

AUGUST 2023

WRITING IN COLOR RETREAT

take up space



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP



WRITING IN COLOR RETREAT

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TAKE UP SPACE

The Writing In Color Retreat 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.

We're also pleased to present the [2023 Writing in Color Emerging Writers Fellow, Katerina Jeng](#).

"My favorite memory of Lighthouse is the first time I stepped into a Writing in Color open mic night, back in 2020. I remember feeling a heavy weight evaporate off my shoulders as I walked down the stairs, and saw a room full of people of color. It wasn't until I felt that lightness that I realized I had been carrying this dull weight of not belonging in Colorado. Denver can be a homogenous city, and even spaces that are "for everyone" often fail to include marginalized people the way they intend to. This is why spaces like Writing in Color—spaces that center us, first & foremost—are deeply necessary and healing on so many levels.

This open mic night was also around the time I had just started writing poetry, and it was inspiring to see so many talented writers in our local community. The joy, celebration, and communal care were overflowing.

Taking up space—specifically for people of color—is so important. As an Asian American femme, I've been taught to keep my head down, bury conflict in the sand, and not stick out in any way. This mindset is both a cultural value and a survival tactic of Asian immigrants in America. Luckily, we're living in a time when we can (and deserve to) not just survive—but to thrive, and live unapologetically as our fullest, freest, and most expressed selves.

I'm still working on taking up space, especially as I discover new parts of myself—like my queerness and my neurodiversity. I want the parts of me that are quiet to see the light—not only for my own liberation, but also for our collective liberation. Remember that simply existing freely and joyfully empowers others to do the same."

- Katerina Jeng



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Four-Day Intensives and Two-Day Intensives..... 4

Intensives are multi-day workshops that will focus on working in a specific genre. This year, they will be taught by Diana Khoi Nguyen, Suzi Q. Smith, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Dino Piacentini, Emilly Prado, and Jonathan Marcantoni. Focused on poetry, fiction, nonfiction, memoir, hybrid, and dramatic writing, you'll be sure to find a class perfect for your writing style. In addition, instructors will incorporate literary examples and writing prompts to support developing your writing skills and knowledge.

Craft Seminars..... 6

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 R. Alan Brooks, Rachel Werner, Jamie Figueroa, Angelique Stevens, Juan Morales, Franklin Cruz, Kerrie Joy, Nafeesa Syeed, and Andrew Hernández. Craft Seminars will be focused in fiction, dramatic writing, poetry, nonfiction, memoir, and hybrid writing.

Evening Events..... 9

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

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.

Please be sure to check our website for the most up-to-date information, as some classes and events may change.

Writership Tuition Assistance

Simply put, we want you here. If you need assistance covering the cost of tuition, we encourage you to apply here: <https://www.lighthousewriters.org/content/writership-tuition-assistance>

WRITING INTENSIVES

Intensives are limited to 12 participants per workshop.

FOUR-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$345 MEMBERS; \$405 NON-MEMBERS

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$195 MEMBERS; \$255 NON-MEMBERS

FOUR-DAY INTENSIVES

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 17-20

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Poetry & Experiments in Form

with Suzi Q. Smith

This workshop will include readings, discussions, prompts, and exercises designed to help generate a wide variety of poems each day. We will explore poetic forms and create new experiments to widen our poetic lenses. Participants will submit up to 3 poems for peer review and will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the instructor during the retreat. Reading materials will be provided by the instructor.

Telling Our Histories Our Way

with Dino Piacentini

In this four-day intensive, we'll seek to rectify the way the "official" historical record of the United States regularly ignores, downplays, or misinterprets the lives and stories of people of color. We'll consider the ways oral history, family lore, "folk" tales, and songs have brought our past to life in literature. We'll conduct our own research and identify potential story ideas, thinking about character, POV, and milieu, and emerging with material for a new project that helps us shed light on our pasts and expand the narrow frame of official history. Come prepared to read, write, conduct research, and discuss. Please note: there will be a bit of research conducted before the intensive begins, as well as a small amount of reading.



"[The instructor] encouraged us to speak about the things that throw us off the writing path and how to get back on. Amazing week." –2022 Writing in Color Retreat Participant

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 17-20

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Creative Nonfiction Foundations (V)

with Emilly Prado

From memoirs to meditations and hermit crabs to personal essays, the creative nonfiction genre exists in many forms. Writers will explore the foundations of creative nonfiction through generative exercises, close readings, and craft study while also learning anti-colonial views of craft and form. This four-day intensive will leave students with a strong understanding of the breadth of creative nonfiction and a solid framework from which to build in future projects. Great for beginners and intermediate writers, or anyone who would benefit from a crash course in CNF.

How to Be a Writer/Producer: Empowering Playwrights to Improve Themselves and Mentor Others with Jonathan Marcantoni

In this intensive, Flamboyant Theatre's founder will help playwrights break the cycle of gatekeeping in theatre by being their own best advocate. The intensive will explore the necessary tools to take your play from conception to the stage while building community and industry connections. We'll learn how to build marketing plans, budgets, find venues, build your technical team and cast, and develop your script. Participants will also be given four writing prompts to choose from, and present those prompts followed by a discussion of craft as well as the practical challenges of bringing a scene to life, from staging to lighting to props.

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES

SATURDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 19-20

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Resistance: Writing About or Against Aggressions (V)

with Diana Khoi Nguyen

In this hybrid genre intensive, we will look at pieces or excerpts from poems, fiction, and nonfiction which address everyday aggressions: micro and macro. Some of these may be pieces which are in dialogue with another piece of creative writing, or in response to a personal or social incident in real life. What does intentional writing as an act of resistance, of rectifying the record, of reclaiming injustice look like? We will engage in reading as writers: closely reading the texts before embarking in our own writing from prompts and exercises inspired by our discoveries and the group's conversations. There will be time for writers in attendance to share works written during this session.

Fiction Deep Dive: Techniques and Strategies

with David Heska Wanbli Weiden

This intensive for novel and short story writers will explore techniques for plot, dialogue, setting, scene construction, theme, and other topics. We'll spend some time reading, writing, sharing, and strategizing how we might develop projects and maintain momentum after the retreat is over.



CRAFT SEMINARS

Craft Seminars can accommodate 10 to 20 participants.

CRAFT SEMINAR COST: \$65 MEMBERS; \$75 NON-MEMBERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Daydream & Imagine (V)

with Kerrie Joy

What if we were intentional about recording our daydreams and our most vivid imaginations? What worlds could we conjure, which generations could we visit, what rest could we find? With the guiding words of Tricia Hersey, Thich Nhat Hanh, and some powerful poets, let's be intentional about capturing the stories of our imagination while granting ourselves permission to daydream. This seminar will explore techniques for using our imagination and daydreams to expand what we write about and how we allow ourselves to create freely.

Genre Blur: Intersecting Our Roots in Poetry, Flash & Hybrid Forms

with Juan Morales

When we write about our roots and culture, we can be pulled in multiple directions by different genres: should my family migration story be a sequence of poems? Should I be writing a memoir touching diáspora? What if I wrote a fictional account of my city's haunted legacy? In this generative seminar, we'll delve into the works of authors that intersect their diverse and complex identities with multiple genres. We will consider how flash memoir, short stories, prose poetry, and other hybrid forms can inspire us to write freely about where we come from, where we're going, and to do so with power.



Fragmenting the Nonfiction Narrative (V)

with Angelique Stevens

It seems only natural that we've become inclined to follow structure, tame the chaos, tamp the flames. After all, we learn very early to see the world in linear fashion; from beginning to end, past to future, top to bottom. But our world is also blooming with stories that cannot be contained within traditional narrative structures. In this course, we'll use fragments, both found and forgotten, to disrupt the common patterns of our narratives. We'll deconstruct others' narratives, we'll generate our own, and we'll find ways to launch our stories into the universe like rockets in the night.

CRAFT SEMINARS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Digital Branding Bootcamp (V)

with Rachel Werner

Self-promotion is on most writers' professional "to do" lists. In this workshop, you'll learn how to identify personal strengths that will help simplify content creation, as well as how to cultivate connections to publishing professionals and potential clients online. We'll look at how to use an array of digital tools like Squarespace, Canva, Typeform, and TinyLetter to create websites, graphics, and quizzes. Come prepared to begin crafting a marketing strategy that suits your needs and budget!



Making Art in Evil Times

with R. Alan Brooks

What would you create if you weren't afraid? Would you finish that book, painting, or album you've been working on? Would you host that event, publish your poetry, or set up that art show? Whatever it is, if there was ever a time that the world needed to hear your voice, IT'S NOW. In this workshop, author and professor R. Alan Brooks teaches you strategies for overcoming creative fear. Come prepared to be honest and vulnerable, and expect to leave with practical ways to tackle your creative fears!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Tapping the Universal Through the Specific (V)

with Jamie Figueroa

By including the specifics of who you are—when you feel aligned with your race/ethnicity/culture, as well as when you don't—a deeper story emerges that only you can tell. We dance in both spaces as we create worlds on the page, confined and unconfined, known and unknown, named and unnameable, but our access into the universal—and those waiting there—must always be through the doorway of our own specificity. This seminar will include some of the instructor's personal journey, examples/voices from others in literature, and writing prompts for further exploration.

Wow, We're Ancient

with Franklin Cruz

This seminar brings together movement, paleontology, creative writing, and biomimicry, a practice that learns from and mimics the strategies found in nature to solve human challenges. We'll create timelines, do exercises, and explore various ways to integrate and learn from nature in all forms of expression. We'll develop practices that tap into human evolution, tracing back our relationship with the world and other beings. Using biomimicry, we will apply these practices to our writing to create new worlds through words.

CRAFT SEMINARS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

The Art of the Short-Form Essay (V)

with Nafeesa Syeed

Many media outlets have opinion or op-ed sections that feature personal essays. But unlike literary magazines, these essays are typically under 1,000 words. How do we express depth and insight and convey a sense of voice in so few words? In this workshop, we will review short-form essays from major media outlets, and learn about what makes for a standout pitch and essay. You will learn how to include scenes, imagery, voice, reflection, and commentary into less than 1,000 words, and the types of essays that work well in this format.

Futurism: Crafting Liberation

with Andrew Hernández

Many stories that center characters/communities of color reduce our experiences into “oppression olympics.” Futurism offers an alternative, incorporating the fantastical, magical, technological and/or speculative in order to center non-EuroAmerican cultural values while remixing colonial pasts and presents. Intended for speculative and non-speculative fiction writers alike, this seminar will examine various examples of Afrofuturism, Indigenous futurism, etc., in order to identify strategies for developing stories that acknowledge ongoing discrimination while simultaneously imagining healing, communal, liberatory futures. If time allows, participants can choose to rewrite a futurist/speculative scene for a piece already in progress or craft a new scene from a list of prompts.



“I loved [the instructor’s] approach to interdisciplinary writing and I opened my approach and reignited my passion for writing outside of my style.”

– 2019 Writing in Color Retreat Participant

READINGS AND EVENING EVENTS

All evening events are free to retreat participants and community members.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

4:00 to 5:00 PM MDT

Find Your Writing Group

Ready to meet your future editors and collaborators? Come visit our Happy Hour Mixer! Writers will have Ready to join a community of BIPOC writers to support your writing practice? Come visit our Happy Hour Mixer! Individuals will have the ability to meet other writers seeking writing groups and get to know them through prompts centered around their writing process and creative interests.

5:00 to 6:00 PM MDT

Community Dinner

Join us after a full day of classes and community for a sliding-scale catered dinner! Registering for this event will get you one dinner ticket. A suggested \$15 donation per person can be paid on-site (cash or card) though we encourage folks to pay what they can. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you would like to sponsor another person's meal, please increase your donation.

6:00 to 7:00 PM MDT

Fellowship Reading & Keynote

Celebrate and hear a reading from our 2023 Writing in Color Fellow, Katerina Jeng. Stick around after the reading for a keynote talk from poet, author, educator, artist, organizer, mother, performer, co-founder of Writing in Color, and [\[margins.\]](#) Conference Director, [Suzi Q. Smith](#). Suzi will be speaking about this year's retreat theme, "Take Up Space," to inspire all BIPOC creatives to tell their stories and pursue their creative passions. This space—Lighthouse—belongs to you, your voice deserves to be heard in the world, and we want this retreat to be a reminder of that.



Katerina Jeng



Suzi Q. Smith

READINGS AND EVENING EVENTS

All evening events are free to retreat participants and community members.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

4:00 to 5:30 PM MDT

Panel of BIPOC Authors

This panel is hosted in collaboration with [The Word](#). Join us for a panel of published BIPOC fiction, poetry, and nonfiction authors as they share what their writing journeys have looked like. We'll also hear from The Word about the programs and opportunities they offer, like this year's [Virtual \[margins.\] day experience](#), part of their effort to build a publishing community that fights for inclusivity.

5:30 to 7:30 to PM MDT

Did You Die Though? with Confidence Omenai

Join us for our regularly scheduled (in person) monthly meetup where [Confidence Omenai](#) will be facilitating a craft lecture based on her mixed media art installation *Did You Die Though?* Confidence describes *Did You Die Though?* as “an exhortation to raise the dead. An invitation to grave robbery. An indaba embracing the ceremony of radical self-compassion and resurrection.”



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

4:30 to 7:30 PM MDT

Film Screening and Discussion with Lisa Kennedy

Join us on day three of the Writing in Color Retreat for a screening and discussion of *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. Light refreshments will be provided.

7:30 - 9:30 PM MDT

Closing Party

Let's celebrate together! During this closing party we'll have light refreshments, games, music, and an open mic and featured performances hosted by [Slam Nuba](#). Bring your writing group, your mentors, your friends, anyone who will enjoy being in community with other BIPOC creatives.

"The Writing in Color Retreat has been one of the best, most inspiring, most empowering experiences in my life. It gave me the confidence to start believing that my voice is worthy of being heard (accent and all), so much so, that I'm currently pursuing my MFA. I highly recommend joining this amazing retreat and meeting the wonderful, supportive people of Writing in Color and the Lighthouse community. I'm so grateful to them."

—Writing in Color Retreat Participant

PRICING AND PASSES

GOLD PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$545; NON-MEMBERS \$635

Includes one Four-Day Intensive and four Craft Seminars.

SILVER PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$295; NON-MEMBERS \$365

Includes one Two-Day Intensive and two Craft Seminars.

BRONZE PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$235; NON-MEMBERS \$270

Includes four Craft Seminars.

À LA CARTE

(MEMBER RATE/NON-MEMBER RATE)

Four-Day Intensive – \$345/\$405

Two-Day Intensive – \$195/\$255

Craft Seminars – \$65/\$75

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.

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Lighthouse is a literary community for writers and readers. We believe in the transformative power of writing and recognize language as the most powerful means of connection. Our workshops and events are designed to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where individuals can find their voices and share their stories. Visit lighthousewriters.org to learn more about our classes and support fellow writers in our community.

For more information, visit lighthousewriters.org.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop
3844 York Street
Denver, CO 80205

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity at Lighthouse: Lighthouse Writers Workshop is a diverse, inclusive, and equitable place where all participants, employees, and volunteers, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability, feel valued and respected. We are committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and provide equal opportunity for employment and advancement in all our departments and programs. We respect and value a variety of life experiences and are working to make sure every voice is heard.

