September 2023
Schedule and Presenters**

**Additional presenters will be added to this document and posted on pw.org as they are confirmed.**

Tuesday, September 12

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00–6:15 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15–7:45 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Publishing 101</td>
<td>Learn the fundamentals of identifying the right markets for your work and best practices for submitting to literary magazines, small presses, writing contests, and more.</td>
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*Presenter: P&W’s Kevin Larimer, Editor in Chief, coauthor of The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer (Avid Reader Press).*

Thursday, September 14

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<tr>
<td>6:00–6:15 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15–7:30 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Working with an Agent</td>
<td>Literary agents will describe what they do and don’t do for their clients, share what makes for an effective query letter, offer tips on how to identify agents best suited for the writer and their project(s), and touch upon standard author/agent contracts.</td>
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*Presenters: Rica Allannic, David Black Agency; Hafizah Geter, Janklow & Nesbit; Monica Odom, Odom Media Management; Kent D. Wolf, Neon Literary*

Monday, September 18

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<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>6:15–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Submitting to Literary Magazines and Journals</td>
<td>Fiction and nonfiction editors of literary magazines will share their publications’ submissions processes, what they are looking for in new work, and other opportunities. They will also discuss what happens once a work is accepted, including explaining publication/author agreements and the editorial process.</td>
<td>Kim Hew-Low, Assistant Editor, The Believer; Sacha Idell, Coeditor and Prose Editor, The Southern Review; Yaerim Gen Kwon, Editor-in-Chief and Nonfiction Editor, Indiana Review; Kalpana Negi, Senior Editor, The Adroit Journal; Sean Sam, Fiction Editor, 128 Lit; Anthony Varallo, Fiction Editor, swamp pink</td>
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**Wednesday, September 20**

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<td>6:00–6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Working with a Book Editor</td>
<td>Learn about the editorial process from acceptance to publication, the editor-writer-agent relationship, book proposals, advances, comps, and more.</td>
<td>Lashanda Anakwah, Editor, Tiny Reparations Books; Diamond Braxton, Founding Editor, Abode Press; zakia henderson-brown, Editor, The New Press; Amber Oliver, Senior Editor, Bloomsbury Publishing; Allison M. Smith, Editor, Publishing and Publicity Manager, Unnamed Press</td>
</tr>
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**Friday, September 22**
6:00–6:15 p.m. ET  Welcome
6:15–7:30 p.m. ET  The Writer's Journey
Acclaimed authors share stories about their literary careers—how they got started and their experience in the publishing world—and offer advice for aspiring and early-career writers.

**Presenters:** Hanif Abdurraqib, *A Little Devil in America* (Random House); Anjali Enjeti, *Essays of Identity, Inheritance, and Social Change* (University of Georgia Press); Oscar Hokeah, *Calling for a Blanket Dance* (Algonquin Books); Mark Ernest Pothier, *Outer Sunset* (University of Iowa Press)

7:30–7:45 p.m. ET  How to Keep It Going

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**PRESENTERS**

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His poetry has been published in Muzzle, Vinyl, PEN American, and various other journals. His essays and music criticism have been published in The FADER, Pitchfork, The New Yorker, and The New York Times. His first full length poetry collection, *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, was released in June 2016 from Button Poetry. It was named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Prize, and was nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. With Big Lucks, he released a limited edition chapbook, *Vintage Sadness*, in summer 2017 (you cannot get it anymore and he is very sorry.) His first collection of essays, *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, was released in winter 2017 by Two Dollar Radio and was named a book of the year by Buzzfeed, Esquire, NPR, Oprah Magazine, Paste, CBC, The Los Angeles Review, Pitchfork, and The Chicago Tribune, among others. He released *Go Ahead*
In The Rain: Notes To A Tribe Called Quest with University of Texas press in February 2019. The book became a New York Times Bestseller, was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and was longlisted for the National Book Award. His second collection of poems, A Fortune For Your Disaster, was released in 2019 by Tin House, and won the 2020 Lenore Marshall Prize. In 2021, he released the book A Little Devil In America with Random House, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the The PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay. The book won the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction and the Gordon Burn Prize. Hanif is a graduate of Beechcroft High School.

**Rica Allannic**, a literary agent with the David Black Agency with more than twenty years of publishing experience, specializes in helping authors from diverse backgrounds tell the stories that are important to them. A graduate of New York City public schools and Yale University, Rica worked in professional kitchens before joining the editorial team at Scribner (Simon & Schuster) and then moving on to Clarkson Potter (Penguin Random House), where, as VP and Executive Editor, she acquired and edited cookbooks, narrative nonfiction, and gift books. Rica brings her love of food and everything French as well as her Puerto Rican heritage to her role as a literary agent and uses her unique editorial experience to help clients shape their projects and to advocate for them at every stage of the publishing process.
Lashanda Anakwah is an editor at Tiny Reparations acquiring fiction and select non-fiction titles. Before joining Tiny Reparations she worked at the Simon & Schuster flagship imprint. She is building a list that captures a wide array of human experiences, and is drawn to edgy voice driven literary, upmarket and commercial fiction centered on complicated, unique characters. She is a Bronx native.

Diamond Braxton is a queer, mixed-race Black-Chicanx writer, editor, and educator based in Texas. Her work appears in Best Microfiction 2023, Sundress Publication’s Best of the Net anthology, The Forge, Stanchion, Hellebore Press, and others. She is a Lambda Literary retreat fellow (2023) and a Tin House 21’ workshop alum. She is the Founder of Abode Press, the Prose Editor for Defunkt Magazine, and a Copy Editor for the Porter House Review.

Anjali Enjeti is an Atlanta based author of two books, Southbound: Essays on Identity, Inheritance, and Social Change, and a novel, The Parted Earth. She is the recipient of the 2022 Georgia Author of the Year Award for First Novel, a finalist for the 2022 Townsend Prize for fiction, and a gold medalist for Best Regional Nonfiction from the Independent Publisher Book Awards. Her articles have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Harper’s Bazaar, Oxford American, and
elsewhere. A former board member of the National Book Critics Circle, she served as a nonfiction juror for the 2023 Kirkus Prize, and teaches creative writing in the MFA programs at Antioch University Los Angeles and Reinhardt University.


zakia henderson-brown (she/her) is the author of *What Kind of Omen Am I*, winner of the Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellowship, selected by Cate Marvin. She is a Cave Canem graduate fellow, was a 2016 Poets House Emerging Poets fellow, and has received additional fellowships and support from the Fine Arts Work Center and the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. Her poems have appeared in *New Daughters of Africa* (Amistad), *Adroit, African American Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, Little Patuxent*
Review, North American Review, Washington Square Review, Vinyl, and others. She has been in residence at the T.S. Eliot House, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Louis Armstrong House Museum. zakia earned an MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translation from Queens College, where she also served as an adjunct professor, and a BA from Wesleyan University. She currently serves as a senior editor at nonprofit book publisher The New Press. The nonfiction books she’s edited have been recognized by the Pulitzer Prize administration, PEN America, Booklist, Boston Review, The New Yorker, the New York Times Book Review, the New York Review of Books, Kirkus, and Library Journal. She lives in her native Brooklyn.

Kim Hew-Low is an Australian writer based in Brooklyn and an editor at The Believer.
Oscar Hokeah is a citizen of Cherokee Nation and the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He resides on the Cherokee Nation reservation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he works in Indian Child Welfare. He is the author of CALLING FOR A BLANKET DANCE, and winner of the 2023 PEN/Hemingway award. He holds an M.A. in English from the University of Oklahoma, with a concentration in Native American Literature. He also holds a B.F.A. in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), with a minor in Indigenous Liberal Studies. He is a recipient of the Truman Capote Scholarship Award through IAIA, and a winner of the Native Writer Award through the Taos Summer Writers Conference. Hokeah has written for Poets & Writers, Literary Hub, World Literature Today, American Short Fiction, and elsewhere.

Sacha Idell is coeditor and prose editor of The Southern Review. His original stories appear in Ploughshares, Narrative, and Gulf Coast. His translations from the Japanese include stories by Kyūsaku Yumeno and Toshirō Sasaki. Writing he has acquired and edited has been selected for inclusion in the Pushcart Prize, Best American Short Stories, and Best American Mystery and Suspense anthologies, among others. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.
Kevin Larimer has been with Poets & Writers since 1999; he became editor in chief in 2013. He is the coauthor of *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer: Everything You Need to Know About Craft, Inspiration, Agents, Editors, Publishing, and the Business of Building a Sustainable Writing Career* (Avid Reader Press, 2020). He holds a degree in journalism and received his MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, where he was the poetry editor of the *Iowa Review*. He has given presentations and appeared on a number of panels on publishing at events such as the Library of Congress National Book Festival, the Sozopol Fiction Seminars, the Anguilla Lit Fest, the Slice Literary Writer’s Conference, and the Iceland Writers Retreat.

Yaerim Gen Kwon is a prose writer from Seoul, South Korea. She currently resides in Bloomington, Indiana, where she teaches and studies fiction at Indiana University and serves as the Editor-in-Chief for *Indiana Review*. Her short story won first prize for Literature in 2022 and her novel chapter received the Hegarty Award in 2023 from the National Society of Arts & Letters Competition. She received scholarships and fellowships from AWP, Carleton College, Indiana University, and New York State Summer Writers Institute.
Kalpana Negi has a master’s degree in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh and an MFA from the University of Memphis, where she taught fiction and read for the literary magazine The Pinch. She has attended the Tin House Summer Workshop and Lighthouse Writers Workshop’s Writing in Color Retreat. She is also an Asian Women Writers mentee.

Her stories have been shortlisted for fiction contests by The Chattahoochee Review, Third Coast and Ruminate Magazine and her work has been published in TriQuarterly, Five Points, EVENT Poetry and Prose, and the University of Memphis Magazine among other journals. Her work has also appeared on the 2023 Wigleaf Top 50 longlist. She is Senior Editor at The Adroit Journal and is represented by Hannah Strouth at the Jane Rotrosen agency. For more, visit kalpananegi.com.

Monica Odom founded Odom Media Management in 2019, after working in publishing for nearly a decade, including roles as agent at Liza Dawson Associates and Bradford Literary Agency. She earned her M.S. in Publishing: Digital & Print Media from New York University, and has a B.A. in English from Montclair State University. She was also schooled in bookselling and event coordinating at her local indie, Watchung Booksellers.

Monica is a member of the Association of American Literary Agents where she has served on the Board, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and as President of the DEI non-profit Literary Agents of Change. She currently teaches a publishing course at her alma mater MSU, in conjunction with the Montclair Literary Festival. She is dedicated to the holistic and intentional expansion of
intersectional diversity, equity, inclusivity and justice in the publishing industry and beyond.

Amber Oliver is a Senior Editor at Bloomsbury Publishing. She acquires literary and upmarket fiction, narrative nonfiction, and memoir with a focus on underrepresented voices. Amber previously worked at HarperCollins and helped curate and launch a list for the newly created Tiny Reparations Books imprint dedicated to diverse perspectives at Penguin Random House. She has published titles such as New York Times bestseller Portrait of a Thief by Grace D. Li, NAACP Image Award Nominee What the Fireflies Knew by Kai Harris, National Book Critics Circle Award finalist and Lambda Literary Award Finalist This Is Major by Shayla Lawson, and Bram Stoker Award nominee When the Reckoning Comes by LaTanya McQueen. She holds a BA in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from The City College of New York. Her debut novel, When the Music Hits will be published by Ballantine/PRH in 2025.

Mark Ernest Pothier earned his BA from St. John’s College in Annapolis, his MFA at San Francisco State, and is a recipient of a Nelson Algren Short Story Award. After a 25-year communications career working with nonprofits, including the California Council for the Humanities, he’s writing full-time in San Francisco. Outer Sunset – called “insightful and bittersweet...a terrific novel” by the San Francisco Chronicle - is his first novel.
Sean Sam is a member of the Navajo Nation and an MFA student at Cornell University. His writing has appeared in *Salt Hill*, *Joyland*, *The Malahat Review*, and elsewhere. He is the winner of Terrain.org’s 12th Annual Fiction contest, received an honorable mention in Zoetrope: All-Story’s Short Fiction Competition, and was a finalist for Poetry Northwest’s James Welch Prize. He is a fiction editor with 128 Lit and an assistant editor with EPOCH.

Anthony Varallo is the author of *What Did You Do Today?*, winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction, forthcoming from the University of North Texas Press in Fall 2023. His other books include a novel, *The Lines* (University of Iowa Press), as well as four previous short story collections: *This Day in History*, winner of the John Simmons Short Fiction Award; *Out Loud*, winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize; *Think of Me and I’ll Know* (Northwestern University Press); and *Everyone Was There*, winner of the Elixir Press Fiction Award. He is a professor of English at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, where he directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing and serves as fiction editor of swamp pink literary journal. Find him online at @TheLines1979.
Kent D. Wolf is a founding partner at Neon Literary, where he represents literary fiction and narrative nonfiction in the areas of memoir, essays, pop culture, and immersive journalism. His clients include National Book Award finalist Carmen Maria Machado, National Book Award finalist and Pulitzer finalist Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Pulitzer finalist Sierra Crane Murdoch, Young Lions Fiction Award winner Zain Khalid, New York Times Bestselling essayist Samantha Irby, and PEN/Hemingway Award winner Torrey Peters.