



Full-Access Business Pass Information

For writers interested in taking their work to market one day, Lit Fest offers an opportunity to educate yourself about and connect with publishing professionals. Given the busy schedules of agents and editors, it's a rare chance to receive direct feedback and advice. You must purchase a Gold, Silver, Bronze, Penny, or Full-Access Business Pass before requesting a meeting with an agent.

We have the following agents and editors available for one-on-one meetings at Lit Fest 2020*:

| Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| June 6 | June 7 | June 8 | June 9 | June 10 | June 11 | June 12 |
| Monika Woods | Monika Woods | Andrianna Yeatts | Dana Murphy | Dana Murphy | Dana Murphy | Noah Ballard |
| | | Monika Woods | Andrianna Yeatts | Sandy Lu | Sandy Lu | Sandy Lu |
| | David Forrer | David Forrer | David Forrer | Andrianna Yeatts | | Jean Garnett |
| June 13 | June 14 | June 15 | June 16 | June 17 | June 18 | June 19 |
| Noah Ballard | Noah Ballard | Noah Ballard | Alia Hanna Habib | Alia Hanna Habib | Alia Hanna Habib | Sarah Bowlin |
| Kate McKean | Kate McKean | Stephany Evans | Stephany Evans | Stephany Evans | Sarah Bowlin | Anna Sproul-Latimer |
| Jean Garnett | Jean Garnett | Kate McKean | Michelle Dotter | Sarah Bowlin | Anna Sproul-Latimer | |
| Will McCance | Will McCance | | | Anna Sproul-Latimer | | |
| June 20 | June 21 | June 22 | June 23 | June 24 | June 25 | June 26 |
| | | Eric Smith | Eric Smith | | | |
| | | | | | | |

*Schedule is subject to change.

LIT FEST PASSHOLDERS

BEFORE MEETING WITH AN AGENT OR EDITOR

Make sure you're really ready for this. Writing is a competitive business, and agents are direct about their reactions to your work. Have you had a professional read of the work you're submitting? Is it reasonably edited? If not, we'd recommend attending Lit Fest's business panels first and then reaching out to agents and editors at a later date. Poets, short-story writers, and essayists without complete manuscripts are recommended to meet with an editor to discuss how their work fits into the current marketplace.

For those who opt to take a meeting, submit your one-page query letter and a chapter or excerpt of up to 15 pages, **in one document**, via [Submittable](#). You must create a Submittable account in order to submit. Your query letter should be addressed to your top-choice agent or editor; select your second choice in the form. We'll confirm your meeting time and let you know if additional meetings are available for purchase.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 14 (midnight MST):** Submit your top three agent or editor choices
- **May 18:** We'll confirm your meeting time and open up additional meetings if space allows
- **May 20 (midnight MST):** Deadline to submit your query letter and 15-page writing sample
- **May 22:** You'll receive final confirmation of your meeting schedule

HOW MATCHES ARE MADE BETWEEN AGENTS AND PASSHOLDERS

First, we'll do the best we can to make sure that writers are matched with agents who have a professional interest in their genre. Ideally, they'll be actively seeking the type of work you do, so they can give you direct feedback on how your work presents in the marketplace. Once we've made your match, we'll confirm the time and date. Due to limited space and high demand, we can't guarantee that you will meet with your first choice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is important: While several writers have secured agents and even book deals at Lit Fest, we encourage you to think of this more as an opportunity to educate yourself. It's a huge world out there, and we don't often get a chance to hear an agent's professional reaction to our work. It's best, then, to think of this meeting as more like an informational interview than a job interview.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR 20 MINUTES

If you can, look up some of the books the agent or editor has represented. Being familiar in some way with the agency's work sets a nice tone, and you can then ask any question you have about your own work or the business in general. It's often useful to just start by asking about first impressions of your work.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

By May 18, we'll open up additional meetings for Lit Fest pass holders for \$60 members/\$70 non-members each. We'll let you know if this option is available.

QUESTIONS: Contact Torin (torin@lighthousewriters.org).

AGENT BIOS

Noah Ballard (Curtis Brown, LTD): Noah Ballard received his BA in English from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and began his career in publishing at Emma Sweeney Agency, where he sold foreign rights in addition to building his own client list. He specializes in literary debuts, upmarket thrillers, and narrative nonfiction, and he’s always on the lookout for honest and provocative new writers. Noah has appeared across the country at graduate programs and writing conferences speaking about query letters, building nonfiction platforms, and submission etiquette. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Sarah Bowlin (Aevitas): Sarah Bowlin joined Aevitas in 2017. Before becoming an agent, she spent a decade as an editor of literary fiction and nonfiction, first at Riverhead Books and most recently at Henry Holt & Company. She has edited many acclaimed and prize-winning writers including Ramona Ausubel, Julie Buntin, Sheila Heti, Rachel Khong, Helen Phillips, Salvatore Scibona, and Juan Gabriel Vásquez. As an agent, she represents Elisa Albert, Shane Jones, Halimah Marcus, Kevin Nguyen, Aysegul Savas, Lynn Steger Strong, Souvankham Thammavongsa, and Vanessa Veselka, among others. She is interested in bold voices—specifically stories of strong or difficult women and unexpected narratives of place, identity, and the shifting ways we see ourselves and each other. Originally from the South, she now lives in Los Angeles, California.

Stephany Evans (Pande Literary): Stephany Evans started her publishing career at Simon & Schuster Audio when audio publishing was in its infancy. Now, for more than 25 years, Stephany has represented nonfiction writers in the areas of health and wellness, spirituality, lifestyle, food and drink, sustainability, running and fitness, memoir, and narrative nonfiction. She also represents a range of women’s fiction, from literary to upmarket commercial, to romance, as well as crime fiction (mysteries, thrillers), and the occasional literary or commercial novel not aimed at a female market. She is looking for fine, accomplished writing, whether the work is by a first-time or established author.

David Forrer (Inkwell): David Forrer began his career in publishing in 1997 after receiving a master’s degree in creative writing (fiction) from Boston University. He has been an agent with InkWell Management since it was created in 2004. His areas of interest and representation range from literary, commercial, historical and crime fiction to suspense/thriller, humorous non-fiction and popular history.

Alia Hanna Habib (The Gernert Company): Alia Hanna Habib started her publishing career as a publicist at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, working first on cookbooks and then on narrative nonfiction and literary fiction. She became an agent at McCormick Literary in 2011 and joined Gernert in 2017. Her tastes include narrative nonfiction, literary fiction, and culinary titles. Alia grew up in Pennsylvania, graduated from Barnard College and earned an MA in English Literature with a concentration in the 19th-century novel from Rutgers University. She serves on the Board of Housing Works and lives in Brooklyn with her husband and their border collie.

Sandy Lu (L. Perkins Agency): Born and raised in Taiwan, Sandy Lu is a native Mandarin Chinese speaker. Prior to becoming an agent, she was a PhD candidate in Social and Personality Psychology and worked in the theater industry. A graduate of Queens College, she holds BAs in psychology and sociology with minors in music, business, and Japanese. She represents literary and commercial adult and young adult fiction, as well as select nonfiction. She is seeking submissions that will draw her in with a unique voice and a good yarn that will make her miss her subway stop, as well as characters who will stay with her long after she turns the last page. Sandy has a particular fondness for crime and speculative fiction, and she recently opened up her list to include romance. She loves all things historical, especially anything set in the 19th century.

Kate McKean (Howard Morhaim Literary Agency): Kate McKean joined HMLA in 2006. She earned her master's degree in fiction writing at the University of Southern Mississippi and began her publishing career at the University Press of Florida. For adults, she is primarily interested in contemporary women's fiction, literary fiction, historical fiction set in the 20th century, fantasy, magical realism, and science fiction. For children, she is looking for projects in middle grade and young adult in the areas of horror, romance, LGBTQ issues, contemporary fiction, sports, magical realism, fantasy, and science fiction, as well as picture books of all kinds, especially nonfiction picture books. In nonfiction, for adults or children/teens, she represents books by authors with demonstrable platforms in the areas of pop culture, memoir, sports, food writing, humor, design, creativity, and craft. She is also interested in graphic novels and memoirs for all ages—adult and children.

Dana Murphy (The Book Group): Prior to working at The Book Group, Dana studied Critical Film Theory and Sociology at New York University. Dana is hungry for writing that is immersive and surprising, with a distinct voice. She is attracted to upmarket and literary fiction for both adults and young adults and smart narrative nonfiction, essay collections and journalism about culture, social issues, science, feminism, race, gender, film and television, music, comedy, religion, and place. She'd love to read work that reckons with "low" or "unworthy" pop culture in a serious way, especially regarding art created for and consumed by teenagers, and stories set in and about the modern American South. She is passionate about finding literary homes for underrepresented and marginalized voices.

Eric Smith (P.S. Literary): Eric Smith is a literary agent at P.S. Literary, with a love for young adult books, literary fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, and non-fiction. He's worked on award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling titles, and began his publishing career at Quirk Books. A frequent blogger, his ramblings about books and the publishing industry regularly appear on Book Riot, *Paste Magazine*, and Publishing Crawl. He also occasionally writes books when he finds the time, like his latest, *Don't Read the Comments* (Inkyard Press).

Anna Sproul-Latimer (Neon Literary): Anna Sproul-Latimer, founding partner and president of Neon Literary, has sold multiple New York Times bestsellers, major book-to-film deals, and foreign translations in more than 50 languages. She represents all types of adult nonfiction—from memoir and history to pop culture, science, and parenting—as well as select literary fiction. Anna is drawn to buzzing, bright, curious, and slightly demented authors driven by enthusiasm so infectious that (inter)national audiences are already paying attention. She seeks authors motivated by a true mission—a clear answer to the question, “What is the legacy I want to leave in the world?” Of particular interest are those who've made moral leadership lemonade from the lemons of trauma: authors who are whistleblowers, Cassandras, “unelectable” elected officials, and survivors. A lifelong resident of the Washington, DC, area, Anna has spent her whole life watching power, money, and media interact to shape the line of history. With Neon, she intends to take the full weight of her access, experience, and privilege and use it to lie down in traffic, forcing that line to turn somewhere brighter. Prior to founding Neon, Anna spent nearly 15 years as a literary agent, foreign rights director, and developmental editor at DC's Ross Yoon Agency. A graduate of Columbia University (BA magna cum laude, English) and the University of Oxford (MDT with distinction, English), Anna lives in the DC suburbs with her family and travels to New York frequently.

Monika Woods (Triangle House): Monika Woods is a literary agent, writer, and founder of Triangle House. She is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo and the Columbia Publishing Course and has worked closely with leading voices in contemporary literature over her decade-long publishing career. Her interests include literary fiction and compelling nonfiction in cultural criticism, food, popular culture, journalism, science, and current

affairs. Monika is particularly excited about plot-driven literary novels, nonfiction that is creatively critical, unique perspectives, a great cookbook, and above all, original prose.

Andrianna Yeatts (ICM): Andrianna Yeatts joined the ICM Partners publications department in 2017, where she has worked with such clients as the award-winning and bestselling authors Ann Patchett, Michael Chabon, Chuck Palahniuk, Morgan Parker, and Dan Piepenbring. Originally from San Diego, she holds a BA in English and political science from Vanderbilt University and is a graduate of the Columbia Publishing Course. In fiction, she is looking for literary novels that appeal to commercial readers and book clubs; dry, funny, and satirical novels potentially told from close first person. In nonfiction, she is looking for narrative nonfiction that is accessible and informative; memoir with heart that tells a unique story with broad appeal; pop culture books (movies, music, sports); cookbooks and other food-related books.

EDITORS

Michelle Dotter is the publisher and editor-in-chief of **Dzanc Books**, an independent nonprofit publishing company that champions innovative and award-winning literary fiction and nonfiction. She earned a degree in creative writing from Colorado College before beginning her editing career with MacAdam/Cage Publishing in San Francisco and worked as a developmental and copy editor before helming Dzanc. She has worked with *New York Times* bestselling authors, along with winners of the National Book Award, the Whiting Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and recipients of other honors. For more information on Dzanc, including information about annual fiction contests, please visit dzancbooks.org.

Jean Garnett (Little, Brown, & Co.): Jean Garnett is an editor at Little, Brown, & Co., acquiring mostly narrative nonfiction and occasionally literary fiction. She joined Little, Brown in 2014 after working as an assistant at a literary agency and as a high school English teacher at a private boarding school. Jean is drawn to narrative nonfiction that takes her deep into other lives, places, industries, or ideas, whether it's social/cultural criticism, weird or secret history, literary memoir/essays, investigative journalism, or anything that makes her laugh. Her growing list includes Therese Oneill's *Unmentionable* (a *New York Times* bestseller), Malcolm Harris' *Kids These Days*, Meaghan O'Connell's *And Now We Have Everything*, Zack McDermott's *Gorilla and the Bird*, and Jane Delury's *The Balcony*.

Will McCance is a Producer and Head of Content at **Unfound Content**, an LA-based production and management company dedicated to producing and financing commercially viable and socially impactful content with an aim to entertain, motivate, and empower.