WRITERS’ League of Texas

GROWING WRITERS SINCE 1981

No 24

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HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN TEXAS
2017

AGENTS & EDITORS CONFERENCE
On behalf of everyone here at the Writers’ League of Texas, welcome to the 24th annual Agents & Editors Conference.

In the months leading up to this weekend, we asked you what you hoped to gain from this event. As you might guess, almost everyone is interested in meeting with agents and editors and taking the next step in their growth as a writer—whether it’s getting their manuscript into shape for queries or their finished projects into the hands of people who can turn them into books on shelves. But we also found that the reason you’ve come to Austin this weekend cannot be distilled into a fingers-crossed pitch. Publishing is a long process, and many of you listed goals for this conference that go beyond a single consultation—and so we’ve designed this program around them.

“To practice my pitch.”
On Friday, we offer a step-by-step process for perfecting your pitch. In Genre Sessions, authors will share tips for pitching books within your particular genre. Afterward, we encourage you to attend the Pitch Lab and practice your pitch in a low-stress environment with your fellow attendees.

“To meet with an agent or editor.”
In addition to one-on-one consultations, we’ve created many other opportunities to learn from and engage with our agent and editor faculty. They will give presentations and sit on panels, and they’ll attend two receptions, where you can mix and mingle with them, along with published authors and publishing professionals.

“To learn about the publishing process.”
On Saturday and Sunday, there will be 35 panel discussions and presentations covering many aspects of the publishing industry. Take every opportunity to learn everything you can during these sessions: take notes, ask questions during Q&As, and chat with panelists afterward.

“To continue to improve my writing craft.”
A great manuscript is a requisite for publishing success, and so you will find more than a dozen panel discussions and presentations focused on helping you make your book the best it can be.

“To connect with fellow writers.”
Writing is a solitary pursuit that depends on a supportive community. You will be mingling with nearly 300 budding writers during the Pitch Lab and at the evening receptions—really all weekend long. Say hello! Trade email addresses! Stay in touch!

In addition to our stellar visiting agents and editors, this conference features bestselling and award-winning authors—several of whom were sitting where you are not that long ago. We’re especially excited for our Keynote Luncheon, featuring Ken Liu, and our Keynote Reception, featuring Jamie Brickhouse.

We also hope you’ll join us for a closing luncheon, a chance to look back at the whirlwind weekend and look ahead to what’s next for you.

Three big days with more than 350 people in attendance. We’re growing a lot of writers and books!

Michael Noll
Program Director

Please join us in congratulating the 2017 Writers’ League of Texas Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists, many of whom are joining us here this weekend.
You’ll be able to spot them by the blue ribbons they’re wearing.
See page 25 for the complete list.
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All programs and presenters are subject to change.

The Writers’ League of Texas is a statewide nonprofit that supports writers, both published and not yet published, across Texas and beyond. With over 1300 members and counting, our programming includes weekend classes, a summer writing workshop, Project WISE (presentations in public schools), and Texas Writes (workshops in rural libraries). For more information, visit the WLT’s website at www.writersleague.org.

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Cover design: Anne Stevenson
Meet the Editors

Caroline Casey  
**Coffee House Press**

Caroline Casey is Managing Director at Coffee House Press. She has a background in marketing, publicity, and acquisitions, including stints at Sarabande Books and Stanford University Press, and holds an MFA from the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

Will Evans  
**Cinestate**


Amy Gash  
**Algonquin Books**

Amy Gash is a Senior Editor in the New York office of Algonquin Books, where she acquires literary fiction and narrative nonfiction on topics ranging from science, education, humor, graphic memoir, history, and language. Books she has edited have won The National Book Critics Circle Award, The American Library Association Sophie Brody Medal, and The Sami Rohr Prize. They have been *New York Times* bestsellers, *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times* bestsellers, #1 Indie Picks, Top Ten Amazon Books of the Year, and *New York Times* Notable Books. They have been published in translation throughout the world.

Tatiana Ryckman  
**Awst Press**

Tatiana Ryckman is the Editor-in-Chief of Awst Press, an Assistant Editor at *The Austin Review*, and Managing Editor at *sunnyoutside*. She has worked with award-winning authors including James Tate, Sheila Heti, and Micheline Aharonian Marcom. She has been a writer in residence at Yaddo and her novella, *I Don’t Think of You (Until I Do)*, is forthcoming from Future Tense Press.

Daniel Smetanka  
**Counterpoint Press**

Daniel Smetanka has worked in the publishing industry for over twenty-five years. As an Executive Editor at Ballantine/Random House, Inc., he acquired award-winning books including *The Speed of Light* by Elizabeth Rosner, *Down to the Soundless Sea* by Thomas Steinbeck, and *Among the Missing* by Dan Chaon, a 2001 Finalist for the National Book Award. He is currently Vice President, Executive Editor for Counterpoint Press. He acquires both fiction and nonfiction, and his projects include works by Dana Johnson, Abby Geni, Tod Goldberg, Natasha Deon, and Karen E. Bender, a 2015 Finalist for the National Book Award.

Gabriela Baeza Ventura  
**Arte Público Press**

Gabriela Baeza Ventura is associate professor of Spanish in the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston, where she is Executive Editor of Arte Público Press (APP). APP is the premier publishing house for Latinos in the United States. She is the author of *La imagen de la mujer en la crónica del “México de Afuera”* and editor of the anthology *US Latino Literature Today*.

A Big Thank You to Ricki Ratliff and her outstanding group of timers for the one-on-one consultations:

- Stephan Baley
- Joan Barton
- Kelli Cook
- J.D. Davila
- Tania DeGregorio
- Candee Edwards
- Rhonda Fuquay
- Robin Fuquay
- Stacee Harris
- Daniel Martin Haverty
- CateLynn Hudgin
- Anna Kosta-Rodriguez
- Nanette Neal
- Riley O’Harrow
- Martin Salinas
- Tammi Schissler
- Anna Stoll
- Karen Trikilis
- Jo Virgil.
Michelle Brower
Aevitas Creative Management

Michelle Brower began her career in publishing in 2004 while studying for her Master’s degree in English Literature at New York University. After stints at Wendy Sherman Associates and Folio Literary Management, she joined Zachary Shuster Harmsworth and Kuhn Projects, now Aevitas Creative Management, where she is looking for literary fiction, suspense, “book club” novels, genre fiction for non-genre readers, and narrative nonfiction.

Sara Crowe
Pippin Properties

Sara Crowe is a senior agent at Pippin Properties. She began her career at The Wylie Agency and worked in foreign rights for eight years. Before joining Pippin Properties, Sara spent a decade at Harvey Klinger, Inc., building a list of children’s and adult fiction including many New York Times bestselling and award-winning authors and titles. She loves finding new talent to champion and nurturing and developing careers.

Allison Devereux
Wolf Literary

Allison Devereux is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and has been an agent at Wolf Literary since 2012. She represents upmarket and literary fiction and is especially interested in global settings, everman characters, moral ambiguity, magical realism, underrepresented voices, female protagonists, and stories set firmly in reality but that explore something fantastical or surreal. She’s actively looking for narrative nonfiction that uses a particular niche topic to explore larger truths about our culture; journalistic examinations of progressive politics, pop culture, unique subcultures, and modern feminism; and anything with a convincing narrative voice or a great sense of humor.
Meet the Agents

David Doerrer
**Abrams Artists Agency**

David Doerrer worked at Sterling Lord Literistic and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt before joining Abrams Artists Agency in 2010. In addition to working with a growing list of writers, novelists, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, he works with his colleagues at Abrams, “a full-service talent agency,” to create opportunities for his clients in other mediums and outlets. He’s on the lookout for big-hearted adult and YA fiction, and a wide range of narrative nonfiction, from science, sports, and pop culture to memoir that atomizes large-scale change through a personal prism.

Carrie Howland
**Empire Literary**

Carrie Howland joined Empire Literary after eleven years as an agent at Donadio & Olson, Inc. She represents adult literary and upmarket fiction, narrative nonfiction, young adult, and middle grade authors. Her clients include Kaitlyn Greenidge (*We Love You, Charlie Freeman*), Carmiel Banasky (*The Suicide of Claire Bishop*), and Melissa Gorzelanczyk (*Arrows*). Carrie is a member of the AAR and SCBWI. She holds a B.A. in English and Creative Writing from Albion College.

Annie Hwang
**Folio Literary Management**

Annie Hwang is an agent at Folio Literary Management where she represents a range of fiction for adults and select nonfiction projects. She gravitates towards literary fiction with commercial appeal and is particularly drawn to braided narratives and layered plots, especially when populated by complex characters with deep emotional resonance. Commercially, she’s looking for both sweeping historical fiction and visceral literary thrillers that depart from the norm of the genre. The most important thing to her, beyond concept or pitch, is breathtaking storytelling that stretches its genre to new heights.

Mark Falkin
**Falkin Literary**

Mark Falkin has represented authors for three years but has practiced entertainment and intellectual property law for 17 years, representing hundreds of artists, entrepreneurs and businesses, shopping artistic projects, drafting and negotiating entertainment contracts, securing trademarks and copyrights, licensing and selling intellectual properties, establishing businesses and litigating disputes. He is licensed in Texas and is based in Austin. Mark is also an author. He’s completed three novels (and a chapbook of poems). The most recent, a dystopian suspense tale called *Contract City*, is currently in screen development with a studio in Los Angeles.

Dan Kirschen
**ICM Partners**

Dan Kirschen began his career at ICM Partners in 2010 and has been there since, focusing on literary fiction, narrative nonfiction, current events, and pop culture (music and comedy in particular). He is a graduate of William & Mary, with a degree summa cum laude in Philosophy, and in his nocturnal life he plays the drums in a band.

Mitch Hoffman
**The Aaron M. Priest Literary Agency**

Mitch Hoffman joined the Aaron M. Priest Literary Agency as a Senior Agent in December 2015, and is actively building a list of authors writing across the spectrum of fiction and nonfiction. A 20-year veteran of the publishing industry, he was most recently Vice-President, Executive Editor at Grand Central Publishing. As an editor, Mitch published over 200 books, more than 60 of which were *New York Times* bestsellers. Prior to joining Grand Central Publishing in 2007, Mitch held editorial positions at Dutton and Dell Publishing, and he began his career as an intern at Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Complete bios for our visiting agents and editors are available at the 2017 A&E Conference page at the Writers’ League of Texas website.
Laurie McLean
Fuse Literary

Laurie McLean spent 20 years as the CEO of a multi-million dollar marketing agency and eight years as a literary agent/senior agent at Larsen Pomada Literary Agents before co-founding Fuse Literary in 2013. At Fuse Literary, Laurie specializes in adult, middle grade, and young adult genre fiction. Laurie is also the co-director of the San Francisco Writers Conference, in its fifteenth year, and she co-founded two ePublishing companies: JoyrideBooks.com for romance, and Ambush Books for tween and teen books (acquired by Short Fuse Publishing in 2015).

Andy Ross
Andy Ross Agency

Andy Ross opened his literary agency in 2008. Prior to becoming an agent, he was the owner of the legendary Cody’s Books in Berkeley. Andy represents books in a wide range of nonfiction genres including: narrative nonfiction, science, journalism, history, pop culture, memoir, and current events. He also represents literary, commercial, upmarket women’s fiction, and YA fiction. Authors Andy represents include: Daniel Ellsberg, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Anjanette Delgado, Elisa Kleven, Tawni Waters, Randall Platt, Mary Jo McConahay, Gerald Nachman, Paul Krassner, Milton Viorst, and Beth Hensperger.

Steven Salpeter
Curtis Brown, Ltd.

Steven Salpeter is a literary agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd. He began his publishing career at Writers House and Brandt & Hochman as well as working in publicity with Lauren Cerand for such clients as the Authors Guild and Barnes & Noble before moving to Curtis Brown to help Timothy Knowlton manage many of the agency’s venerable estate clients. He is now actively building his list, seeking literary fiction, fantasy, graphic novels, historical fiction, thrillers, young adult, and authors who can blend elements of these genres. Steven is also interested in narrative nonfiction, gift books, history, humor, and popular science.

Anjali Singh
Ayesha Pande Literary

Anjali Singh is an agent at Ayesha Pande Literary. Most recently Editorial Director at Other Press, she has also worked as an editor at Simon & Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Vintage Books. Two upcoming projects include Sherine Hamdy and Myra El-Mir’s young adult graphic novel about coming-of-age as a Muslim-American and Bridgett M. Davis’ What Does Happiness Play For?, a memoir about growing up in Detroit in the 60s and 70s with an extraordinary mother. She is looking for character-driven fiction or nonfiction works that reflect an engagement with the world, memoirs, MG and YA literature and graphic novels.

Alexa Stark
Trident Media Group

Alexa Stark interned at PEN American Center and worked at Curtis Brown, Ltd. as a literary assistant before joining Trident in 2012 to work with Ellen Levine. She also handled first serial rights for Ellen’s authors, and has sold stories, essays, and book excerpts to The New Yorker, Harper’s, Paris Review, The Atlantic, Tin House, N+1, and The New York Times, among others. Alexa is now building her own client list. Her interests are wide-ranging, but she is particularly drawn to literary fiction, upmarket commercial fiction, young adult, memoir, narrative nonfiction, popular science, cultural criticism and women’s issues.

Michelle Tessler
Tessler Literary Agency

Michelle Tessler established her New York-based literary agency in 2004. She represents a select number of bestselling and emerging authors in both fiction and nonfiction. Clients include accomplished journalists, scientists, academics, experts in their field, as well as novelists and debut authors with unique voices and stories to tell. She values fresh, original writing that has a compelling point of view. She loves discovering new writers who can craft a character-driven story that has narrative drive. She represents, among many others, Hala Alyan, Paul Collins, Frans de Waal, Mira Jacob, Amy Stewart, and Amanda Eyre Ward.
Meet the Presenters

Danielle H. Acee
Danielle H. Acee is co-owner of The Authors’ Assistant, a writer’s one-stop-shop for editing, book production, and promotional services founded over 20 years ago. Danielle holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin. She joined The Authors’ Assistant in 2009 after working for as an investigative reporter and copyeditor for ten years. The Authors’ Assistant has worked with award-winning and bestselling authors such as Janice Woods Windle, Mike Kearby, Chris Rogers, and C.F. Yetmen, 2015 IPPY winner for Historical Fiction of the Year.

Ellie Scarborough Brett
Through her business, Media Bombshell, Ellie Scarborough Brett teaches female leaders how to master their message and ignite their brands through the brilliance of their unique voices. A former NBC reporter, she specializes in cultivating purpose-driven, high-impact leaders who create the change they want to see in their teams, their clients and their lives. She has been featured on The TODAY Show, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Cosmo Radio and many more.

Jodi Egerton
Jodi Egerton is a wordslinger with Typewriter Rodeo, crafting custom poems on vintage typewriters. She’s typed poems at museums including the Smithsonian, and at events ranging from the Texas Book Festival to Maker Faire Austin to the beach in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She’s crafted poems for Luci Baines Johnson, actress Sharon Stone, and poet laureate Billy Collins. You can hear her and Typewriter Rodeo on the radio each week on the NPR show Texas Standard. Jodi co-wrote This Word Now, a creativity and writing craft book, with her husband Owen Egerton.

Owen Egerton
Owen Egerton is the author of two novels, The Book of Harold and Everyone Says That at the End of the World, and one story collection, How Best to Avoid Dying. He’s also the writer/director of the psychological horror film Follow. As a screenwriter, Owen has written for Fox, Disney, and Warner Brothers. Owen also hosts NPR’s The Write Up. His new novel, Hollow, publishes in July.

Sara Kocek
Sara Kocek is the author of Promise Me Something and the founder of Yellow Bird Editors, an Austin-based collective of independent editors and writing coaches. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from New York University, where she taught fiction and poetry to undergraduates and worked as a full-time editorial intern at Random House and Penguin. Prior to pursuing her MFA, Sara graduated with a B.A. in English from Yale University, where she worked as a Writing Fellow, tutoring undergraduate and graduate students in academic and creative writing.

Chaitali Sen

Manning Wolfe
Manning Wolfe is an Austin attorney and the award-winning author of the legal thriller series, Dollar Signs, which includes two novels, Texas Lady Lawyer vs Boots King and Texas Lady Lawyer vs Brownie Zars. A graduate of Rice University and the University of Texas School of Law, Manning’s experience has given her a voyeur’s peak into some shady characters’ lives and a front row seat to watch the good people who stand against them.
Meet the Exhibitors

VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND TO LEARN ABOUT GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES.

Arte Público Press
The nation’s largest and most established publisher of contemporary and recovered literature by U.S. Hispanic authors.
artepublicopress.com

Austin Community College
Creative Writing Department
A two-year degree program open to all writers in multiple genres; online and face-to-face.
austincc.edu/crw

The Authors’ Assistant
Striving to connect writers with readers by providing professional services in manuscript preparation, book design & production, and media promotion for print, e-book and audio.
authorsassistant.com

Awst Press
Independent literary press supporting emerging authors in fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and essays.
awst-press.com

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Books on writing and getting published as well as books by conference presenters. A portion of sales go to the Writers’ League of Texas.
barnesandnoble.com

Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference
Organized by the Frank W. Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, University of North Texas.
themayborn.com

Texas Center for the Book
Seeks to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries through building partnerships with library professionals, educators, authors, publishers and booksellers who provide support to the shared mission of promoting a love of literature throughout the Lone Star State.
ts.texas.gov/centerforthebook

The Writer’s Workshop
Editing, synopsis and manuscript critiques, workshops, story coaching. Amherst Writers & Artists practices drive Creation Nights, Deep Reads, and Finishing School. Propel your book from inspiration to publication.
workshopwriter.com

The Writing Barn
7.5 wooded acres devoted to writers: group and private retreats, weekend and week long intensives, book launches and other literary themed parties. Retreat. Create. Celebrate at The Writing Barn.
thewritingbarn.com

Yellow Bird Editors
Manuscript critiques, content editing, developmental editing, query letter critiques, and more.
yellowbirdeeditors.com

Thank you to our Panelists, Moderators, Facilitators, and Emcees

Conference Sessions

Friday, June 30
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials when you arrive on Friday. Saturday Keynote Luncheon tickets can be purchased ($45 on-site), subject to availability.
Big Bend A-C (first floor)

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Big Bend and Hill Country foyers (first floor)

1:00 to 3:15 p.m.
GENRE SESSIONS
See box below for details.

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
PITCH LAB
Practice your pitch with other conference attendees. A great opportunity to build community and prepare for the conference’s many networking opportunities. Arrive at 3:30 for some quick guidelines and then spend the rest of the time practicing your pitch.
Foothills II (17th floor)

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
WELCOME RECEPTION
Join WLT staff and conference faculty for opening announcements and recognition of the 2017 Manuscript Contest Winners and Finalists, starting at 4:45 pm. Then, kick off the conference with snacks, socializing, and Typewriter Rodeo.
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

Saturday, July 1
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
REGISTRATION
Pick up your badge and conference materials. The Registration Desk is also where you can purchase tickets for the Keynote Luncheon ($45 on-site), subject to availability.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
BREAKFAST
Get your day started right with coffee, breakfast tacos, and other refreshments.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBIT HALL
Texas Foyer (second floor)

FRIDAY GENRE SESSIONS
Join fellow writers in your genre to learn tips from published authors and industry professionals for pitching projects successfully.

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
GENERAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels that don’t fit in the other breakout categories. Hill Country A&B (first floor)

SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY  Recommended for attendees writing novels for the Sci-Fi or Fantasy markets. Hill Country C (first floor)

PICTURE BOOK / MIDDLE GRADE / YOUNG ADULT  Recommended for attendees writing books for young readers. Hill Country D (first floor)

NONFICTION  Recommended for attendees writing general nonfiction, narrative or practical, NOT memoir. Big Bend D (first floor)

2:15 to 3:15 p.m.
MEMOIR  Recommended for attendees writing memoir or personal stories. Hill Country A&B (first floor)

MYSTERY / THRILLER  Recommended for attendees writing novels that include mystery, thriller or suspense elements. Hill Country C (first floor)

HISTORICAL FICTION  Recommended for attendees writing novels with historical settings. Hill Country D (first floor)

ROMANCE  Recommended for attendees writing love stories, whether category romance or women’s fiction. Big Bend D (first floor)
Saturday, July 1

Opening Session

Featuring Editorial Director of Dey Street Books
Carrie Thornton

Carrie Thornton joined Dey Street Books in 2011. Prior to joining Dey Street, Carrie was Executive Editor at Dutton Books. She also worked for nearly a decade in various editorial roles at the Crown Publishing Group where she oversaw the Three Rivers Press list and acquired across several imprints.

Some of her titles include the #1 New York Times bestseller Yes Please by Amy Poehler, the New York Times bestsellers Girl in a Band by artist and Sonic Youth bassist Kim Gordon, Not My Father’s Son by actor and activist Alan Cumming, My Drunk Kitchen by Youtube personality Hannah Hart, Fast Girl by Suzy Favor Hamilton, Pretty Happy by actress and entrepreneur Kate Hudson, Bare Bones by radio personality Bobby Bones, Rejected Princesses by Pixar effects specialist Jason Porath and Every Little Step by Bobby Brown. Some of her upcoming projects include Pretty Fun by Kate Hudson, We’re Going to Need More Wine by actress and activist Gabrielle Union, Meet Me in the Bathroom by journalist Lizzy Goodman, A New Model by supermodel Ashley Graham, Mean Dads for a Better America by comedian and Fox News Network host Tom Shillue, Being a Dad is Weird by actor and filmmaker Ben Falcone and Sister of Darkness by exorcist Rachel Stavis.

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
BREAK
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
CONSULTATIONS
All agent and editor consultations will take place on the 17th floor in Foothills I & II. Check in at the registration table in the Foothills lobby. Arrive no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. For details, see pages 16-17. Foothills I & II (17th floor)

10:15 to 11:00 a.m.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS
What Agents Do: A Day in the Life
Panelists: Allison Devereux, David Doerrer, Annie Hwang | Moderator: Stephanie Noll
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

Nonfiction and Memoir: From Proposal to Finished Book
Panelists: Amy Gash, Andy Ross, Alexa Stark, Carrie Thornton | Moderator: Richard Santos
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

Identify Your Audience and Market Your Book
Panelists: Caroline Casey, Colleen Devine Ellis, Elena Meredith, Deanna Roy | Moderator: Julie Wernersbach
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

CRAFT
Creating Compelling Characters
Panelists: Jill Alexander Essbaum, Carrie Howland, Michelle Tessler, Brian Van Reet | Moderator: Lucas Loredo
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

Writing Cinematic Stories
Presenters: Robert Ashcroft, Will Evans | Emcee: Carlotta Stankiewicz
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
Saturday, July 1

Keynote Luncheon

“Three Times My Career Almost Ended and How I Learned to Love This Unpredictable Life”

Featuring Nebula, Hugo, and World-Fantasy Award Winner

Ken Liu

Ken Liu is an author and translator of speculative fiction, as well as a lawyer and programmer. A winner of the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy awards, Ken’s debut novel, The Grace of Kings, is the first volume in a silkpunk epic fantasy series, The Dandelion Dynasty. It won the Locus Best First Novel Award and was a Nebula finalist. He subsequently published the second volume in the series, The Wall of Storms, as well as a collection of short stories, The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories.

In addition to his original fiction, Ken is also the translator of numerous literary and genre works from Chinese to English. His translation of The Three-Body Problem, by Liu Cixin, won the Hugo Award for Best Novel in 2015, the first translated novel ever to receive that honor. He also translated the third volume in Liu Cixin’s series, Death’s End, and edited the first English-language anthology of contemporary Chinese science fiction, Invisible Planets. He lives with his family near Boston, Massachusetts.

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.
Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)
Advance registration required and includes lunch and a complimentary copy of Ken Liu’s novel The Grace of Kings. Ken will sign books after his keynote.

Conference Sessions

11:00 to 11:15 a.m.
BREAK
Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

11:15 a.m. to 12 noon
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS
Writing a Query that Stands Out from the Pack
Panelists: Michelle Brower, Mark Falkin, Dan Kirschen | Moderator: Bethany Hegedus
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

The Business of Writing for Children and Young Adults
Panelists: Claire Anderson-Wheeler, Sara Crowe, Don Tate, Jennifer Ziegler | Moderator: Vanessa Lee
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

Kickstart Your Book with Crowdfunding
Panelists: Jodi Egerton, Jane Estes, Christopher Locke | Moderator: Carlotta Stankiewicz
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

CRAFT
Keep Your Novel’s Plot Moving
Panelists: Amy Gash, Jennifer duBois, Mark Pryor, Gabriela Baeza Ventura | Moderator: Ben Reed
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

First-Page Mistakes That Lead to Rejection
Panelists: Bryan Burrough, Will Evans, Michelle Tessler | Moderator: Bradley P. Wilson
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**BUSINESS**

**The Editor/Author Relationship**
Panelists: Owen Egerton, Joe Jiménez, Daniel Smetanka, Gabriela Baëza Ventura | Moderator: Samantha Clark
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**CRAFT**

**How to Nail Your Novel’s Ending**
Panelists: Jennifer duBois, Mitch Hoffman, Karan Mahajan, Anjali Singh | Moderator: Ben Reed
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**BUSINESS**

**How to Make the Most of Your Blog and Social Media Accounts**
Panelists: Wendi Aarons, Brandi Bowles, Nettie Reynolds, Eric Silverstein | Moderator: Maya Payne Smart
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**CRAFT**

**Who Do You Write For? Making the Most of Your Inner Critic**
Panelists: Charlotte Gullick, Donna Johnson, Tatiana Ryckman, Tyler Stoddard Smith | Moderator: Vanessa Lee
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

**CRAFT**

**Science Fiction and Fantasy Tropes and How to Use Them**
Panelists: Nicky Drayden, Marshall Ryan Maresca, Laurie McLean, Steven Salpeter | Moderator: Jason Neulander
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

3:00 to 3:15 p.m.

**BREAK**

Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

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**Saturday, July 1**

**Keynote Reception**

Featuring Acclaimed Memoirist and Storyteller

Jamie Brickhouse

Jamie Brickhouse is the author of the critically acclaimed *Dangerous When Wet: A Memoir of Booze, Sex, and My Mother*. A comedic storyteller, Brickhouse has performed *Dangerous When Wet*, a solo show based on his memoir and directed by Obie Award-winning David Drake. It won the off-off-Broadway 2017 Frigid Festival “Audience Choice Award” and was called “a mighty piece masquerading as a small one-man show” by *NY Theater Guide*. Jamie has also performed stand-up comedy and recorded voice-overs for the legendary cartoon TV show *Beavis and Butthead*. He spent over two decades in the publishing industry, most recently at two major houses as head of their publicity and lecture divisions. He is founder and CEO of redBrick Agency, a lecture bureau for authors. A native of Beaumont, Texas, he is a graduate of Trinity University and the Radcliffe Publishing Course (now the Columbia Publishing Course). Brickhouse lives in New York City with his common-law husband Michael. He is at work on two new books: a memoir about his father Earl, *I Favor My Daddy*; and a gay YA novel, *Golden Triangle Summer*.

5:30 p.m.

Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

**Sponsored by Thompson & Knight Foundation**

Admission included with conference registration. Light refreshments provided. Cash bar. Attendees of the Keynote Reception will receive a complimentary copy of Jamie Brickhouse’s memoir *Dangerous When Wet: A Memoir of Booze, Sex, and My Mother*. Jamie will sign copies after his keynote.
Conference Sessions

3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS

The Agent/Author Relationship
Panelists: Claire Anderson-Wheeler, Sara Crowe, Varian Johnson, Samantha Mabry | Moderator: Stephanie Noll
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

BUSINESS

Working with Independent Presses
Panelists: Kendra Fortmeyer, Erin Pringle, Tatiana Ryckman, Daniel Smetanka | Moderator: Laura Cottam Sajbel
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

BUSINESS

New Avenues for Authors: Self-Publishing and the Hybrid Publishing Model
Panelists: Owen Egerton, Mark Falkin, Annie Hwang, Mindy Reed | Moderator: Jason Neulander
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

BUSINESS

Before You Say “Yes”: Questions to Ask Once an Agent Is Interested
Panelists: Amanda Downum, Bethany Hegedus, Brian Yansky | Moderator: Anne Bustard
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

CRAFT

The Art of Suspense in Thrillers and Mysteries
Panelists: Alexandra Burt, Walt Gragg, Mitch Hoffman | Moderator: Rebecca Schwarz
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)

4:15 to 4:30 p.m.

BREAK

Enjoy refreshments while visiting the conference exhibitors.
Texas Foyer (second floor)

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUSINESS

What Agents Mean When They Say “______”
Panelists: Regina Brooks, Steven Salpeter, Anjali Singh | Moderator: Samantha Clark
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

BUSINESS

From Acquisition to Shelf: Inside a Publishing House
Panelists: Caroline Casey, Brian Contine, Gillian Redfearn, Carrie Thornton | Moderator: Salima Alikhan
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

BUSINESS

Where Publishing Begins: Submitting to Journals and Magazines
Panelists: Sean Redmond, Adeena Reitberger, Alexa Stark | Moderator: Lindsey Lane
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

CRAFT

Deepen Your Memoir Beyond What Happened
Panelists: Michelle Brower, Mary Jennings Hegar, Dan Kirschen, Suzy Spencer | Moderator: Charlotte Gullick
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

CRAFT

Historical Narratives: From Research to Re-imagining
Panelists: Chris Barton, David Doerrer, James Haley, Mary Helen Specht | Moderator: Richard Santos
Texas Ballroom 7 (second floor)
Sunday, July 2

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
**BREAKFAST**

Get your day started right with coffee, baked treats, and other refreshments. Meet fellow writers in your genre in the ballroom. Texas Foyer and Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
**EXHIBIT HALL**

Texas Foyer (second floor)

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
**AGENT & EDITOR CONSULTATIONS**

Please check in at the Consultations Registration Desk in the Foothills lobby no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. Foothills I & II (17th Floor)

9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**BUSINESS**

*From Slush to Published: First Paragraphs that Sell*

with Andy Ross | Emcee: Kate Dawson
Hill Country A&B (first floor)

**BUSINESS**

*New Alternatives to Query Letters*

with Carrie Howland | Emcee: Alison Macor
Hill Country C&D (first floor)

**CRAFT**

*Layering: A Structured Approach to Revision*

with Chaitali Sen | Emcee: Dalia Azim
Texas Ballroom 5 (second floor)

**CRAFT**

*Crafting Commercial Memoir*

with Brandi Bowles | Emcee: Anina Moore
Texas Ballroom 6 (second floor)

12:15 to 1:45 p.m.
**CLOSING LUNCHEON**

Join us for a closing meal and presentation, with Jodi and Owen Egerton. Advance registration required. Texas Ballroom 1-3 (second floor)
Consultation Fast Facts

Where
All consultations will be held in Foothills I & II on the 17th floor of the Hyatt. Only one elevator goes to the 17th floor. The others take you to the 16th floor. From there you can take the stairs up one flight to the Foothills lobby.

Scheduling
If you purchased consultations with an agent or editor in advance of the conference, you received an email notice with the date and time of your appointment(s) and the name(s) of the agent(s) or editor(s) you’re meeting with. If you did not receive this information, please come see a staff person at the WLT Registration Desk.

Checking In
Please check in at the Consultations Desk in the Foothills lobby on the 17th floor no earlier than 15 minutes before your appointment is scheduled to start. IMPORTANT: If you are late and miss your consultation, you will NOT be given another appointment.

Length of Appointments
All consultations will be 10 minutes long. A volunteer will be on hand to time your session and will cue you as your time nears its end. Once you receive that cue, please wrap up your meeting promptly. Because other attendees are scheduled after you, ending on time is EXTREMELY important. Occasionally consultations will get off schedule; please be patient if that is the case.

Agent/Editor Consultations
The agents and editors you’re meeting with are expecting a verbal pitch during your one-on-one meeting. Come prepared with your short and succinct pitch and be ready to elaborate, share additional details, and answer questions when prompted.

Take some time to think of a few questions you might ask so that, should an agent or editor tell you early in the session that your project doesn’t sound like a good fit for them, you’re able to take full advantage of your time in the most productive way possible.

Please, do NOT bring a manuscript or extensive handouts with you to your appointment. It is highly unlikely that the agent or editor you’re meeting with will want to carry materials away with them (remember, most of our faculty are visiting from other cities and feel the same way you do about packing extras in their return luggage). Plus, handing something off at a conference means you’re not giving the submission its full due, the way you would with a well-written query letter sent (following specific submission guidelines) after the event.

Keep in mind, tastes change and many factors can influence what genres or categories an agent or editor is currently looking for. The bios found in this program are a good starting point for gauging someone’s interests, but nothing is set in stone. If the person you meet with says yes or she does not represent your type of book, use that time to gather information on what you might do to make your project more saleable. You can also talk about other ideas you have or ask for suggestions for other agents or publishers that it might be a fit for (especially if you’re talking to an agent who works in a large agency and might have colleagues who specialize in what you’re writing).

Finally, this is a great opportunity to ask about the state of publishing today, current market trends, and other general questions you might have. Come prepared and use your time well and wisely.

A Guide to the Conference Panels

BUSINESS These panels and presentations pull back the curtain on the publishing industry and the process that turns manuscripts into books on the shelf. Panelists and presenters include agents, editors, reviewers, publicists, and booksellers.

CRAFT These panels and presentations dig into the essential tools of our trade as writers. Panelists include agents, editors, and award-winning/bestselling authors. Use these panels to get an outside-the-workshop perspective on craft and tips on hooking readers.
Support our panelists and presenters (and find your next favorite book) by visiting the Barnes & Noble table on the second floor. Barnes & Noble will generously donate a portion of sales to the Writers’ League of Texas!

Networking
Agents, editors, and other special guests will attend the Welcome Reception on Friday evening and the Keynote Reception on Saturday evening. In addition, our faculty will lead presentations or sit on panels throughout the conference. Agents and editors welcome brief, informal pitches and will be glad to talk with you throughout the weekend. Remember that pitching in this format should be more casual than in your one-on-one consultation.

PLEASE REMEMBER to be respectful of their time; keep your conversations short and to the point (we recommend three to five minutes maximum). If someone says “Yes, send it” after one minute, quit while you’re ahead! Say thank you, ask how they’d like it sent, and then excuse yourself. Especially at the two receptions, be aware of fellow attendees who may be waiting to also have a quick chat with the agent or editor you’re talking to. Stepping aside after your short pitch to make way for others is the polite and appropriate thing to do.

BE WILLING to talk to agents and editors who aren’t on your “must meet” list—you never know who might take an interest in your idea. The editors, especially, will be a great gauge of how your book might be received in the marketplace, and they can talk to you about how they acquire projects and what happens after a project is acquired.

FINALLY, keep in mind that the 24 agents and editors are not the only sources of great information and guidance that you’ll be surrounded by this weekend. We have more than 70 published authors and industry professionals taking part in the programming. Say hello, ask questions, seek advice and guidance. Many of these writers and experts have been in your shoes. Networking at a conference like this one isn’t just about having an agent say they want to read your manuscript. It’s also about making connections that will serve you throughout your writing career.

Conference Tips & Tricks

Take copious notes! Panelists and presenters will share lots of information and advice that you can use — now or later in your career as a writer.

Leave the outside world behind. Between sessions, don’t check in with your business or personal email. Instead visit with writers and other guests.

If you accept a business card from someone, take a moment to jot down a note about your conversation so you’ll remember later.

Approach other attendees and ask them what they are writing. Make friends!

Take advantage of having a book signed by the keynote speakers. It’s a great way to meet a fellow writer in person.

Be open-minded. You might arrive at the conference with certain assumptions or preconceived notions about the faculty, the industry, and your own project. Leave that stuff at the door for a bit and be open to what comes.

Relax, have fun, and mingle. Get to know the moderators, panelists, and the other conference attendees. You never know who the person next to you might be.

Be prepared to present your “pitch.” Consultations are not the only opportunity to chat with an agent or editor about your book. The two receptions, among other events, are great networking opportunities.

Don’t forget to visit the exhibitor tables when programming is not in session. Interacting with exhibitors opens the door to additional networking opportunities.

Don’t expect agents or editors to ask for or agree to take your manuscript or book on the spot. The vast majority of submissions are done electronically.

VERY IMPORTANT: If an agent or editor asks you to submit pages, be sure to get their contact information and ask them how they’d like to receive materials.

And, when in doubt, find a WLT Staffer or Volunteer and let us know how we can improve your conference experience.
The following Conference events require advance reservations: **Keynote Luncheon** (Saturday), **Closing Luncheon** (Sunday), and **Consultations**.

Any tickets to these events that remain will be available at the Registration Desk.

**General Conference Badges**

**Badges** Your name badge allows you entrance to all general conference events and panels. Please wear your badge at all times during conference hours. Door monitors will be checking badges at each session. Conference badges will also be checked at all consultations and general sessions. You cannot attend any conference-related event without it. If you lose your name badge, go to the Registration Desk to request a replacement.

**Guests** Family or friends staying with you cannot attend conference sessions. All conference events require paid registration.

**Parking** Attendees staying overnight at the Hyatt receive discounted self-parking at $10 per day; check with the hotel about using the card-access lot. Conference attendees who are not staying at the hotel will also receive discounted self-parking at $10 per day. Discount parking passes will be available at Registration. Valet parking is NOT discounted.

**Note:** Please allow extra time for parking if you’re staying off site.

**Dining**

Restaurants within walking distance of the hotel:

- **Aussie’s Bar & Grill**, 306 Barton Springs Rd. Burgers, beer, and beach volleyball.
- **Bennu Coffee**, 515 S. Congress Ave. Fair-trade coffee house and a local hangout for writers.
- **Freebirds World Burrito**, 515 S. Congress Ave. Made-to-order burritos, tacos, and salads.
- **Home Slice Pizza**, 1415 S. Congress Ave. Authentic NY-style pizza by the slice or pie—an Austin staple with a great patio.
- **Hopdoddy Burger Bar**, 1400 S. Congress Ave. Created to express the perfect union between burgers and beer—puts the WEIRD in Austin burgers!
- **MamboBerry**, 1210 Barton Springs Rd. Frozen yogurt, smoothies, salads, sandwiches.
- **Sandy’s Hamburgers**, 603 Barton Springs Rd. Old-fashioned, locally owned burger and frozen custard stand.
- **Schlotzsky’s**, 218 S. Lamar Blvd. Breakfast, deli, salads, pizza, bakery, ice cream.
- **The Upper Decks**, 301 Barton Springs Rd. Casual dining while feeding your sports addiction.
- **Threadgill’s World Headquarters**, 301 W. Riverside Dr. Home-style Southern cooking, enormous portions of vegetables, and live music on weekends.
- **Toastie’s Sub Shop**, 215 S. Lamar Blvd. Subs, salads, tacos, pizzas, and wraps.
- **Thundercloud Subs**, 201 E. Riverside Dr. Fast, fresh and healthy subs, soups, and salads.
Culture and Nightlife

Bat Watching The Congress Avenue Bridge next to the Hyatt hosts the largest urban bat colony in North America. Each evening around sunset the Congress Avenue bats emerge from the crevices of the bridge. For up-to-date emergence times call 512-327-9721 Ext 3.

Hike and Bike Trail Enter from the back of the Hyatt Regency and stretch your legs on the 10-mile Roy and Ann Butler trail surrounding Lady Bird Lake. Make a splash with a choice of rentals including canoes and paddle boards.

Second Street and the Warehouse District Just across from Lady Bird Lake is one of Austin's top entertainment districts with even more dining and music!

South Congress (SoCo) Walk a few blocks south on Congress Avenue and you’ll be in the heart of funky shopping, more great restaurants, and live music.

Looking for alternative transportation? Step outside the Hyatt for a ride in a pedicab! These fit Austinites work for tips and will take you to whatever destination you desire. Want to do the pedaling yourself? There are several places that will rent you a bicycle for the day. Ask the Hyatt concierge for more information.

About the Hyatt Regency Austin

ATM An automated teller machine is in the hotel lobby near Starbuck’s.

The Business Center (second floor) has computers, Internet access, and a printer available to guests 24 hours a day. High-speed wireless Internet is complimentary. Internet service in guest rooms is included.

Check-Out Check-out time is 11 a.m.

Parking Self-parking is available to Conference attendees for $10 per day. Valet parking is $18 per day or $31 overnight (discounts do not apply). For details, see “Parking.”

Restaurants and Bars

Starbucks (first floor)
5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

SWB/Southwest Bistro (second floor)
Breakfast: 6 to 11 a.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. to 12 noon
Sunday 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday–Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Marker 10 Spirits & Cuisine Bar (first floor)
Friday 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Saturday 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday 12 noon to 11 p.m.
Happy Hour: Sunday through Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m.
We’d Love to Hear Your Thoughts

We’ll be sending you a survey shortly after the conclusion of the conference. Please take a few minutes to send us your honest feedback. This information will help us as we turn our attention to the 2018 A&E Conference. And, of course, you can also send us a separate note to conference@writersleague.org, or give us a call at 512-499-8914.

Follow us on Twitter @writersleague
Share your tweets as #WLT2017
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Follow us on Twitter @writersleague
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WRITERS’ LEAGUE OF TEXAS
2017 Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists

GENERAL FICTION
WINNER
The Poacher’s Code by Julie Dalton

FINALISTS
The Knowledge of Sorrow by Jane Estes
101 North by Tabitha Forney
A Subversive Experiment by Anna Near
Stumbling by DF Salvador
What Remains Behind by Rodney Walther

HISTORICAL FICTION
WINNER
Puppet Chase by Roger Collier

FINALISTS
A Shameful Silence by Richard Cunningham
The Thousand-Year Flood by Alberta Deacon
Shepherd’s Sons by Frank Kavanaugh
Mary Bennet Gets No Play by Wendy Lym
Miami Days, Havana Nights by Linda Bennett Pennell

MIDDLE GRADE
WINNER
Looking for Stardust by S.E. Wilschorker

FINALISTS
Running With the Wolf by Erin Golden
The Pass to Avenar by Polly Holyoke
March in the Island of Happiness by Amy Lange Kawamura
The Bee Maker by Mobi Warren

MYSTERY
WINNER
You Can Tell Me by Shirley Redwine

FINALISTS
Grave Redemption by Lisanne Davidson
Torches by Wendy Gee
Shrouded by Meredith Lee
Death is a Laff Riot by Robi Polgar

NONFICTION (GENERAL NONFICTION & MEMOIR)
WINNER (GENERAL NONFICTION)
John Cotton: His Life and Times by Barry Cotton
WINNER (MEMOIR)
No Credit for Living by Jenny Fleming

FINALISTS
The Fetish Girl Diaries by Bella LaVey
Then There Was You by Michelle Olmsted
An Indian Among Los Indios by Ursula Pike

ROMANCE
WINNER
The Bliss Tour by Julia Lee

FINALISTS
The Girl in the Hedgerow by Diane Owens Prettyman
Bagels and Salsa by Lara Reznik
The Taste of Names and Other Things by Masha Sukovic

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY
WINNER
The Ragnarok Recurrence by Katie Drake

FINALISTS
Area 54 by Kathy Benjamin
The Left Behind by Brandi Endres
Theme Song Panic by Courtney Larsen
Ascensions by Robert Witherspoon

THRILLER/ACTION ADVENTURE
WINNER
Designed for Death by Summer Dale

FINALISTS
Crossing by Annette Montez Kolda
Miami Days, Havana Nights by Linda Bennett Pennell
Granite Elephants by Tom Rhyno
Shadow of the Blue Eagle by Robert Witherspoon

YOUNG ADULT
WINNER
Damaged Goods by Flor Salcedo

FINALISTS
What Comes Next by Lindsay Beilue
One in Three by Shelli Cornelson
Dark Mind by Adrienne DeWolfe
Nightmares and Daydreams by Kim O’Brien
The Girl in the Hedgerow by Diane Owens Prettyman

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 2017 Manuscript Contest Winners & Finalists, and also to our AWP-in-ATX Contest honorees: Christine Grimes (Winner), Carol Johnson (Finalist), and Alex McElroy (Finalist).
Content editing
Synopsis reviews
Manuscript critiques
Story coaching
Workshops

Amherst Writers & Artists practices drive our new Creation Nights, Deep Reads, and Finishing School. Writers’ League Manuscript Contest finalists, as well as published books, hail from the Workshop’s editing services and groups. Help your book grow from inspiration to publication.

Get help for your book.

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Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Margaret Atwood
Anne Carson
Sandra Cisneros
Michael Cunningham
Junot Díaz
Anthony Doerr
Jennifer Egan
Louise Erdrich
Jeffrey Eugenides
Jonathan Safran Foer
Jonathan Franzen
Carlos Fuentes
Lauren Groff
Khaled Hosseini
Kazuo Ishiguro
Edward P. Jones
James McBride
David Mitchell
Gregory Pardlo
Ann Patchett
Annie Proulx
Karen Russell
Saiman Rushdie
George Saunders
Gary Shteyngart
Colm Tóibín
Mario Vargas Llosa

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The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation is pleased to sponsor the 2017 Agents and Editors Conference. Join us for a variety of literary events and programs coming to your branch library.

**New Fiction Confab** brings America’s most prominent early and mid-career authors to Austin’s libraries for writing workshops, readings, and discussions.

**The Mayor’s Book Club** is a citywide reading campaign that fosters a shared community experience through reading and discussion of the year’s book selection.

**Badgerdog Creative Writing Workshops** bring professional writers into libraries, schools, and community spaces to lead workshops with people of all ages and skill levels and provides opportunities for publication. Workshops include spring break and summer camp programs for youth, school-based programs, and adult programs held in library branches.

The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation supports the Austin Public Library by increasing public awareness about the library and its importance to the community, and by enhancing library collections, programs, and facilities.

[www.austinlibrary.org](http://www.austinlibrary.org)

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Creative Writing at Austin Community College

The Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College provides you with the opportunity to work with published authors and industry professionals to help you with developing your creative writing skills, finding your voice, building community, and cultivating your artistic practice.

We offer instruction in a variety of styles and genres, including Digital Storytelling, Memoir for Veterans, Poetry, Prose, Playwriting, TV Writing, Memoir, Creative Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Fiction, Young Adult Fiction, Songwriting, and interdisciplinary work in the fine arts and humanities.

See our website for a full schedule of classes. Then come tell your story.

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“THE MOVIE BUSINESS IS A COLLABORATION, WHETHER THE AUTEURS AMONG US WANT TO ADMIT IT OR NOT. AND AFF REALIZES THAT. WHICH IS WHY THEY BRING US ALL TOGETHER EVERY YEAR, TO LEARN, TO SHARE, AND TO HOPEFULLY ENJOY EACH OTHER’S COMPANY.”

-PAUL FEIG, CREATOR FREAKS AND GEEKS, DIRECTOR BRIDESMAIDS, WRITER/DIRECTOR GHOSTBUSTERS (2016)

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Reviews of Texas Books • Author & Thought Leader Interviews • Directories of Bookstores
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You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your membership with additional details for accessing the website and joining our mailing list.
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All classes feature:
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• Personalized instruction
• Time for writing and sharing

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Tuition $329 WLT members / $389 nonmembers

Note: Tuition does not include room and board. Discounted rates available at the nearby Habitat Suites, walking distance from ACC Highland.

View complete class descriptions and register online at writersleague.org or call (512) 499-8914.