



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP



Writing in Color Fest



SAY IT LOUD



September 27-29, 2024

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The Writing In Color Fest is specifically designed to welcome, celebrate, and amplify voices of writers of color. Whether working on a novel, memoir, short fiction, poetry, or hybrid/interdisciplinary forms, our experienced faculty and guest instructors will work closely to support the writing process of our participants. The workshops focus on the creation of new works, connecting writers and their work to larger audiences, and amplifying narratives of historically marginalized voices to build more equitable, just, and sustainable communities. Financial assistance is available.

Writing Intensives

3 - 4

Intensives are multi-day (two or three-day) workshops focused on genre. This year's offerings include instructors Wendy Chen (Fiction), Mariella Saavedra Carquin (Poetry), Natalie Hodges (Nonfiction), and André Hoilette (Hybrid).

Craft Seminars

5 - 7

Craft seminars are designed to help writers of all levels break through creative blocks and gain new insight into particular topics, techniques, or genres. This year's seminars will be taught by Olivia Abtahi, Vanessa Mártir, Cipriano Ortega, Jasmine Griffin, Katerina Jeng, Erika T. Wurth, Marisa Tirado, and Suzi Q. Smith.

Business Panels, Readings, and Evening Events

8 - 9

Stick around after class and enjoy some of our evening events, including community dinners, readings, and more. These events are free to all BIPOC+ writers, even if you do not attend workshops during the fest. Our goal is to create and be in community together and we would love to have you join us!

Pricing and Passes

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A thorough and clear guide of the different passes offered for the fest, their prices, and what each of them will give you access to!

Schedule At A Glance

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A printable schedule so you can see your weekend at a glance.

Virtual vs. In-Person Classes

Classes with (V) next to their title are virtual courses held over Zoom, where all participants and the instructor will be participating virtually.

Writing Intensives

Intensives are limited to 12 participants per workshop.

THREE-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$375 MEMBERS; \$405 NON-MEMBERS

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$210 MEMBERS; \$270 NON-MEMBERS

THREE-DAY INTENSIVES

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-29

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

FIRST PAGES—FOUNDATIONS AND STRATEGIES IN FICTION

Wendy Chen

How can the first pages of any work pull a reader into the story? Why are the first pages of your manuscript critical to acquiring an agent or editor? How do the first pages introduce voice, character, setting, and larger themes of your work? This intensive for novel and short story writers will focus on strategies and techniques for writing compelling first pages, establishing a strong foundation for expansion beyond the class. We'll read, analyze, and discuss works by writers of color, write and generate work off prompts, and have the opportunity to bring in existing work for revision.

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES

SATURDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28-29

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

PHOTOGRAPHS, MEMORY, AND FRAGMENTATION— HOW WE IMAGINE PHOTOGRAPHS IN POETRY

Mariella Saavedra Carquin

In this poetry intensive, we will look at the construction of memory, imagination, and dreams and how these things translate into poetry. We will look closely at the power of vivid imagery and engage deeply with the senses. Looking at contemporary poets José Olivarez, Natalie Díaz, Ada Limón, and Raymond Antrobus, we will do close readings and engage in writing prompts inspired by their poems. Using photographs that participants bring in, we will discuss the power of imagery in storytelling, taking into account how memories change over time and how we reinterpret old photographs upon every viewing. We will generate our own poetry based on these photographs, choosing what to overtly describe, what to forget, and what to reimagine.

Writing Intensives

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES

SATURDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28-29
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

WRITING THE NICHE (VIRTUAL)

Natalie Hodges

One of the most valuable possibilities afforded by the personal essay is the opportunity to teach one's reader something: to invite them into a world of specialized knowledge or passion, to offer them the context and vocabulary to understand that world more fully. This opportunity is enriched and complicated for writers of color, who may at times feel like we are writing about niches within niches: what it means to be non-white within a particular field, for example, or to have a life experience that is unique or uncommon even for members of one's own racial, ethnic, or cultural group. How can we write about both specialized and minoritized experiences in a way that is accessible for readers who don't share our background without reducing or over-simplifying that experience for their sake? How do we scaffold a personal essay with research and other expository elements in a natural way that contributes to a sense of narrative tension and flow? How can we teach one's reader something without relinquishing the companionable voice of the essayistic narrator? This two-day intensive will ask writers to grapple with these questions through both large- and small-group discussion of a variety of published essays. Participants will also have the opportunity to receive first-blush feedback on drafts and/or writing-exercise responses from their colleagues and the instructor.

THE POWER OF SOUND IN POETRY AND PROSE (VIRTUAL)

André Hoilette

In this generative hybrid intensive we will examine the power held by both written poetics/prose and the spoken word. Rather than interpreting these two viewpoints as adversarial, we will examine them as extensions of each other. How do sound poets and storytellers strengthen their writing? Writers, what can you learn about your work through the performance of sound poets and storytellers? We will work towards balance in both by exploring the work of other writers and sound poets of color.



Craft Seminars

Craft Seminars can accommodate 10 to 20 participants.

COST: \$75 MEMBERS; \$85 NON-MEMBERS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM MDT

YOUR PLOT AND YOUR STORY

Olivia Abtahi

In this craft seminar, we'll explore the difference between plot and story, two of the most confused pillars of writing. We'll apply this knowledge to our own work by sequencing external events and the interior growth and character arcs that must accompany those events. We'll use examples from YA and adult books, along with a few in-class writing exercises and Q&A.

PASS THE MIC—RECLAIMING YOUR VOICE ON THE PAGE (VIRTUAL)

Vanessa Martir

What is voice? What are publishers and agents referring to when they say they're looking for a strong, original voice? Have you found yourself wondering what your voice is? Do you find that you can tell your stories, but they don't sound the same when you write them down? Are you struggling to write in a voice that is unique to you and your stories? Ever felt empowered by someone's story and wondered how they learned to write so fluidly and honestly? This class is for you!

Writers will be led through various exercises with the aim of uncovering/re-discovering your voice and unlearning what you've been taught about your voice on the page. Why do you need this class? Because you've been told repeatedly, directly, and subliminally, that you are not good enough and that your stories are not worthy. You've been taught to write in ways that stunt your writing and expression. You've been taught that you have to write a certain way and that way negates your cultural influences and verbal tics, and everything that makes you, you.



Craft Seminars

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM MDT

EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH SPECULATIVE FICTION (VIRTUAL)

Jasmine Griffin

This seminar will focus on exploring the relationship between social justice and speculative genres. Using examples from authors such as N.K. Jemisin, P. Djèlí Clark, Rivers Solomon, Stephen Graham Jones, and others, participants will learn how to explore social issues through the lens of Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror. Participants will be given prompts and exercises that will allow them to begin works that combine the escapism of the speculative with the social justice issues that matter most to them.

DECOLONIZING YOUR WRITING

Katerina Jeng

What have you been taught to revere & strive towards as a writer that no longer resonates with you? What are the creative values, artistic beliefs, and writing conventions that actually feel true for you, and how might you employ these truths in your writing? In this class, we will question the literary status quo with guided reflection prompts & discussion; and begin to create our own literary standards & conventions. Participants will leave with working drafts of their creative values & writing standards, an original piece of writing, and a lens of discernment to continue building their own, liberated artistic universes.

COMBINING THE WORLDS OF MUSIC AND POETRY

Cipriano Ortega

Come explore the sonic territories of spoken word and music! In this seminar, we will explore how sound aids in telling a story, setting a mood, and striking the creative spark. By combining and using elements of sound and music such as drones, pulse and melodic elements, participants will use their writings to collaborate and create a sonic performance piece. Participants will explore how spoken word can work with sound and music to paint a sonic journey. This workshop is open to everyone and anyone interested in working with other elements in performing their poetry/spoken word. This seminar will focus on performance skills, how to communicate with collaborators, and how to combine sound/music to spoken word/poetry performances. Participants will leave with the experience of working with two professional musicians/poets and a filmed performance of their work in the seminar.

Craft Seminars

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM MDT

STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAGES OF YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Erika T. Wurth

Whether you end up with a smaller, independent press or a large, traditional New York press, getting there can be difficult. And once you do have a book under contract, how do you bring your audience to it? Networking, residencies, conferences, and everything around your book is exactly what people often don't talk about. In this seminar, we'll talk about putting away the dreamier aspects of the book life (the good stuff, like working on your craft!) and looking at what the career paths are that folks can take to support a literary life. We'll also talk about what happens at all stages of your career—and what you can do to help utilize your specific skill set that might bring publishers, agents, and editors to you—and to your book once it's about to be out in the world.

WRITING OFF THE PAGE—EXPLORING VISUAL POETICS (ZOOM)

Marisa Tirado

All poetry is inherently visual—but how can we begin to make poems that are, as Geof Huth puts it, “the child of both poetry and the visual arts”? This workshop will include readings, discussions, and prompts designed to help generate visual poems that imagine beyond the confines of a 6x9 page. We will examine visual extensions of poetic devices (repetition, metaphor, etc.) and draw inspiration from several examples—all to produce unique, multidimensional work. Students will participate in creating a digital exhibit of their “off the page” poetry to share with the public.

ORIGIN STORY TRIPTYCHS

Suzi Q. Smith

In this workshop, we will discuss techniques to explore the ways our origins help us to navigate writing and our understanding of the world. Through directed prompts, we will write short pieces about our inherited languages (including dialects and slang), our places of origin, and our names. We will navigate texts from across genres to identify tools and approaches to invite and engage readers. Participants will write from prompts and then, depending on time, share some of their writing.



Readings and Evening Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM MDT

BUILDING YOUR CAREER AS A WRITER—FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, AND MORE! (LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE)

You're actively pursuing your writing dreams by taking classes, attending programs like Writing in Color and following through on writing projects. What can you do next to build your career as a writer and pursue your literary dreams? Join us for a Writing in Color Fest panel where local authors and Lighthouse instructors of color will share their wisdom about different opportunities that can support you on your writing journey. From residencies and fellowships to mentorship programs and literary awards, we'll touch on what might be the best fit for you and your writing. Panelists will include Juan Morales, Anna Qu, and Erika T. Wurth.

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM MDT

COMMUNITY MARKET AND CELEBRATION

Let's celebrate the start of this year's Writing in Color Fest with a celebration of community and all the art we make as writers and artists of color! This event will feature local BIPOC vendors who will have a variety of items available for purchase. We'll wrap up the night with a community celebration and reading by Writing in Color members who have been recently published. Light appetizers and drinks will be provided. If you are a member of the Writing in Color Community and would like to participate in the reading celebration, please fill out this form, and a member of our team will contact you.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM MDT

"I GOT A STORY TO TELL"—EXPLORING MUSICAL NARRATIVES (LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE)

Music and storytelling have always been linked by their ability to help us express emotions and unique experiences. How can writing lyrics or listening to music expand how we write and what we write about? What does it mean to tell a story through lyrics, and where do we even begin? Join us for a lunchtime panel during this year's Writing in Color Fest, where local BIPOC authors and musicians will come together to discuss how different lyrics and the process of telling stories through music have impacted their artistic expression and storytelling skills. Panelists will include Joshua Abeyta, Cipriano Ortega, and Suzi Q. Smith.

Panels, Readings, and Evening Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM MDT

FELLOWS READING AND OPEN MIC

Join us for a celebration of this year's Writing in Color Emerging Writers Fellow, Akusua Akoto who will share some of their writing after a community open mic and a reading by past Writing in Color Fellows. Learn more about Akusua's writing journey here. Stick around after the reading for our Community Dinner!

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM MDT

COMMUNITY DINNER

Let's come together after the Writing in Color Fellows Reading and Open Mic for a community dinner during this year's Writing in Color Fest! We'll build new connections and enjoy a delicious catered meal before our Trivia and Board Game Night.

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM MDT

TRIVIA AND BOARD GAME NIGHT

Are you well-versed in obscure, trivia-like knowledge? Are you someone who is looking for new writer friends? Or are you more of a small-group, board game type of person? Then this event is for you! Join us for a night of BIPOC+-inspired trivia hosted by Black People Know Things as part of this year's Writing in Color Fest! You're also welcome to grab a group and play some board games! BYOBG (Bring Your Own Board Game) or feel free to use one of ours.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM MDT

BREAKING INTO PRINT—WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLISHING (LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE)

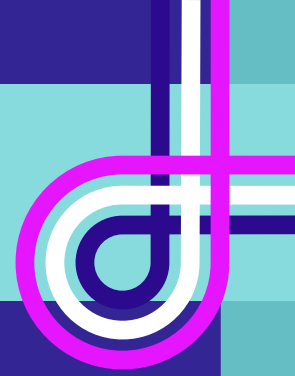
Breaking into the publishing world can be a challenge. Figuring out where to submit, how agents and publishing timelines work, and where to even begin the process might seem incredibly intimidating. So let's learn about it together! Join us for a panel during this year's Writing in Color Fest, where we'll come together as writers of color to hear about some of the ins and outs of breaking into publishing. This panel will feature local authors, Lighthouse instructors, and editors: Kanika Agrawal, Aerik Francis, literary agent Renée Jarvis, 4th panelist TBD.

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM MDT

CLOSING PARTY

Wrap up the end of this year's Writing in Color Fest at our closing party! This party will feature free headshots (one 5-minute session per person at Lighthouse) by Marissa Morrow, tarot readings with Twanna LaTrice Hill, a DJ set, and other activities. This is a great opportunity to celebrate all the work you've created and connections you've made during this year's Fest! Light appetizers and drinks will be provided.

Pricing & Passes



GOLD PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$625; NON-MEMBERS \$715

Includes a three-day intensive, three craft seminars, three lunchtime panels, and a community dinner ticket

SILVER PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$385; NON-MEMBERS \$485

Includes a two-day intensive, two craft seminars, two lunchtime panels, and a community dinner ticket

BRONZE PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$285; NON-MEMBERS \$350

Includes three craft seminars, three lunchtime panels, and a community dinner ticket.

PLATINUM PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$270; NON-MEMBERS \$325

Includes three craft seminars, and three lunchtime panels.

À LA CARTE

(MEMBER RATE/NON-MEMBER RATE)

Three-Day Intensive – \$375/\$405

Two-Day Intensive – \$210/\$270

Craft Seminars – \$75/\$85

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to withdraw from an intensive or craft seminar for any reason, the following refund schedule applies:

- Before August 1: A cancellation fee of 10% of the total workshop cost applies.
- August 1 and after: 35% cancellation fee applies.
- 48 hours or less before the start of Writing in Color Retreat: No refund is available.

Registrations for craft seminars and intensives are nontransferable, and purchases of retreat passes, are non-refundable and non-transferable.

NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Simply put, we want you here. If you need financial assistance, including payment plan options, please apply at www.lighthousewriters.org/content/writership-tuition-assistance.

BECOME A MEMBER

Memberships start at \$60/year and include discounts on workshops, access to Member Writing Hours and special events, and more! Visit www.lighthousewriters.org/membership to learn more.



Writing in Color Fest



**Friday,
September 27**

**Saturday,
September 28**

**Sunday,
September 29**

Intensives

9:00 AM
to
12:00 PM

FIRST PAGES: FOUNDATIONS AND STRATEGIES IN FICTION
with Wendy Chen – RM 204

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PHOTOGRAPHS, MEMORY AND FRAGMENTATION
with Mariella Saavedra Carquin – RM 216

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WRITING THE NICHE
with Natalie Hodges – ZOOM

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THE POWER OF SOUND IN POETRY AND PROSE
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Business Panels

12:30 PM
to
1:30 PM

BUILDING YOUR CAREER AS A WRITER
Beacon Hall

"I GOT A STORY TO TELL":
EXPLORING MUSICAL NARRATIVES
Beacon Hall

BREAKING INTO PRINT: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLISHING
Beacon Hall

Craft Seminars

1:30 PM
to
3:30 PM

YOUR PLOT AND YOUR STORY
with Olivia Abtahi – RM 315
PASS THE MIC: RECLAIMING YOUR VOICE ON THE PAGE
with Vanessa Martir – ZOOM

COMBINING THE WORLDS OF MUSIC AND POETRY
with Cipriano Ortega – RM 215

EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH SPECULATIVE FICTION
with Jasmine Griffin – ZOOM

DECOLONIZING YOUR WRITING
with Katerina Jeng – RM 315

STRATEGIES FOR ALL STAGES OF YOUR MANUSCRIPT
with Erika T. Wurth – RM 315

WRITING OFF THE PAGE: EXPLORING VISUAL POETICS
with Marisa Tirado – ZOOM

ORIGIN STORY TRIPTYCHS
with Suzi Q. Smith – RM 215

Events

3:30 PM
to
5:30 PM

COMMUNITY MARKET AND CELEBRATION
Beacon Hall

FELLOWS READING AND OPEN MIC
Beacon Hall

CLOSING PARTY
Beacon Hall

5:00 PM
to
6:00 PM

COMMUNITY DINNER
Beacon Hall

6:00 PM
to
8:00 PM

TRIVIA AND BOARD GAME NIGHT
Beacon Hall