US annually are translated from other languages—limiting the type of literature chosen. These eclectic publishers share what it means to decenter American “literary” sensibilities and make bold choices to acquire genre writing (science fiction, pulp novels, graphic novels, and more) from around the world. Panelists talk about the joys, risks, and challenges of publishing this marginalized lit and its importance in this historic moment of global attention.

### **S153. Artistic Skill or Buzzkill? Grammar in the Poetry Workshop.**

(Ellen McGrath Smith, Amy Ash, Karen Paul Holmes, Anna Leahy)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel explores creative ways to introduce grammar conversations in the poetry workshop, with an emphasis not on prescriptive grammar but rather on empowering writers to establish their poems' particular grammars through conventional or other means. Panelists will offer exercises and ideas for treating grammar as a set of aesthetic choices that underwrite a poet's intentions and mitigate the disconnect that can occur between sentence and line, vision and execution, in poem drafts.

### **S154. Soul-Searching in the Archives: How to Research a Memoir That Sells.**

(Susan Shapiro, Michelle Bowdler, Lee Oglesby, Marian Schembari, Shalene Gupta)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

A good memoir tells a story with universal appeal. Today, many editors request writers do this by adding research to create “hybrid memoirs.” In our panel, three authors and one editor from a major imprint will discuss how to use research to turn the story of one into the story of many. How do you comb through archives and conduct interviews? How do you stay true to your story as you juggle citations? We’ll discuss how we did our research and folded it into our work, and the lessons we learned.

**S155. When a Book Takes Forever to Write:  
How to Survive the Process.**

(Sabina Murray, Shakstri Akella, Gina Apostol,  
Jeff Parker, Margaret Lee)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What happens when writing a book takes much longer than expected? How do you keep on going? Five published writers from a variety of backgrounds (journalism, creative writing, academia) and genres (historical fiction, memoir, short story, novella, translated) will share their experiences with long book projects—some spanning almost three decades—and offer practical advice on how they navigated the process.

**S156. “Thou Hast Thy Music Too”: The  
Poetry of Aging.**

(Owen Lewis, Cornelius Eady, Carlie Hoffman,  
Linda Susan Jackson, Myra Shapiro)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Every life stage offers unique challenges and possibilities and, as Keats wrote in “To Autumn,” its particular music. Aging brings its

dilemmas: accentuation of losses, bodily and mental impairments, diminishing time. These same challenges are grist for new perspectives, wisdom, and awareness of the temporal and the enduring. In this panel, four poets (of a certain age) will speak to different aspects of aging as a stage of life lived in and with poetry. A younger poet will also reflect on age.

### **S157. The Black Ekphrastic Mode.**

(Elontra Hall, Nick Makoha, Jason Allen-Paisant, Malika Booker)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Four UK award-winning Black poets/academics talk about the unique approach to ekphrasis in their latest poetry collections. From four different vantages of the Black gaze, they fuse a relationship between poetry and the visual arts. They share both their poems and praxis. Malika Booker - *An Alternative History of Stones* (TBC, 2025); Jason Allen-Paisant - *Self-Portrait*



as Othello (Pavilion, 2023); Denise Saul - The Room Between Us (Pavilion, 2022); Nick Makoha - The New Carthaginians (Penguin, 2025).

**S158. Beyond Anthropomorphism:  
Reimagining Animals in Literature.**

(Eleanor Henderson, Erica Berry, Gina Chung, Henry Hoke, Lydi Conklin)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What is the role of nonhuman animals in literature today? How do we represent them on the page, and what do those representations reveal about humans, other animals, and our shared, imperiled planet? Are animals Others? Heroes? Symbols? Mirrors? Five writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry discuss their approaches to writing about other species—from wolves to cows to bugs to octopi to a queer LA mountain lion—and how doing so might

grow the human imagination and redefine our own animality.

**S159. Babel at the Table: How to Run a Successful Multilanguage Translation Workshop.**

(Judy Halebsky, Alana Levinson, Mira Rosenthal, Iris Dunkle)

Translation. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The multilanguage translation workshop is a seminar in world literature grounded in specificity. The work is to breathe again into a text and let it live again. When teaching translation workshops, we ground the discussion in relation to key theories of praxis while emphasizing the process as a cross-cultural endeavor—or transcreation—that draws attention to the subtleties of language and requires creative experimentation.

**S160. Conflict: Hell Is Story Friendly; Put Your Protagonist Among the Damned.**

(Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Laura Spence-Ash, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Caroline Kim, Matthew Lansburgh)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Conflict remains essential to any work of fiction. It propels the story forward as the characters struggle to seek resolution and solicit empathy. Five diverse, award-winning authors of realistic and speculative fiction will discuss different types of conflict, underscoring various principles and techniques that can effectively improve and/or define it and make the story as charged and compelling as possible.

**S161. Book Tours: Wisdom & Warning from Those Who've Gone Before.**

(Minna Dubin, Brad Balukjian, Susan Kiyoko Ito, Ruth Whippman, Tomas Moniz)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.

Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

“Unless you’re selling out stadiums like Michelle Obama, presses don’t pay for book tours” is a common sentiment heard by new authors. But is it true? With wisdom won from experience, this panel will share mistakes, successes, and advice learned from our own in-person and virtual tours. We’ll talk money, travel choices, tactics for filling seats, what to do when only two people show up, tricky audience members, conversation partners, whether to bring family along, and how to not burn out.

**S162. Poetry of Empathy & the Art of Resistance & Dissent.**

(Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, Beau Beausoleil, Richard Modiano, Askold Melnyczuk)

Writers’ Conferences & Centers. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

We're living in a time marred by existential crises, such as wars, genocides, famine, pandemics, mass migration, and climate change. We face ideological differences, and racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination. Activism has become part of daily life, with protests common in public places and educational institutions. Yet, lasting solutions evade us. What are we lacking, and how are writers, poets, and activists responding? The panel "Poetry of Empathy & the Art of Resistance & Dissent" will discuss all.

**12:10 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. PT**

**S163. Meditation for Writers: Compassion Practice.**

(April Davila)

In-Person.

Room 510, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Join April Dávila, a certified mindfulness meditation teacher, for a calming, one-hour

meditation session. The session will begin and end with fifteen minutes of guided meditation. The middle thirty minutes will explore a specific mindfulness topic. On Saturday, March 29, participants will focus on compassion practice. Please come wearing comfortable street clothes; mats and yoga apparel are not necessary.

**12:10 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. PT**

**S164. Invisible Strings: 113 Poets Respond to the Songs of Taylor Swift.**

(Kristie Frederick Daugherty)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The editor Kristie Frederick Daugherty and some of the poets included in the poetry anthology *Invisible Strings: 113 Poets Respond to the Songs of Taylor Swift* (Random House, 2024) will be present to answer questions and

discuss their poems, as well as read a few selected poems.

**S165. Poetry of the West with Red Hen Press.**

(Kate Gale, Harryette Mullen, Peggy Shumaker, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Will Alexander)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

Will Alexander, Peggy Shumaker, Alison Hawthorne Deming, and Harryette Mullen: We feasted, we cried, we wept for our ancestors, and for the ancestors who lived on these lands and for our children, and we wrote the poetry of remembrance and laughter and forgetting and of writing new stories. The narrative of the West is being rewritten by these poets. We write ourselves into a new story.

Read our presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be

livestreamed for virtual audiences. All  
livestreamed events include open captions.

### **S166. The Poets Are Writing Novels.**

(Ruth Madievsky, Sally Wen Mao, Ben Purkert,  
Mahogany Browne)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-  
Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los  
Angeles Convention Center.

“Novels written by poets” are having a moment. Their recent critical and commercial successes demonstrate readers’ appetites for narratives with lyrical elements. How are today’s poets influencing fiction? What possibilities and challenges, from a creative and publishing perspective, does fiction afford them? Five poets who regularly publish fiction will try to identify that ineffable quality that writing in both genres brings to their work, and how they navigate walking two roads at once.



## **S167. Affect & Act: Environmental & Climate Storytelling Across Diverse Mediums.**

(Cynthia Reeves, Carmiel Banasky, Melody Cooper, Carol LaHines, Nina Schuyler)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

To paraphrase climatologist Judith Curry, storytelling is “a way of smuggling” environmental and climate concerns into readers’ consciousness; moreover, it can compel them to imagine past, present, and future impacts of human action on the environment.

What does pioneering research reveal as the most “affective” ways for storytellers to respond to the eco-crises we face? If our writing is meant to influence cultural-social-political change, what creative approaches best accomplish that goal?

## **S168. Debut You! How to Bring Your Poetry Book to Market.**

(Ally Ang, Margot Kahn, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Megan Pinto, Katie Prince)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five poets publishing debuts in 2024–2025 will discuss the resources, time, and tactics with which they approached book promotion. With day job expertise ranging from strategic marketing and grant writing to editing and communications, they'll share how to divide time between writing and publicity, create a budget, send cold emails when you're a stone-cold introvert, plan readings, pitch reviews, and more. If you've got a book on the way or in the works, this panel is for you.

## **S169. Poetic Fathers: On the Entanglements of Writing About Our Children.**

(Derek Sheffield, Matthew Nienow, Gregory Pardlo, Nathaniel Perry, Simmons Buntin)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do our identities as fathers influence our poems? And how, if at all, does our poem-making influence the way we parent? When our children enter our poems, what are the ethics involved? Five poets who are also fathers share and discuss their poems—and the poems of fellow poetic fathers such as Primus St. John and Robert Frost—that poignantly address these questions and more.

**S170. Native Tongues 2: Teaching Creative Writing with Multilingual Students.**

(Huan Hsu, Mieke Eerkens, Wade Geary, Adam Zdrodowski, Maxime Garcia Diaz)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Given how essential one's native language is to the experience and creative expression of their world, how does the negotiation between a multilingual writer's "home" language and their writing language (English) present both challenges and opportunities? In this important evolution of a discussion begun in 2023, we explore how multilingual students can be supported and encouraged, particularly in light of the rapidly developing influence of (English- and Western-centric) generative AI tools.

### **S172. Bad to the Bone? Crafting Deviant Characters.**

(Jessamyn Violet, Sophia Babai, Kayla Ancrum, Francesca Lia Block, Maurice Carlos Ruffin)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In criminal justice, the opposite of deviance is conformity. By definition, then, all activism is a deviant act. Still, predators are deviants too.

How does this rich and unpredictable concept enliven our work? What can we learn from inhabiting a deviant's mind? What does deviance mean when law enforcers crack down on activists and marginalized people? Four multigenre authors discuss how and why they develop deviant characters, from fierce sympathetic LGBTQ+ rule breakers to heinous villains.

**S173. Bad Belonging: Jewish & Muslim Poets Writing Against & Into Community.**

(Maya Pindyck, Kaveh Bassiri, Mohja Kahf, Taije Silverman)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How can poetry disrupt shared ideas about what it means to belong to an ethnic or religious group? What might it mean, especially, to write poems as a “bad Jew” or a “bad Muslim” at this time? This poetry reading and panel addresses tensions between belonging to a cultural group

while making choices, as poets, that refuse or challenge that sense of communal belonging. Panelists will consider poetry's capacities for writing both against community and into community at this moment in time.

### **S174. The Southern Lit Journal as Resistance.**

(Heather Truett, Becka McKay, Jamie Poissant, Jess Gallerie, Darby Power)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With the Southern political climate taking oppressive turns, literary journals can serve as artistic sites of resistance. How do literary journals maintain a progressive vision in the face of ongoing political violence? How can literary journals stand in solidarity with communities under perpetual attack? Editors from five literary journals in Florida and Alabama will discuss the lessons learned from publishing in the South as well as their

experiences working with marginalized communities.

**S175. We Beautifully Outside: Informal Writing Collectives, Community & Kinship.**

(Renee Simms, Shonda Buchanan, Kim Benjamin, Stephanie Bray, Monica West)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel will discuss the significance of community-based writing spaces—especially for marginalized writers—that are not necessarily attached to universities or foundations. What happens with our craft and careers when we simply organize with other writers? What is the history of such literary gatherings? The panelists are members of the Anansi Writers Workshop founded in 1990 in Los Angeles, and Black Women Write, a collective established in Sacramento in 2018 and in Seattle in 2023.

**S176. “Traduttore, Traditore!”: Poets on Translation.**

(John Murillo, Mary Jo Bang, Shangyang Fang, Forrest Gander, Valzhyna Mort)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In his 2004 memoir *If This Be Treason*, translator Gregory Rabassa describes the act of translating, at least in part, as an act of betrayal. Betrayal of language, author, and self. Was he right? If so, is this especially true when translating poems? This panel uses Rabassa’s argument as a jumping-off point to discuss the joys, challenges, and . . . impossibility? . . . of translation. The five poet-translators will be reading from recently published translations from Chinese, Italian, Russian, and Spanish texts.

**S177. No Excerpts: On the Long Poem.**

(Corey Van Landingham, Jennifer Chang, Jacques J. Rancourt, Ama Codjoe, Rick Barot)



Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Long poems pose many problems for the writer, reader, and teacher. How do poets, past and present, retain the attention of readers? How much does the market shape poem length? How can one teach poems concerned with endlessness in short class periods? The hope is that one may free oneself from these anxieties to make art that endures not just across pages, but across centuries. Dedicated to that long view, this panel features five poets who have written and/or taught long poems themselves.

**S178. Magic, Ghosts & the Uncanny: The Hidden Logic of Fiction.**

(Claire Jiménez, Grace Butler, Olufunke Ogundimu, Raul Palma)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

In this panel, authors will discuss how magic, ghosts, and the uncanny influence the stories they tell. They will explore the tensions between “genre-bending” narratives that set out to complicate conventions, with traditions and expectations firmly steeped in mystery, horror, and/or fantasy, considering, How do authors working in or outside of these traditions write compelling stories?

**S179. Cane & Malunggay: Manoa Journal Explores South Asian Coolie & Philippine History.**

(Subramanian Shankar, Gina Apostol, Vinod Busjeet, Rachelle Cruz, Rajiv Mohabir)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Manoa Journal’s two most recent issues present writing emerging from the South Asian Coolie Diaspora and Philippine political resistance. The event will combine readings and conversation to showcase this powerful writing in the context of

the vibrant literary community the journal has facilitated for three decades. The panel will explore tradition, belonging, identity, land, and the oceans that connect us all. It will explore how we document survival and create a roadmap for the future.

**S181. Moving Beyond Writing Prompts: Teaching Writing to K–12 in a Multisensory Way.**

(Kim Purcell, Ava Lucas, Selvi Radia, Keren Taylor, Lana Colaco)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Engage your students by gamifying the writing experience and using multisensory experiments to inspire them. Keren Taylor is the founder and director of WriteGirl LA, a creative writing and mentoring organization that was awarded the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Acclaimed author Kim Purcell runs an international program teaching kids to

write novels. They'll be joined by teen students, and together, they'll share what inspires great writing and what doesn't.

**S182. But It Wasn't Written in English:  
Translated Literature in the CW Classroom.**

(Bonnie Chau, C Dylan Bassett, May-lee Chai,  
Jennifer Tseng)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

What happens when creative writing syllabi include texts not originally written in English? What new dimensions does translated literature add to conversations about writing process, craft, language, and revision? This panel's writer-teachers discuss the meaningful insights that emerge when questions about translation are invited to the college creative writing classroom. They address concerns about teaching non-English texts, share advice, and reflect on what translation brings to their writing and teaching.

## **S183. Writing Traumedy: How to Make Your Mother Cry at Your Life & Laugh at Your Death.**

(Brooke Champagne, Jill Christman, Ashley C. Ford, Brittany Means, Sue William Silverman)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

It's hard to be human. If you want to write the tough stuff—illness, trauma, loss, disaster, life—in a way that takes readers to the darkest places, but also brings them up for air and lets them laugh, join us as we marry tragedy with comedy to conceive the love-hate child named “Traumedy.” We'll offer tips for using irony, irreverence, and gallows humor to bring levity to heartbreak and explore life's sorrows traumatically. Morphing pain with pleasure is ideal for any sadomasochist—or writer.

## **S184. The Heat of the Hybrid.**

(Jill Bialosky, Kimiko Hahn, Beth Ann Fennelly, Tina Chang, David Baker)  
Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.  
Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Systems that collide produce heat, energy. What's true in physics is true in poetics. When systems converge, they produce heat and energy. Panelists consider the dynamic vitality of poetic hybridity—combining lyric poetry with “unpoetic” materials like science writing, journalism, medical research, and creative nonfiction. Such energetic collisions of genre can fuse into new literary forms, expanding boundaries of contemporary poetry in exciting formal, thematic, and narrative ways.

**S185. “I Am Still a Body in the World”:  
Disability & Chronic Illness in Poetry.**  
(Teo Shannon, Michele Bombardier, Katie  
Hartsock, Laura Passin)  
Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Disability has been described before as the “final frontier of the civil rights movement.” In a world struggling with understanding accessibility and still reeling from a global pandemic, disability poetry offers an important and urgent lens through which to view our world. What does it mean to be disabled or to live with chronic illness? What does it mean for medical professionals who may not experience it personally? What are the borders of disability and illness?

**S186. The Cost of Assimilation: Asian Diaspora Writers on Losing Their First Language.**

(Grace Prasad, Geetha Iyer, Annie Tan, Brian Truong)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Being a child of the Asian diaspora means living at the intersection of cultures and languages. Assimilation offered safety—stepping out of the leaky boat of immigrant identity onto the solid ground of Americanness. Nothing could be done about our faces, so we did the next best thing: mastered new languages, lost our accents, focused on the future. But what happens when we examine our parents’ lives and homelands, and how do we reclaim our lost languages and selves in borrowed tongues?

**S187. Veins & Tributaries: A Reading with Diasporic Burmese American Writers.**

(Audrey Williams, Michelle Dunn Marsh, Maw Shein Win)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person. Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Explore literary tributaries branching from the Burmese diaspora with poetry, fiction, and memoir. Five intergenerational authors, each drawing from their deep ancestral roots in



Myanmar, explore the intricate geopolitical themes of identity, displacement, and legacy. Join us for a vivid dialogue on how the shadows of postindependence Burma shape notions of time, space, and self.

**S188. Books of Purpose: From Empathy to Activism.**

(Viet Dinh, Sunu Chandy, Christine Maul Rice, Jody Hobbs Hesler, Halle Hill)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Many books foster empathy. Some cross into advocacy and activism. What's different about writing and promoting books of purpose? How can we steward our messages with accountability and integrity? Panelists representing a range of disciplines and lived experiences will detail the role advocacy plays in their written work and related events, and describe how they strive to ensure that their

books are helpful and sensitive to the communities and causes they're writing about.

**S189. Find Your Submission Groove:  
Cultivate Radically Different Paths to  
Publication.**

(Michele Berger, Amy Shearn, Joanna Rakoff,  
Susan Lee, Elizabeth Silver)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Submission is a critical step toward publication. It is second only to writing, but writers are often ill-prepared for the submission process. Join us to hear our radically different paths to publication, and how you can use our submission strategies to support your publication goals. We go beyond the usual discussion of submission solely as technique and discuss mindset too. We draw upon our experiences as editors, multiple genre writers, and working with large publishers and small

presses. Participants will leave with five to ten concrete ideas for a submission plan.

**S190. Student-Run Literary Magazines:  
Don't Throw in the Towel!.**

(Mihaela Moscaliuc, Kylan Rice, Zafira Demiri,  
Catherine Dent, Sarah Ledet)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Student-run literary magazines function as more than platforms for showcasing undergraduate and graduate student work. They complement and inform classroom learning, create opportunities for professionalization as well as experimentation, and act as creative catalysts for the campus community. This panel of faculty advisors and students will share insights on successful practices and advise on how to secure funding and address institutional and other challenges.

**1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. PT**

## **S191. Native American Poetry from California, a Reading.**

(Lucille Lang Day, Denise Low, Stephen Meadows, Emily Clarke, Kim Shuck)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

With more than 750,000 residents who identify as Native American, California has the largest Native American population of any state and possibly also the most diverse. This reading will feature poets from California's Native American diaspora, as well as poets from Native Nations Indigenous to the state. They will read work rooted in the landscapes and cities of California, from ocean to desert and Sierra, and give voice to culture and traditions that interweave with contemporary life here.

## **S192. Poet Leaders: A Letras Latinas Reading & Discussion.**

(Brent Amenityro, Sebastián Páramo, Ricardo Alberto Maldonado, Ysabel Y. González)

Program Development. In-Person.

Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do you maintain an artistic practice while being in a leadership role like poetry editor at a publisher, founder of a literary journal, executive director, or senior poetry consultant for a major poetry festival? Three poets share their experiences as literary citizens and leaders. Opening with a reading of their work, they will then participate in a conversation about their varied roles championing literature, challenges they faced, and ways to get involved in the literary community.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

## **S193. On Tiger Balm & Fourth Kingdom: How Korean American Writers Have Built Community.**

(Hannah Bae, Joseph Han, Marie Myung-Ok Lee, Alexander Chee, Gene Kwak)

Tributes. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Korean American writers' group, The Fourth Kingdom, has met annually at AWP for over a decade, and the Korean American lit community has been ascending, largely due to the writers who have been at its forefront.

Inspired by The Fourth Kingdom, a Korean American writers' group for early career writers, Tiger Balm, has recently materialized. This event will be a tribute to the founders and early members of The Fourth Kingdom while also discussing the next generation of Korean American organizers.

## **S194. Making a Literary Future with Artificial Intelligence.**

(Dashiel Carrera, Christian Bök, Katy Gero, Nick Montfort, Amy Catanzano)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

As artificial intelligence advances, its impact on writers, publishers, and readers is increasingly significant. This panel brings together authors who use AI. With backgrounds in art-science collaborations, computer science, and human-AI cocreation, the panelists will discuss the benefits and risks posed by AI. How will AI reshape the relationship between writers, publishers, and readers? How can the literary world help direct the course of AI and ensure the future of literature?

## **S195. The Middle March: Novel Writing's Toughest Mile.**

(Maria Hummel, Jennifer duBois, James Han Mattson, Maggie Shipstead, Simon Han)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Many aspiring novelists don't reach publication because they struggle with the middle of the process—whether it's getting to the end of the first draft, or undertaking the multiple subsequent drafts required to refine their prose and ideas. How do you develop story, craft, and stamina at the same time? The five novelists on this panel will share tips and tales of survival from the “middle march” of writing their award-winning books, which range from historical novels to thrillers to horror.

### **S196. Is That What You Meant?**

#### **Collaborative Editing for Inclusion & Belonging.**

(Chelsea Jackson, Keenan Norris, Elisabeth Houston, Katie Robinson, A. J. Bermudez)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.



Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In a publication landscape that has a ways to go in holding space for queer, diverse, and marginalized voices, what are the roles of editors and writers when potentially sensitive language or themes are at play? In this panel, editors will discuss revision processes that prioritize communication, creativity, and compassion. Panelists will also share times when collaborative editing strengthened the inclusivity and quality of the pieces published and deepened their relationships with writers.

**S197. Teaching Speculative Fiction: A Guide for the Uneasy & the Reluctant.**

(Anjali Sachdeva, Stephanie Feldman, Jac Jemc, Tobi Ogundiran)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Students love reading and writing speculative fiction (SF), but as an instructor, you may feel

uncertain how to take a literary approach to swords-and-sorcery fiction or gory horror. In this panel, SF writers/teachers discuss best practices for teaching and workshopping sci-fi, fantasy, and other SF, even if you don't write or read it yourself. The discussion covers using SF to teach craft, designing assignments across genres, sample writing exercises, and creating a reading list you love.

**S198. Breaking All the Rules: Ungoverning the Contemporary Sex Poem.**

(Keetje Kuipers, Chen Chen, Luther Hughes, Erika Meitner, Eric Tran)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

Reflecting on sex and literature, Melissa Febos writes, “When something seems difficult, in writing and in life, we tend to make rules around it.” But rules were made to be broken—or reinvented—and this panel will share strategies for writing poems that push back against

cultural norms that attempt to govern sex on and off the page, as well as the ways that allowing a fuller sexual existence into our poems can create more space for explorations of humor, grief, play, and even our deepest rage.

### **S199. Experiments in Time.**

(Hillary Brenhouse, Venita Blackburn, Rita Bullwinkel, Shze-Hui Tjoa, Elissa Washuta)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Across genres, writers interested in formal experimentation have arrived at new layers of emotion and meaning by playing with time. In this panel, authors of time-bending fiction, nonfiction, and poetry will discuss how they've resisted linearity and also why—whether it's to more authentically represent the workings of memory, to challenge colonial story structures, to capture alternate histories, to conjure other

worlds, or to demonstrate the circularity of trauma and desire.

**S200. A Tribute to Elizabeth Arnold (1958–2024).**

(Lindsay Bernal, Elizabeth Countryman, Katy Didden, Kiyanna Hill, Jenny Mueller)

Tributes. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A tribute to Elizabeth Arnold (1958–2024), whose innovative oeuvre, vital scholarship, and intensive and generous teaching continues to enrich American poetry and the poetry of illness. The author of six volumes of poetry, from 1999's *The Reef* to 2023's *Wave House*, Arnold taught in the MFA program at the University of Maryland for over two decades and helped elevate Flood Editions, her press. Former students, friends, and colleagues will read from Arnold's work and remark on her legacy.

## **S201. Coach House Books Sixtieth-Anniversary Reading.**

(Alana Wilcox, Derek Beaulieu, Adam Dickinson, Suzette Mayr)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Coach House Books has been publishing cutting-edge literary fiction, poetry, and nonfiction since 1965, meaning that 2025 marks our sixtieth anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, we will showcase some of our most celebrated authors, including Giller Prize winner Suzette Mayr (*The Sleeping Car Porter*) and poets Ian Williams, Adam Dickinson, Derek Beaulieu, and Susan Holbrook. The readings will be hosted by Editorial Director Alana Wilcox.

## **S202. Criminalized Lit.**

(Amber Dawn U, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Janine Joseph, Casey Plett, Danny Ramadan)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.

Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

There is inherent risk in writing about our lives. What if our lives and our stories are criminalized, banned, or in violation of immigration or civil law, or strip us of the right of return to our country of origin? This panel speaks to so-called incriminating admissions in our writing. We will share experiences of writing with this level of risk, and strategies for working with other criminalized writers in our roles as educators, publishers, and queer, trans, and displaced community-based artists.

**S203. Outspoken: Accurately & Sensitively Representing Sexual Assault in YA Fiction.**

(Kim DeRose, Sonia Patel, Rocky Callen, Annie Cardi, Madeline Claire Franklin)

Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person. Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

In an era of book banning, it's more important than ever to be outspoken about the difficult

issues teens face, including sexual assault. But how do we write about it accurately and sensitively, making readers feel seen while simultaneously ensuring that the text isn't unnecessarily triggering or gratuitous? These five writers will discuss how they each approached writing about sexual assault in their YA novels, why it's so crucial, and the vital importance of centering the victim.

**S204. IP IP IP: Books, Films & Beyond.**

(tammy lynne stoner, Beth Marshea, Phoebe Schmidt, M Shelly Conner)

Agents, Contracts, Contests & Marketing. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

IP, IP, IP. It's all about intellectual property, whether it's a book optioned for a series or a short story turned into a feature or a script reverse engineered into a graphic novel. Join us for a fun, inspirational panel with a literary agent whose slate is entirely marginalized

voices, a film/IP manager, and two award-winning authors as we discuss contracts, how to get representation, what agents and managers do, working as a queer screenwriter and novelist, and approaches to adaptation.

**S205. Fighting the Muzzle: Literary Organizing for Palestine During Genocide.**

(Glenn Shaheen, Sarah Aziza, Tarik Dobbs, Susan Abulhawa, Lana Barkawi)

Program Development. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles

Convention Center.

The invasion and genocide of Gaza has cost the lives of almost forty thousand Palestinians. In the United States, even acknowledging this unconscionable atrocity has been labeled as “complicated.” The leaders of three prominent Arab/SWANA literary organizations (Mizna, RAWI, and Palestine Writes) discuss the ways they have been silenced trying to promote Palestinian, Arab, and Southwest Asian and



North African literature, and the methods they've used to break through this silence.

**S206. Beyond the Slush: Engaging Students in Literary Publishing.**

(Paul Jaskunas, Emily Everett, Gerald Maa, Dora Malech, Anna Lena Phillips Bell)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 409AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

College-based literary journals have traditionally tasked students with reading the slush pile, but there are alternative, and perhaps preferable, ways that students can contribute to the enterprise. How can journals better serve students, allowing them to develop diverse skills and interests? How can faculty work with student staff to inject fresh vitality and new perspectives into their publications? Hear from five editors who are working with students in innovative, interdisciplinary ways.

**S207. Writing & Narrative Medicine: Study, Practice & Teaching.**

(Joseph Eveld, Chris Adrian, Deepthiman Gowda, Nellie Hermann, Nicole Robinson)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Narrative medicine is a quickly growing discipline practiced in healthcare, education, and beyond. It engages participants directly in literature and writing, as well as other facets of the arts and humanities. This panel of award-winning writers, physicians, poets, and scholars will explore the multifaceted role of writing as a cornerstone of narrative medicine practice, focusing on pedagogy and pathways for writers to utilize their skills in narrative medicine contexts for self and others.

**S208. Out in Public: Five LGBTQ+ Poets on Writing at One of the Oldest Pride Parades.**

(Brian Sonia-Wallace, Jireh Deng, Jose Rios, Carla Sameth, Victor Yates)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

West Hollywood is an LGBTQ+ sanctuary city and in 2019 became the first city to sponsor poets at their Pride parade to interview participants and write poems based on their stories. These five poets representing LA's diverse identities, including city poet laureates, examine queer community organizing through poetry. This combination discussion panel and reading will pair poems exploring poetry's ability to hold space where trauma is prevalent and joy and delight are desperately needed.

**S209. Playful yet Rigorous: World-Building in the Creative Writing Classroom.**

(Jennifer Pullen, Julia Alicia Case, Chris Drew, Trent Hergenrader)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

The teachers on this panel will address what benefits world-building brings to their classroom, their institution, and their teaching practice. World-building can build community, foster interdisciplinarity, increase engagement, and improve craft. Topics include the ethical dimensions of world-building, as well as specific activities, and applications, from multimodal storytelling to study abroad or game-based learning. The panelists encompass a variety of regions, institution types, and ranks.

**S210. Passing the Torch (Back & Forth):  
Mentors & Mentees Discuss Effective  
Mentoring.**

(Brad Modlin, Julia Brown, J Bruce Fuller, Juan Carlos Reyes)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

How can faculty best support students whose interests and strengths extend past the classroom? How can faculty encourage students

in extra projects? How to find time to grad school applications or extra stories? How to help students grow into their own skills? What about online students? Does mentoring end at graduation? Students and their professors—who have been on both sides of the equation—reflect on what practices are most helpful.

## **S211. Health, Healing & Hybridity: Crafting the Body Across Genre.**

(Jodi-Ann Burey, Athena Dixon, Jamila Minnicks, Cynthia Manick)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

How do you write love for a body inhabiting a world that refuses to love them back? How do you render the body on the page when racism, fatphobia, sexism, ableism, and other forms of institutional violence do not want these bodies to exist? From grief to love, cancer to disability, belonging to shape-shifting, haunting pasts and

Afrofutures, four Black women authors within and across genre (poetry, memoir, novel, essays) discuss craft insights and healthful possibilities in centering the body in their work.

**S212. Abroad as an Escape: International Exchange & Trauma-Informed Writing.**

(Anesce Dremen, Sophia Babai, Elisabet Raquel García, Camille U. Adams, Shin Yu Pai)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Trauma travels with us abroad and in our writing too. Nomadic writers will speak about how their long-term experiences via international exchange inform their creative writing in relation to trauma. How do we take care of ourselves when we are underrepresented in both study abroad and the publishing industry? Panelists will discuss how their creativity is influenced abroad, what healing means, and ethically engaging with one's host

country and country of origin, as well as tips for aspiring nomadic writers.

### **S213. What Is & What If: The Speculative in Creative Nonfiction.**

(Adèle Barclay, Megan Milks, Nisa Malli, Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Emily Prado)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Five authors consider the speculative as a deft and bold tool in creative nonfiction. Panelists read from their innovative creative nonfiction that pries at the real and imaginary and discuss how speculative, mythic, ghostly, and otherwise more obviously imaginative modes wrangle events from life into narrative. This panel asks what's at stake in inviting speculation into our nonfiction and interrogates whether speculative creative nonfiction is a new genre or integral to creative nonfiction's lineage.

## **S214. Amplifying Filipino American Voices in YA Fiction.**

(Tracy Badua, Shannon Price, Clare Osongco, Alex Brown)

Children's & Young Adult Literature. In-Person. Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Building on the fact that there is more to marginalized people than their pain, these authors of young adult books go beyond identity-centered-trauma narratives and explore nuanced Filipino/Filipino American experiences through horror, fantasy, contemporary, and futuristic lenses. This panel will discuss how and why marginalized authors infuse elements of their backgrounds into their work and how Fil/FilAm characters and world-building have (or have not) fit into traditional publishing.

## **S215. Literary Rebels: Breaking & Remaking the Boundaries of Literary Genre.**

(Caroline Hagood, Jiwon Choi, Clarence A. Haynes, Tariq Shah, JP Howard)



Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Despite new innovations and increasing interest in the fields of hybrid writing, many publishers, agents, and publicists remain resistant to these forms, leaving authors uncertain as to how to find their audience. Established members of the publishing industry will discuss navigating the rules—written and unwritten—of literary genre, and how to rebel against them effectively. We will discuss current trends in genre bending, blending, and experimentation, as well as opportunities for such work.

**S216. Strength in Numbers: Southern  
California Women & Femme Organizers in  
Action.**

(Kelsey Bryan-Zwick, Natalie Graham, Jessica  
Wilson, Danielle Mitchell, bridgette bianca)  
Writers' Conferences & Centers. In-Person.  
Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

You are not as alone as you think. Join a diverse intersectional group of women and femme leaders in Southern California as we share how we empower each other in the poetry community. Our panelists will offer insights on literary activism, identity complexities, collaboration pitfalls, and best practices. We hope to acknowledge the work of women and femmes and ignite a new cohort of community leaders, hosts, teaching artists, and organizers.

**S217. Of Many Tongues: Diverse Traditions in Anglophone Writing.**

(Meher Manda, Shakstri Akella, Sham-e-Ali Nayeem, Raghav Rao, Torsa Ghosal)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

South Asian writers writing in America—their English jostling alongside Hindi, Telugu, Urdu, and more—explore our instinctual turn to hybridized literature. Panelists will present

excerpts of their work and share choices behind writing at the intersection of two or more languages for an English-reading audience. We will discuss whether such work dislocates English from a Western hold, identifying its dialectical uses; bridges the gap toward global literature; or carves out a liminal third.

**3:20 p.m. to 4:35 p.m. PT**

**S218. Using Crowdfunding for Direct Distribution & Community Building.**

(Krystie Yen, Russell Nohelty, Oriana Leckert, Dani Hedlund)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person. Bookfair Stage, West Hall A, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

There are numerous benefits to crowdfunding for authors and publishers: It can help foster deep ties with readers, encourage community- and brand-building, and offer direct-to-consumer sales and marketing solutions. Join Kickstarter's head of publishing, Brink

Literacy's CEO, Feminist Press' executive director, Slant'd's executive director, and Microcosm's publisher to discuss the ways crowdfunding can help strengthen community, set appropriate print runs, and raise much-needed funds for literary works.

**S218A. The Female Gaze: Powerful Narratives for The Times, Sponsored by PEN America.**

(Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf, Jodi Picoult)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person. Petree Hall C, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What counts as a powerful female narrative in our current cultural landscape? Why do stories around female identity, rights to our bodies, and education, spark so much controversy? How do we engage our audiences in these conversations? PEN America presents a discussion with its interim co-CEO Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf and bestselling author Jodi

Picoult, whose work *Nineteen Minutes* was the most banned title in 2024.

Read presenters' full bios.

This event will take place in person in the Los Angeles Convention Center and will be livestreamed for virtual audiences. All livestreamed events include open captions.

**S219. Innovations in Arab American Fiction.**

(Betty Shamieh, Sarah Cypher, Zeyn Joukhadar, Ghassan Zeineddine)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 150 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A panel of groundbreaking Arab American fiction writers will read their work and discuss the trajectory of their artistic journeys. What is the responsibility of a writer to represent their culture in a society where their people are often maligned and misrepresented? How does the experience of Arab American writers working in

fiction differ from other communities in this current cultural moment?

## **S220. Videopoetry 101: Merged Mediums & New Possibilities.**

(Amaranth Borsuk, Shin Yu Pai, Rana San)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 151, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

A videopoem is an accessible tool for media literacy and creative expression. The poetic thrives in the associative leaps between image, audio, and text, providing a dynamic platform for cultural impact. Five writers present guiding principles for making, teaching, distributing, and curating videopoems, from what they are and where to start, to practical pedagogy, to how videopoetry sets educators, students, artists, and audiences up to engage with and integrate the power of the written word.

## **S221. Reporting the Self: From Personal Curiosity to Research & Reporting.**

(Kristen Martin, Sasha Bonét, Heather Radke, Melissa Febos, Lilly Dancyger)

Nonfiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Concourse Hall 152, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Nonfiction writers often begin with personal questions before zooming out to consider the systems and histories that interact with their lives. Doing so poses questions: What are the limits of using the self as a lens? How do you decide which research and reporting to use? How do you structure a book that blends the micro with the macro? A group of authors whose books braid memoir with research and reporting will discuss balancing these modes and the rewards of engaging deeply with the world.

## **S222. How to Create, Become & Flourish as a City Poet Laureate.**

(Chelsey Johnson, G.E. Patterson, Tommy Archuleta, Steven Espada Dawson, esther belin)  
Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Concourse Hall 153 ABC, Level One, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Poet laureate positions are on the rise in cities of every size and region, generating fresh and rich engagement with poetry. From the grassroots to the ceremonial to creative intersections with public life, these hyperlocal poets flex extraordinary versatility and cultural knowledge. Poets and program leaders share ideas, best practices, funding tips, and stories of impact. This panel is inspirational and practical for the poet laureate—curious and anyone invested in writing as social practice.

### **S223. Words That Sing.**

(Taylor Brorby, Todd Boss, Samiya Bashir, Melissa Studdard, Arisa White)  
Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.



Room 402AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Think you're not a lyricist? Think again. Writers often limit themselves to publishing on the page, when, in fact, there's an exciting, lucrative world of performance holding its doors open to literary writers. Five poets whose libretti and lyrics have led them to the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Grammy Awards, and beyond will discuss topics such as breaking into writing for musical composition, best practices for musical teamwork and collaborative revision, how to manage contracts, and more.

**S224. Writing Body H(awe)rror.**

(Maggie Nye, Katie Flynn, Chana Porter, Nicole Rivas, Emrys Donaldson)

Fiction Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Abomination, decomposition, implantation, transformation. Body horror addresses the vast anxieties that result from being a human

meatsack. But it does more than that: It enables readers to reenvision their relationships to their bodies, to overwrite pre-inscribed meanings, and to exsanguinate (or disembowel or perhaps incinerate) oppressive structures. This panel brings together four diverse fiction writers to discuss their fascination with body horror and its liberatory potentialities.

**S225. Confronting the Divine: Writing Through & About Religious Trauma.**

(Nicole Hardy, Denne Michele Norris, Melissa Faliveno, Nick White, Andrew J Romriell)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 403B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Writing is a place of sanctuary, and amidst worldwide growing religious extremism, this has become especially true for those writing through religious trauma. Doing so can incite a range of powerful emotions: anger over what's been done, grief over what's been lost, or fear

over what confronting these institutions might lead to. In this cross-genre panel, five writers from varying religious backgrounds discuss how they generate writing that confronts, disrupts, heals, and redefines spirituality.

**S226. Crafting Flash Narratives:  
Empowering Student Voices Through  
Microstorytelling.**

(Britta Stromeyer, Kim Culbertson, Grant Faulkner, Darien Hsu Gee, Ran Walker)  
Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 404AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

In its concise form, flash fiction offers expansive practice for creative writers.

Microstorytelling offers a trove of treasures for effectively teaching a variety of literary devices, terminology, writing voice, and process in a targeted way. Teaching writing with flash fiction is a pedagogy of craft and specificity while honoring writing students' narratives and unique voices. Learn how to invigorate your teaching

approach (and your own writing!). Inspire with the magic of flash narratives.

**S227. What You've Heard Isn't True:  
Crafting New Salvadoran Myths &  
Futurities.**

(Janel Pineda, Gina María Balibrera, Leticia Hernández-Linares, Reyes Ramirez, Ruben Reyes Jr.)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 405, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Contemporary writers of the Salvadoran diaspora use the speculative—the imaginative—to parse through the urgent sociopolitical issues affecting the US and El Salvador. By collapsing past and present, and blending history and mythology, these writers force us to ask, What have readers misunderstood or overlooked about the country and its diaspora? If much of El Salvador's past was documented by outsiders,

its future will be written by these speculative writers and their contemporaries.

**S228. Crossing Genres, Crossing Worlds:  
Women of Color in Speculative Literature.**

(Quincy Scott Jones, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal, Tananarive Due, Muriel Leung, Margaret Rhee)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 406AB, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

“The Future is Female” except in sci-fi, where after a century of visionaries like Octavia Butler and Begum Rokeya, it still appears white and male. What happens when women of color not only reimagine the barriers of genre, but of time and space as well? Four writers speculating across fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and even code share their work and discuss how their experiences serve, in Butler’s words, “as guides to the kind of world we seem to be creating”—not only our future, but our now.

**S229. Queer Crip Worlds: Poetry as Portal for Transnational Solidarity.**

(Heidi Rhodes, Ashna Ali, Sami Ghaus, Tala Khanmalek)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 407, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

This panel brings queer and crip/disabled diasporic poets of color from Bangladesh, Colombia, Iran, and Pakistan to consider the possibilities for using poetry as a portal connecting us from word to world. In the context of the US-backed genocide in Palestine and intersecting histories of conflict in our respective homelands, we will explore how poetry has been a vital tool for organizing queer and disability justice, and a modality for building connection and solidarity across social movements.

**S230. Resistance, Refusal, Silence & Life: When We Don't Write.**

(Susan Wheeler, Sophie Cabot Black, Roger Reeves, Gregory Pardlo, Bianca Stone)

Poetry Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 408A, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Fallow periods are a feature of almost every poet's practice. Sometimes procrastination, or balking, out of fear; sometimes the result of a lack of faith in the outcome, or in the endeavor itself; and sometimes an active choice, these fallow periods can be fraught or can be useful. Four quite different poets—in backgrounds, ages, and approaches—discuss how silences have figured in their writing lives and, in some cases, have been used to their works' advantage.

**S231. Writing Toward Liberation: Asian American Cultural Organizing for Change.**

(Roohi Choudhry, Aishvarya Arora, Mohamad Saleh, Tamiko Beyer, Lawrence-Minh Bùi Davis)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.

Room 408B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

For decades, Asian American organizers have harnessed the arts to spur change. Joining this tradition, community literary organizations and teaching artists curate events for learning and to resist the status quo. Panelists will discuss the lineage of creative writing in Asian American action (including internal and external challenges); how writers use generative workshops to organize; and how such spaces provide frameworks for action and respite from the mainstream literary establishment.

**S233. Dwelling in Possibility: How Libraries  
Can Help Your Writing Career.**

(Elizabeth Galoozis, Lisa Eve Cheby, Cybele  
García Kohel, Lauren Salerno)

Artistic & Professional Development. In-Person.  
Room 410, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Libraries are not just for readers. Libraries—  
including K–12, public, and academic



libraries—are excellent resources that should be on every writer’s list of support. This multigenre panel of writer-librarians—Cybele García Kohel, Lauren Salerno, Elizabeth Galoozis, and Lisa Eve Cheby—will share their knowledge, strategies, and best practices for how writers can connect with libraries and librarians for research, community, workshops, and book promotions.

**S234. The Poetics of Grief: Private to Public.**

(Julie Carr, Quenton Baker, Serena Chopra, Gillian Conoley, erica lewis)

Poetry Readings. In-Person.

Room 411, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

From Catullus to Creeley, from Dickinson to Audre Lorde, poets have always used their art to lament the outrage of death. In this panel, five innovative poets read from recent works that trouble the border between the private sorrow of losing a loved one and the public grief over climate catastrophe, gun violence, and war. How

do our personal losses press up against larger systemic crises? How does lament turn to demand, cry to outcry?

**S235. Good, Fast, Cheap: Short Film Screenwriting.**

(Austin Bunn, Ben Frahm, Taylor Vaughn Lasley)

Playwriting & Screenwriting. In-Person.  
Room 501ABC, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

From Damien Chazelle (*Whiplash*) to Taika Waititi (*Two Cars, One Night*) to Andrea Arnold (*Wasp*), short film is where every great filmmaker starts. But the compelling short script is often overlooked in the pilot/feature film-or-bust commercial market. Using excerpts from unpublished, award-winning scripts, this panel brings together four working screenwriters to focus exclusively on the craft of the short: why they work, what mistakes to avoid, and what elevates one from good to great.

**S236. Our Voices Make a Movement:  
Storytelling as Anti-Racist Pedagogy.**

(Martin Rock, Adrienne Perry, Matt Salesses,  
Rita Banerjee, Deborah Taffa)

Pedagogy. In-Person.

Room 502A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

Conservative attacks on affirmative action and DEI programs across the country reinforce a legacy of erasure in academia. Still, we are power. Panelists will discuss how the writing classroom is essential to advancing equality, and how we can enable reflection and empathy among students as they build awareness of their own positionality, intersectionality, and communities. We'll also provide practical resources to help students engage in storytelling as a form of justice, equity, and self-care.

**S237. Can Creative Writing Save the English  
Department?.**

(Nicholas Taylor, Micheline Marcom, Brendan Mathews, Tommy Mouton, Selena Anderson)

Program Development. In-Person.  
Room 502B, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

In 2023, Nathan Heller’s essay “The End of the English Major” caused a panic when it described humanities enrollments “in free fall.” Indeed, the overall number of English majors is down, but interest in creative writing remains strong. We examine how the rise of creative writing as an academic discipline has changed the English department and offer suggestions for what we might do as writers and faculty members to preserve the place of literature in our institutions.

**S238. Not Your Papi’s Utopia: Latinx Visions of Radical Hope.**

(Sara Rivera, Rolando Lopez, Richie Narvaez, Matthew Goodwin, Lesley Tellez)

Multiple Literary Genres Readings. In-Person.  
Room 503, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

Not Your Papi's Utopia (Mouthfeel Press, 2024) is the final installment of our Latinx speculative fiction trilogy. The panel, composed of two editors and three authors, will discuss the goal of the anthology to envision alternate forms of utopian thinking that focuses not on a perfect society but on a society trying to be more in harmony with the environment and with more equitable political systems. The discussion will be followed by fiction and poetry readings from the book.

### **S239. Stories of Mental Health from the Margins.**

(Jafreen Uddin, Prachi Gupta, Nina Sharma, Mimi Khúc)

Nonfiction Readings. In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Healthcare and wellness, notions once believed to be self-evident, have in recent years become increasingly fraught sites of critical reconceptualization. This panel will upend

received beliefs regarding our contemporary understanding of both concepts, discussing the systematically ignored psychic lives of marginalized groups in the United States, the belief that sickness is the aberrant alternative to healthfulness, and the overlooked events in people's lives that have lasting consequences.

**S240. The Intersection of Language:  
Translating from the Diaspora, Sponsored by  
ALTA.**

(Wendy Chen, Yilin Wang, Stine An, Jack Jung)  
Translation. In-Person.

Room 513, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention  
Center.

What does it mean to be a translator situated in the diaspora, and how does this shape one's relationship with heritage languages, source literatures, and the act of translation? Join three translators working with Asian languages to discuss their translingual creative practices. They will reflect on how their positionality in the diaspora affect their translation decisions,

discuss how their translations and writings intersect, and explore the benefits and joys of working across languages.

## **S241. The Comeback of the Short Story Collection.**

(Gemini Wahhaj, Chaitali Sen, Jennifer Maritza McCauley, Khem Aryal, Aruni Kashyap)  
Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.  
Room 515A, Level Two, Los Angeles  
Convention Center.

For too long, mainstream publishing has shied away from the short story collection. Short story collections have survived through small presses and contests. Freed from commercial stakes and standardized values, short stories have been free to take risks, explore form, and make room for writers left out of mass culture. Five writers of short story collections will discuss the potential of the short story form and how they play with the conventions of the Anglophone short story's expectations.

## **S242. Writing With/About Unruly Bodies.**

(Margeaux Feldman, Amanda Choo Quan, Carolyn Collado, Fariha Roisin, Kai Cheng Thom)

Multiple Literary Genres Craft & Criticism. In-Person.

Room 515B, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

What does it mean to write about and from an unruly body? In a world that controls and punishes bodies that are queer, trans, disabled, mad, sick, fat, and/or racialized, writing about our unruly bodies can be an act of resistance—but that act can come at a cost. How do we write about our unruly bodies in a way that supports our flourishing? Is such a practice possible, and if not, what is needed to make it so?

## **S243. The Publishing Process & Systemic Interventions for Equity & Justice.**

(Minal Hajratwala, Nuola Akinde, Nayelli Gonzalez, Maya Marshall, Hiram Sims)

Publishing, Editing & Technology. In-Person.



Room 518, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Amidst rising awareness about disparities within the book industry, what about solutions? These organizations have created meaningful interventions toward equity: a press focused on social justice titles, a mentorship that places interns of color in publishing, a publisher-affiliated foundation supporting equitable spaces for authors, and a coaching community to help BIPOC+ally authors break into the industry. In a frank discussion, they will demystify what authors need to know about making impact and progress in all stages of the publishing process.

**5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. PT**

**S244. Sober AWP.**

In-Person.

Room 511AB, Level Two, Los Angeles Convention Center.

Daily 12-step meeting. All in recovery from anything are welcome.

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. PT**

**S245. University of Cincinnati Creative Writing Program Reception.**

Reception. In-Person.

Olympic Room III, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

The University of Cincinnati invites alumni, students, and friends to join us for drinks, food, and conversation. Prospective students welcome.

**S246. Scarlet Tanager Books Celebrates Native American Poetry from California.**

Reception. In-Person.

Atrium Room I, Third Floor, JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.

You are warmly invited to join us for food, drink, and conversation with Native American poets from California. Special guests will include Emily Clarke, Denise Low, Stephen Meadows, Georgiana Valoyce-Sanchez, Kim

Shuck, and others. The Women's National Book Association is a cosponsor of this event.