



m
a
r
g
i
n
s.

CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL
BY
THE WORD | A STORYTELLING SANCTUARY

AUGUST 5-7, 2022
VIRTUAL PROGRAM

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE DURING THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

- Live, dedicated virtual workshops & panels
- Each session will be recorded and made available to the conference registrants for six months following the conference.
- Affinity Group Gatherings
- Live Stream of the Keynote
- Live Stream of the Awards Ceremony
- Support from our volunteers and staff

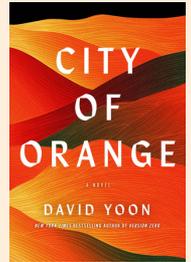
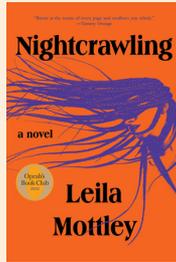
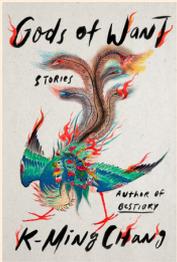
If you need support during the conference, please reach out to us [here](#).

FRIDAY 8/5

7:00-8:30PM - Keynote Conversation

Keynote: K-Ming Chang & Nate Marshall in Conversation with Nicole Counts followed by a book signing. With special performances from poets Bobby LeFebre & Slam Nuba.

Reading from
the [margins.]
win a book bundle
featuring titles from
five amazing authors!



Penguin
Random
House

m
a
r
g
i
n
s.

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
JULY 1 - AUGUST 7, 2022

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

SATURDAY 8/6

9:00-10:05AM - Community Track

Panel - Sanctuary: The Solace of Words

Hosted in partnership with the Jaipur Literary Festival

Panelists: Aruni Kashyap, Prajwal Parajuly and Manjushree Thapa in conversation.

A session examining the complex nuances of immigrant identity, across the markers of race and culture to explore the intangibles of home. Poet, translator and writer Aruni Kashyap is the author of *His Father's Disease*, *There Is No Good Time for Bad News* and *How to Tell the Story of an Insurgency: Fifteen Tales from Assam* among others. Prajwal Parajuly is the author of *Land Where I Flee* and the short story collection, *The Gurkha's Daughter*. Writer and translator Manjushree Thapa is the author of ten books of fiction and literary nonfiction such as *All of Us in Our Own Lives*, *The Lives We Have Lost*, and *Seasons of Flight* all around her homeland, Nepal. Together they speak of their work and explore the geographies and multilayered legacies that have informed their lives.

9:00-10:05AM - Industry Track

Panel: Movement Building & New Publishing Spaces

Moderated by Bunmi Ishola

Panelists: Amanda Johnston, Saleem Hue Penny, Jyothi Natarajan
On building the spaces and communities we need, this panel will feature a discussion from leaders in literary movement building and creating, maintaining new publishing and writing spaces.

SATURDAY 8/6

9:00-10:05AM - Community Track

Cohort Writing Group: Mi Gente

Join to connect with fellow Latine and Indigenous writers to chat about your writing, commiserate, celebrate, inspire one another.

10:15-11:20AM - Community Track

Panel: Equity and Access in Translation

Moderated by paparouna

Panelists Adrija Ghosh, Poupeh Missaghi, and Yilin Wang

A discussion on navigating translation as its own literary form, as a way to offer and enter language, expanding and creating conversations and worldviews, and creating a home inside language with a marginalized identity.

10:15-11:20AM - Industry Track

Workshop: YAY! I'm (Going to Be) Published. Now What?

Hosted by:: Janae Marks & Valerie Bolling

A discussion on navigating translation as its own literary form, as a way to offer and enter language, expanding and creating conversations and worldviews, and creating a home inside language with a marginalized identity.

New Exhibits Open!



McNicholsBuilding.com

Timestamp | 7/15-8/29
A collection of music made during social isolation in 2020.

Chained Voices | 6/1-8/20
DU Prison Arts Initiative.

Portrait of a Culture | 6/1-8/20
Unique approaches to portraiture.



DENVER ARTS & VENUES



Nominate an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to Denver's arts and cultural scene.

ArtsandVenues.com/Mayors-Awards

SATURDAY 8/6



10:15-11:20AM - Craft Track

Workshop: How to Write Circles Around Others: Non-Linear Story Structures from Non-Western Traditions

Hosted by: Henry Lien

"Begin at the beginning," the King said, very gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop." — Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland. Carroll's king was clearly not a Chinese king. Western storytelling traditions decree that a linear structure (along with the three act structure, the hero's journey, and a rising self-esteem arc) are mandatory features of any satisfying story. This is Western-centric silliness. This course explores non-linear structures, specifically cyclic and nested structures, using examples from non-Western stories and films. It explores how these non-linear structures allow for thematic stacking, embracing of moral complexity, and a synthesis between form and content to explode the idea that a straight line is the best way to tell every story. The course emphasizes practical craft takeaways for storytellers to apply to their own works in progress.

11:45AM-12:45PM - Community Track

Cohort Writing Group: Queer Writers

Join to connect with fellow Queer writers to chat about your writing, commiserate, celebrate, inspire one another.

SATURDAY 8/6

1:00–2:05PM Community Track

Panel: The Beauty and Crisis of Writing Climate

Moderated by Franklin Cruz.

Panelists: Ashia Ajani & KB Brookins

Poets are often tasked with finding the beauty and expanding it, making it more visible for all of us. In a world of rapidly changing climate, Poets Ashia Ajani and KB Brookins will be in conversation about their approaches to writing about the changes they observe, the impacts, and the victories.

1:00–2:05PM - Industry Track

Panel: On Publishing & Publicity

Panelists: Katherine Akey, Ivan Lett, Cheryl Lew, and Lena Little

A panel featuring industry experts Katherine Akey, Ivan Lett, Cheryl Lew, and Lena Little. Hosted in partnership with Hachette Book Group



SATURDAY 8/6

1:00–2:05PM- Community Track

Panel: Neurodivergence, Madness, and Form

Moderated by: Cortland Nesley

Panelists: Veronique West, Taylor Biedler, Harmon dot aut, and Seeley Quest

Content from lived experience narratives can potentially combat the ableism from clinical perspectives; however, their ability to do so is often limited by normative forms that presuppose a neurotypical/sane/colonial logic. What is "good" plotting? What is "good" pacing? What is "causality"? What is "logic"? Clinical pathologizations police the authenticity of Neurodivergent and Mad experiences when they do not match rigid and narrow homogeneous narrative frameworks. When Neurodivergent/Mad folk threaten neurotypical notions of normality in their stories, they are labeled crazy and are quickly brushed aside (and often incarcerated in psychiatric institutions). To wield Neurodivergent/Mad authenticity, the question of how to tell the story is just as important as what the story is. In what ways can we actively and intentionally madden and neuroqueer our storytelling? And, how can doing so be freeing?

2:15–3:20PM - Community Track

Panel & Reading: On supporting the work of writers who are incarcerated

Hosted by: Caitis Meissner

JNicole Shawan Junior, Zeke Caliguri, Randall Horton, & Vivian Nixon in conversation with Caitis Meissner, director of Prison and Justice Writing at PEN America.



Mobilizing creativity
for a vibrant community.

**BONFILS
STANTON**
FOUNDATION

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation is pleased to support
The Word's 2022 [margins.] festival!

Great things happen when we come together for
the arts. For more information on what we believe,
and the many extraordinary cultural organizations
and programs we support, visit
Bonfils-StantonFoundation.org.

SATURDAY 8/6

2:15–3:20PM - Industry Track

Workshop: Stranded in Submission Limbo: A Different Type of Torment

Hosted by: Mohamed Shalabi

Finding an agent is surely the end of the journey, right? You've got an agent, you're on submission, and now what? I will discuss feelings of both excitement and angst, and answer these vital questions. As an agented author on submission, what are the best ways to handle the uncertainty of publishing? And what are best practices to combat imposter syndrome and stay focused on your individual journey before, during and after submission?



m
a
r
g
i
n
s



Giveaway!

Enter by 8/7 to win a set of free audiobooks from wonderful speakers and friends of the [margins.] Conference + Festival!

Visit [@wordisdiversity](https://www.wordisdiversity.com) on Instagram to learn more about this giveaway from our friends at [libro.fm](https://www.libro.fm)

SATURDAY 8/6

2:15–3:20PM - Craft Track

A Reading with Patricia Smith

Join us for a reading with Patricia Smith, the author of eight books of poetry, including *Incendiary Art*, winner of the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the 2017 Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the 2018 NAACP Image Award, and finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize; *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize from the Academy of American Poets; *Blood Dazzler*, a National Book Award finalist; and *Gotta Go, Gotta Flow*, a collaboration with award-winning Chicago photographer Michael Abramson. Her other books include the poetry volumes *Teahouse of the Almighty*, *Close to Death*, *Big Towns Big Talk*, *Life According to Motown*; the children's book *Janna and the Kings and the history Africans in America*, a companion book to the award-winning PBS series. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *The Baffler*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Tin House* and in *Best American Poetry*, *Best American Essays* and *Best American Mystery Stories*. She co-edited *The Golden Shovel Anthology—New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks* and edited the crime fiction anthology *Staten Island Noir*.



DUENDE DISTRICT



LET'S BUILD COMMUNITY

VISIT THE
VIRTUAL
BOOKFAIR
AND DUENDE
DISTRICT

SATURDAY 8/6

3:30–4:40PM - Community Track

Panel: Reserving a Seat at the Table We've Made: A roundtable discussion with Torch Literary Arts

Panelists: Amanda Johnston, Dr. Sequoia Maner, Saida Agostini, Kindall Gant

Torch Literary Arts (TORCH) was founded in 2006 by Amanda Johnston to provide a space to publish and promote Black women writers. For over 15 years, TORCH has featured established and emerging writers online at TorchLiteraryArts.org. This roundtable discussion brings together TORCH's founder, features, and board members to discuss the needs, challenges, and joy of sustaining a space dedicated to Black women writers.

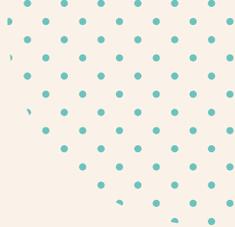
3:30–4:40PM - Industry Track

Workshop: Self-Publishing 101

Hosted by: Erica Ridley

Erica Ridley went from self-publishing novice to hitting bestseller lists like USA Today and the New York Times. She'll walk you through how to get started, key strategies, best practices, what she would have done differently, as well as tips and tricks for maximizing opportunities at each vendor.





SATURDAY 8/6

3:30–4:40PM - Craft Track

Panel: “Eres de aqui o de alla?” “Are you from here or over there?”

Moderated by: Mariana Esteves

Panelists: Adriana Lisboa, Billy Ray Belcourt, and Manuel Iris

A live virtual session of the 2022 [margins.] conference, this panel is a celebration of the shared contours and margins of our belonging through multicultural narratives, moderated by Mariana Esteves. Biennial of the Americas x [margins.] aims to promote cultural empathy by showcasing the work of writers across the Americas. This virtual panel will feature authors whose voices echo battles over language, identity, borders, and belonging. This conversation and reading with authors Ariana Lisboa, Manuel Iris and Billy-Ray Belcourt will explore the power of ancestry, movement, and belonging in forging multicultural narratives.

5:15-6:15PM – Community Track

Cohort Writing Group: Black Writers

Join to connect with fellow Black writers, to chat about your writing, commiserate, celebrate, inspire one another.

6:30-8:00PM – Awards ceremony

Hosted by: The Word

Let's gather to celebrate the 2022 recipients of the Alchemy Award, the Rasquache Award, and the Rishi Award!



"Talent is insignificant.
I know a lot of talented ruins.
Beyond talent lie all the usual
words: discipline, love, luck,
but most of all, endurance."

- James Baldwin

SUNDAY 8/7

9:00-10:05AM - Community Track

Panel: Cities Come Alive: authentic lenses for diverse children who play, sing, and fly!

Moderated by Valerie Bolling

Panelists Brittany J. Thurman and Cynthia Harmony

Cities provide an environment for children to have fun, achieve milestones, and connect with others in their family and community. Engage in a discussion with three picture book authors about creating agency in their characters that encourages children to play, learn, and take action. These authors will share excerpts from their books to show the importance of depicting nuances of our communities truthfully through text and illustration. In addition, this panel will discuss the importance of basing stories on personal experiences and why ALL diverse books belong in the hands of readers.

9:00-10:05AM - Industry Track

Panel: Query 101

Moderated by Eric Smith.

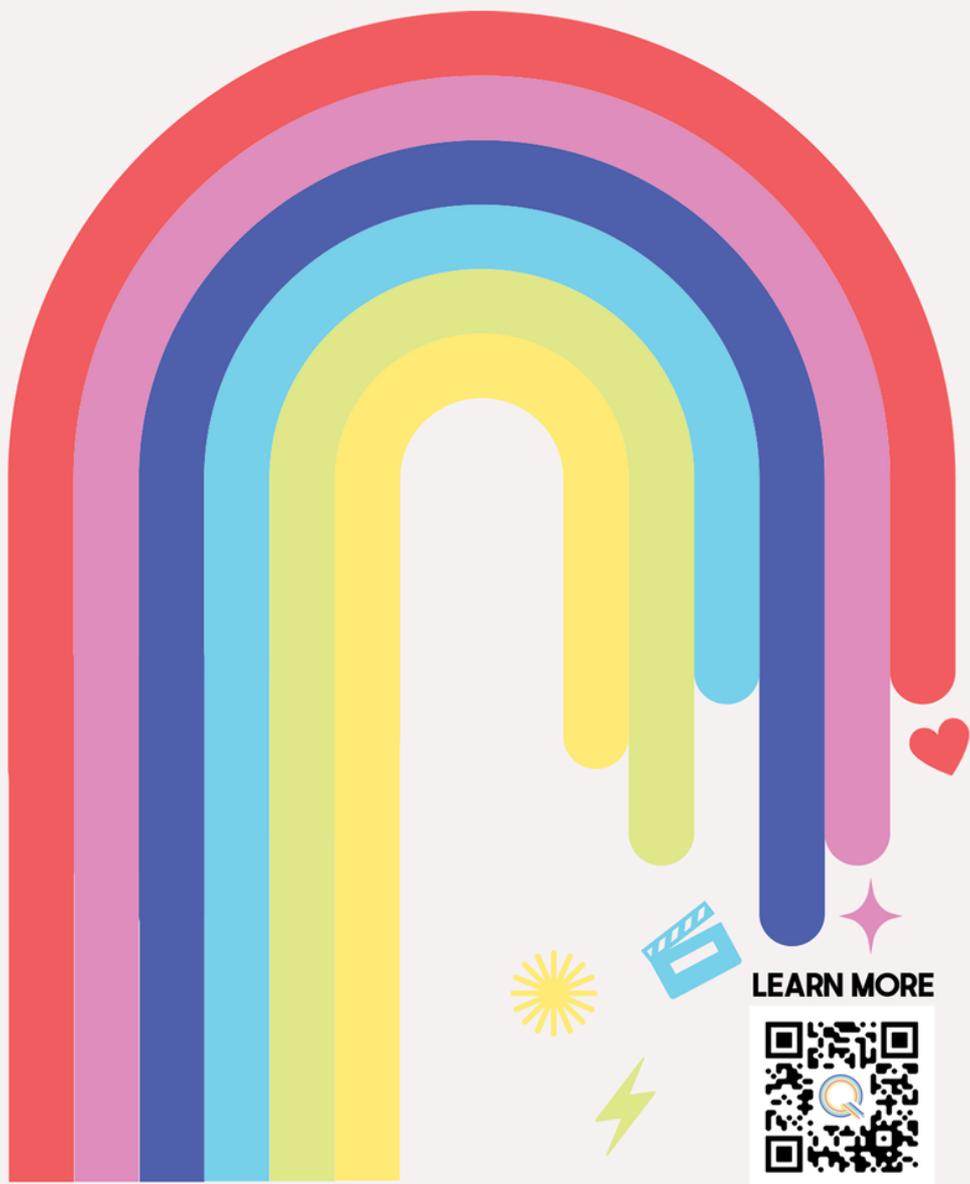
Panelists: Linda Camacho, Priya Doraswamy, Ali Lake, and Sandy Lu

Literary Agents will discuss on your observations of the dos and don'ts of querying - some of the things that you love to see, tips for writers on successful pitches, pitfalls to avoid? This would be a one hour conversation with a moderator & audience Q&A.

9:00-10:05AM - Community Track

Cohort Writing Group: Disabled Writers

Join to connect with fellow Disabled writers, to chat about your writing, commiserate, celebrate, inspire one another.



LEARN MORE



CinemaQ

LGBTQ+ STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

August 11th - 14th 2022

SUNDAY 8/7



10:15-11:20AM - Industry Track

Panel: Identity and Self-Love In the Time of Book Bans

Panelists: Jyoti Rajan Gopal, Nicole Chen, Valerie Bolling, Monique James Duncan, Jonathan Hillman

The backlash against books that decenter the hetero-normative white point of view is very real. Unfortunately, this is not new. Book bans have been around for centuries. What does feel new is that even books that merely seek to affirm a particular identity are now being targeted. Anything that mentions gender, race, culture, or sexuality seems to be up for grabs. And legislated against. That feels new and very, very dangerous.

10:15-11:20AM - Craft Track

Crip Cash: Resisting the Commodification of Disabled Identities

Panelists: Pinka Popsickle, Kimberly Jackson, Leslie McIntosh, Saleem Hue Penny, and Walela Nehanda

Join Team Zoeglossia members Pinka Popsickle, Kimberly Jackson, Leslie McIntosh, Saleem Hue Penny, and Walela Nehanda for a discussion on how we approach content and center our own voices in a landscape determined to commodify disabled identities.

10:15-11:20AM - Writing Craft Track

On Queer Re-Tellings

With Addie Tsai & Kelly Ann Jacobson

Join Authors Kelly Ann Jacobson, author of Tink and Wendy, and Addie Tsai, author of Unwieldy Creatures, for a discussion of their approaches to re-telling stories through a queer lens.

SUNDAY 8/7

11:45AM-12:45PM - Community Track

Cohort Writing Group: Asian-American & Pacific Islander Writers

Hosted by: Asian-American Lit Fest

Join to connect with fellow Asian American & Pacific Islander writers to chat about your writing, commiserate, celebrate, inspire one another.

1:00-2:05PM - Community Track

Reading: Featuring Amanda Johnston, Dr. Sequoia Maner, Saida Agostini, Kindall Gant, with Torch Literary Arts

Torch Literary Arts (TORCH) was founded in 2006 by Amanda Johnston to provide a space to publish and promote Black women writers. For over 15 years, TORCH has featured established and emerging writers online at TorchLiteraryArts.org. This reading brings together TORCH's founder, features, and board members to share their writing and celebrating the many voices of Black women writers.

1:00-2:05PM

Panel - Paths to Publication: Poetry

Panelists: Cynthia Manick, Tara Betts, Amal Kassir. Moderator:

Moderated by: Jessica Helen Lopez

A conversation and Q&A session where authors will discuss their unique paths to publishing and offer their advice for writers to navigate moving forward. Join these panelists for a conversation on how poems make their way into the world. From creating a collection, submitting poems, building community, booking readings, and all of the paths our poems take.

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE FACULTY

Presented by the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing.
Earn your MA and MFA online with limited campus visits.

TO APPLY, GO TO
gradapply.wilkes.edu/apply

At Wilkes University, we'll help you tell your story.



LAURIE JEAN CARTER
Memoir



SHANTA LEE GANDER
Poetry



ROBIN MCCRARY
Essays



TAYLOR POLITES
Fiction



GREGORY FLETCHER
Playwriting



KEN LIU
Sci Fi



CHRISTINE RENEE MILLER
Playwriting



DANIA RAMOS
Audio Drama and YA



RU FREEMAN
Fiction and Nonfiction



JENNIFER MAYER
Screenwriting



ANGELIQUE PALMER
Spoken Word



NISHA SHARMA
Romance

We welcome writers of all ages and experience levels.
For more information on our diverse faculty and our creative writing programs, visit wilkes.edu/cw.

Wilkes
University



LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Lighthouse welcomes all people who want to learn more about writing, regardless of age, experience, or education. We believe in the innate creativity of all people and encourage experimentation and innovation to connect, challenge, heal, and inspire our community. So join us for a workshop for one day or eight weeks on a subject you're familiar with or completely new, online or in person—all with instructors that really know their stuff.

COME WRITE WITH US

3833 Steele St Suite 1438, Denver, CO | (303) 297-1185
www.lighthousewriters.org | info@lighthousewriters.org



SUNDAY 8/7

1:00-2:05PM - Craft Track

Panel: Writing Rom-Coms: Tropes, Timing, and the Perfect Kiss.

Panelists: Maya Prasad, Brian D. Kennedy, and Priyanka Taslim
Slow-burn. Enemies-to-lovers. Fake dating. Tropes are a staple of rom-coms, but it takes skill and practice to pull them off in an original way. In this panel, three debut authors will discuss the craft of writing rom-coms, including comedic situations and timing, building to the perfect kiss, and keeping your readers in suspense about how that “Happy Ever After” will unfold.

2:15-3:20PM - Craft Track

KidLit in Color: Writing and Modeling Anti-Racism for Young Readers

Moderated by: Tina Athaide

Panelists: Valerie Bolling, Susan Muaddi Darraj, Kirstie Myvett, and Kaitlyn Wells

Picture books, chapter books, YA novels -- these genres all get lumped into the category of “kidlit,” and they are often separated from the more lauded category of “literature.” However, one of the most important ways that anti-racism work can be accomplished is through literature for young readers. In this session, children’s writers will read short excerpts from our work and discuss how a dedication to diversity and anti-racism influences our writing. We will also discuss how reaching young readers through books is critical in two ways: children of color and children from marginalized communities need these books as “mirrors” for their own self-development, while white children need these books as windows into marginalized communities. Finally, we will discuss the legacy of the #ownvoices movement, which strived to highlight books in which the protagonist and author belong to the same community.

SUNDAY 8/7

2:15-3:20PM - Industry Track

Panel - Paths to Publication: Fiction

Panelists: Henry Lien, Erica Ridley, Eric Smith

A conversation and Q&A session where authors will discuss their unique paths to publishing and offer their advice for writers to navigate moving forward.

2:15-3:20PM - Industry Track

Workshop: Knowing and Reaching Your Audience

Hosted by: Carolina Meurkens

A workshop that helps authors consider who the audience for their book really is, and then ideas for identifying the publishing and marketing paths that might be most tailored to successfully reach that audience.

2:15-3:20PM - Craft Track

Panel: Nonfiction & the Storyteller

Panelists: A.E. Rooks, Scott Woods

Moderator: Raksha Vasudevan

Let's explore the different ways we narrate to tell nonfiction, from the personality of voice to deepen our understanding of truth.

3:30-4:00PM - Closing Ceremony

How Can I Get Published?

While there's no one-size-fits-all experience, here are a few of the most common steps in the process.

STEP ONE

Write a Manuscript

- Have a great idea?
- The first step is to write a manuscript or proposal.
- Connect with other writers for suggestions or tips—maybe someone sitting right next to you at this conference!
- Find fellow writers elsewhere on social media using #writercommunity or visit pw.org for a directory of writing groups.



STEP TWO

Find an Agent

- Literary agents play a critical role in serving your interests in the business relationship with your publisher.
- Do your research and find agents who represent the kind of work you write.
- Create a query letter and synopsis for your book, being sure to follow each agent's specific submission requirements.



STEP THREE

Prep Your Submission

- Agents will often suggest edits to your manuscript to prepare for submissions, which is when an agent sends your work to editors in hopes of attracting an offer.
- This process can take some time but remember that all parties involved want your project to find the right home!

END GOAL

Land a Book Deal

- Once an editor has shown interest in your project, they'll often share with publishing teams for feedback, and to decide whether to make an offer.
- If an offer is made, you will have final say over whether you accept the offer!



Explore the entire guide by visiting
[PRH.com/Articles/How-Can-I-Get-Published/](https://prh.com/articles/how-can-i-get-published/)

Best of luck on your writing journey!

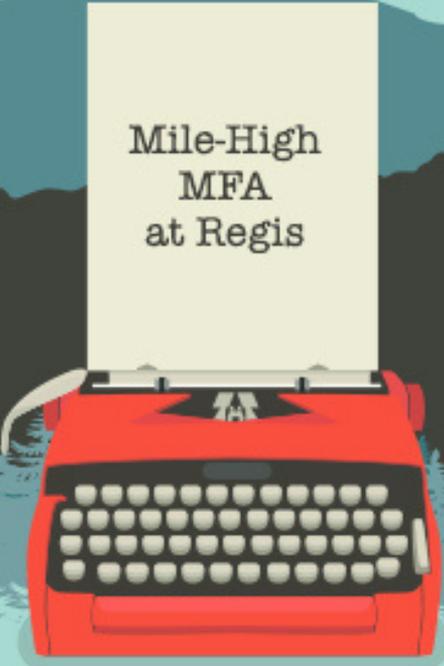
Penguin Random House is thrilled to be a sponsor of the [margins.] conference and to support the work of The Word, A Storytelling Sanctuary

Penguin
Random
House

m
a
r
g
i
n
s

ROSE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Mile-High
MFA
at Regis

AGENT SPEED DATES

Agent speed dates are here to connect you one-on-one with a literary agent. Have a manuscript ready to pitch? Here's your chance! Still working on your pitch, and want some insight that will help you get it into shape? This is your chance too.

You should have received information via email about signing up, contact us at margins@thewordfordiversity.org if you have questions and don't miss the chance to connect with these agents!

Ali Lake

Janklow & Nesbit

Jane Chun

Janklow & Nesbit

Mariah Stovall

Trellis Literary
Management

Amanda Orozco

Transatlantic

Kat Kerr

Donald Maass

**Priya
Doraswamy**

Lotus Lane Literary

Eric Smith

P.S. Literary

Kiana Nguyen

Donald Maass

Sandy Lu

Book Wyrms Literary

**Hannah Van Vels
Ausbury**

Belcastro Agency

Linda Camacho

Gallt & Zacker
Literary Agency

Sam Hiyate

The Rights Factory

**Jade Wong
Baxter**

Goldin Literary

Maria Heater

Nelson
Literary Agency

Sonali Chanchani

Folio Literary
Management

LET'S KEEP BUILDING

THE

W



R

D

A STORYTELLING SANCTUARY

www.thewordfordiversity.org

@wordisdiversity

Thank you to our partners



Penguin
Random
House



BONFILS
STANTON
FOUNDATION

Wilkes University
MASLOW FAMILY GRADUATE
PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING

ROSE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Thank you to our community partners

