



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

The
Poetry
Collective



What is the Poetry Collective?

The Poetry Collective is a flexible, affordable program designed to both cultivate your poetry citizenship and help you produce a finished, high-quality book of poems.

With a full year of weekend intensives, cohort workshops, guest lectures, and close work with your mentor, each writer will emerge with a book of poems they can be proud of, plus a support team ready to help with next steps. And writers will go far beyond simply line editing a few poems: We know the best thing we can give poets working on collections is a customized program that instills a consistent schedule and a set of thematic goals.

Whether you're local to Denver or a distance participant, mentors Andrea Rexilius and Suzi Q. Smith will help you chart a path through your project and along with your fellow cohort members, work to inspire you and hold you accountable with your writing goals. In addition, writers have access to Lighthouse classes and special events throughout the program. The year culminates in a reading and reception at Lit Fest.

Benefits of the Poetry Collective

COMMUNITY

You'll be a part of a small cohort: the Poetry Collective accepts only 12 participants each year. You'll get to know each other's work well and take classes with the larger Lighthouse community for ongoing support. And you'll have the option to participate in person or virtually.

MENTORSHIP

You'll meet with your mentor on a regular basis to gauge progress, review drafts of your work, and set goals for the future. Your mentor will have an in-depth understanding of your work and will teach you how to read your own work in a way that is productive and forward thinking—beyond the workshop level of revision.

THE NITTY-GRITTY

Your mentors will provide advice on publishing, and you'll have access to educational panels and classes on the publishing world through Lighthouse.

Poetry Collective Mentors



ANDREA REXILIUS is the author of: *Sister Urn* (Sidebrow, 2019), *New Organism: Essais* (Letter Machine, 2014), *Half of What They Carried Flew Away* (Letter Machine, 2012), and *To Be Human Is To Be A Conversation* (Rescue Press, 2011), as well as the chapbooks, *Séance* (Coconut Books, 2014), *To Be Human* (Horseless Press, 2010), and *Afterworld* (above/ground press, 2020). She earned an M.F.A. in Poetry from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005), and a Ph.D. in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Denver (2010). Andrea is the Program Director for Regis University's Mile-High MFA in Creative Writing.



SUZI Q. SMITH is an award-winning artist, organizer, and educator who lives in Denver, Colorado. She has created, curated, coached, and taught in Denver for over 20 years, managing the largest poetry festivals that Denver has seen to date. A TEDx speaker multiple times, Suzi has performed throughout the United States for over a decade, and has shared stages with Nikki Giovanni, the late Gil Scott Heron, and many more. The author of poetry collections *Poems for the End of the World*, *A Gospel of Bones*, and *Thirteen Descansos*, Suzi is also a singer-songwriter, playwright, and multi-disciplinary creative. Currently, she is Affiliate Faculty with Regis University's Mile High MFA, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and DU's Prison Arts Initiative, as well as the [margins.] Conference Director for The Word. She also serves as a community representative on the Denver County Cultural Council.

Guest Instructors

Phil Cordelli, Lucien Darjeun Meadows, Richard Froude, Khadijah Queen, Jennifer S. Cheng, Elizabeth Robinson, Diana Khoi Nguyen, Mathias Svalina, Lynn Wagner, and more.



**RICHARD
FROUDE**



**DIANA KHOI
NGUYEN**



**KHADIJAH
QUEEN**



**ELIZABETH
ROBINSON**

Learning from Andrea as a teacher and mentor is therapeutic and eye-opening. She helped me find rhythm and build new associations, never short on suggestions for rewriting or rethinking a poem. Andrea is gracious, hilarious, and committed to every writer's intentions, style, and practice. She makes you believe you're a writer and always on the way to being a better one. I felt (and continue to feel) truly supported by her and what I've learned from her and her poems.

— EDY GUY, POETRY COLLECTIVE, 2020-2021

The Year At A Glance

APRIL	Applications open
JUNE	Applications due
JULY	Acceptance notifications sent out
AUGUST	Orientation; First mentor meeting
SEPTEMBER	Daylong Intensive 1
OCTOBER	Daylong Intensive 2
NOVEMBER	Daylong Intensive 3
DECEMBER	Second mentor meeting
JANUARY	Manuscripts due; Third mentor meeting
FEBRUARY	First manuscript workshop
MARCH	Second manuscript workshop
APRIL	Third manuscript workshop
MAY	Manuscript revision; Group meeting
JUNE	Reading and celebration at Lit Fest





Tuition and Applications

Applications for The Poetry Collective are available starting April 3, and the deadline to apply is June 24. Each mentor accepts six applicants for a total of 12 participating poets each year.

Applications for the Poetry Collective must include a short biographical statement, project description, workshop history, and writing sample.

Tuition is \$3,000 (\$250 per month for 12 months). Monthly or quarterly payment plans are available with no interest.

Partial tuition assistance is available in the form of the Connie Zumpf Poetry Fellowship, which is awarded to one or more poets who have been accepted to the Poetry Collective and who face financial barriers to participation, with preference given to people over 60 years of age.

“What was magical and empowering was Suzi’s constant emphasis on generating poems, on breaking rules, on finding and sharing your voice. She was teaching us not only to write poems but to be poets.”

— ANONYMOUS

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**CLICK HERE
TO APPLY**

