## September 2023
### Schedule and Presenters**

#### Tuesday, September 12

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00–6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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| 6:15–7:45 p.m. | Publishing 101         | 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.  
*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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| 6:15–7:30 p.m. | Working with an Agent  | 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.  
*Presenters: Rica Allannic, David Black Agency; Hafizah Geter, Janklow & Nesbit; Monica Odom, Odom Media Management; Kent D. Wolf, Neon Literary* |

#### Monday, September 18

**Additional presenters will be added to this document and posted on pw.org as they are confirmed.
Wednesday, September 20

6:00–6:15 p.m. ET  Welcome

6:15–7:30 p.m. ET  Working with a Book Editor

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.

Presenters: 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

Friday, September 22

6:00–6:15 p.m. ET  Welcome
The Writer’s Journey

6:15–7:30 p.m. ET

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: Anjali Enjeti, Essays of Identity, Inheritance, and Social Change (University of Georgia Press); Ashley C. Ford, Somebody’s Daughter: A Memoir (Flatiron Books); Oscar Hokeah, Calling for a Blanket Dance (Algonquin Books); Mark Ernest Pothier, Outer Sunset (University of Iowa Press)

How to Keep It Going

7:30–7:45 p.m. ET

PRESENTERS

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.
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.

Ashley C. Ford is the author of the New York Times bestselling memoir, Somebody’s Daughter, published by Flatiron Books. Ford is the former co-host of The HBO companion podcast Lovecraft Country Radio, and the current host of Ben & Jerry’s Into The Mix. She currently lives in Indianapolis, Indiana with her husband, poet and fiction writer Kelly Stacy, and their chocolate lab Astro Renegade Ford-Stacy.


Photo Credit: Sylvie Rosokoff

Chris Heiser has been publisher of The Unnamed Press since its founding in 2014. He is also an acquiring editor, seeking a wide array of fiction and nonfiction titles. He is the co-
founder of North Fig Bookshop, a general interest community bookstore in Highland Park. Previously, he was deeply involved with starting up nonprofit translation press Phoneme Media (now an imprint of Deep Vellum) and worked at the Los Angeles Review of Books. Before that he worked at The New Press and John Wiley & Sons in New York.

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
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.

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.