

2019 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Festival officially opens at 9:30AM. Sessions are 55 minutes with a Q&A.

All presenters are invited to attend a special literary gathering at:
The Motor House
120 W. North Avenue
(A 5-minute drive from the festival)
Showroom Café & Bar
(\$ Bar)

motorhousebaltimore.com



CITYLIT
PROJECT

Founded in 2004, CityLit Project is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that nurtures the culture of literature in Baltimore, around the region, and across Maryland. CityLit creates enthusiasm for literary arts, connects a community of avid readers and writers, and opens opportunities for diverse audiences to embrace the literary arts.

www.citylitproject.org

#citylitfest2019

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CityLit Festival is supported by these partners and sponsors:



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CityLit Project would also like to thank – with deepest gratitude – our Festival volunteers, UB's Marion Winik, Dean Chris Spence, Mike Zemarel, Monica Queen, Chris Hart, and Mark Wadley; with a very special thank you to friend of CityLit Project Anne West and to Insight180 Brand Consulting & Design's Wendy Baird and Bethany Howell, and the all too fabulous CityLit Gladiators Elizabeth (Liz) Dunlap and Sylvia Fox.

Festival Videographer/Photographers: Ceylon Mitchell & Denys Symonette Mitchell
of M3 Music Media Marketing, LLC.



Dani Shapiro



Chris Wilson



Kia Corthron



Kenrya Rankin & Akiba Solomon



Angie Kim

PRESENTED BY:



CITYLIT
PROJECT

**BALTIMORE'S
16TH ANNUAL**



**city
lit
fest
ival**

A LITERARY
CELEBRATION
FOR READERS
AND WRITERS

Saturday, April 27, 2019
9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center
University of Baltimore
11 W. Mount Royal Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

16th Annual CityLit Festival

Saturday, April 27, 2019

KEYNOTE AUTHOR

DANI SHAPIRO IN CONVERSATION WITH MARION WINIK

Best-selling author of *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity & Love* and *The Weekly Reader* commentator and author of *The Baltimore Book of the Dead* engage in a meaningful conversation about family secrets, the consequences and ethics of DNA testing, the urgent quest to unlock a story, and the discovery of not being who you think you are. A reading, conversation and book signing.

4:00PM - 5:30PM - AUDITORIUM

FEATURED SESSIONS

Master Class with playwright/novelist KIA CORTHRON

Diving into Stage Writing: Dialogue & Drama. Prose writers and playwrights may feel confident in their narrative skills but intimidated by the use of dialogue. How does “natural” dialogue in real life differ from that in literature? What are the ethical concerns in writing dialect? Writers sometimes avoid the dramatic – building tension – out of fear of committing the “sin” of melodrama. **Corthron's** novel *The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter* won the 2016 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. Baltimore productions of her plays include *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down* at Center Stage and *Force Continuum* at Cohesion Theatre Company. She has written for *The Jury* and *The Wire*.
12:00PM - 1:30PM - BC207 (\$10. [Ticket access only.](#))

AKIBA SOLOMON and KENYRA RANKIN read and examine *How We Fight White Supremacy: The Field Guide to Black Resistance* with contributor Elissa Blount Moorhead

Colorlines' editorial directors and award-winning journalists present a timely collection, an urgent political text deemed a must-read for anyone new to resistance work, and for the next generation of leaders.
12:00pm - 1:00pm - Auditorium

ANGIE KIM discusses *Miracle Creek* with Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein

Kim's debut novel is about an experimental medical treatment device that patients enter for therapeutic “dives” with the hopes of curing issues like autism or infertility. A thriller on how far we'll go to protect our families and our deepest secrets. [1:00PM - 2:00PM - AUDITORIUM](#)

The Art of Telling Lies Skillfully: Writing Tips from an Award-winning Screenwriter

Brian Price demonstrates, through memorable clips and helpful diagrams, the essential elements that all successful movies share. He's written for major studios like Universal, Warner Bros., and Canal +, and for independent producers around the world, while his students have gone on to write for Amblin, Dreamworks, 20th Century Fox, and Netflix, and have even been nominated for Emmys and Golden Globes. His book *Classical Storytelling and Contemporary Screenwriting* is required reading in top screenwriting programs. [1:30PM - 2:30PM - BC207](#)

LITERARY MARKETPLACE

Exhibitors, authors display work throughout the day, and featuring musical guest artists, Wine & Words Raffle and the CityLit Project Information Table. 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM - ATRIUM

10:00AM - 12:00PM

One-on-One 30 Minute Critique Sessions with editors: Karen Houppert (141), **Bret McCabe** (139), **Tafisha Edwards** (133), **Lauren LaRocca** (131), and **Brian Price** (129)
Fiction. Memoir. Creative Nonfiction. Poetry. Screenplay.
20 slots - \$10 each.

10:00AM - 11:00AM - BC135

History's Mysteries: Shaping the Past into a Literary Now

How do writers use history to create contemporary literature? What research is required? How do they transform the past into stories, poems, novels and essays for today? What fidelity do they show to the historical record? **Eugenia Kim**, **Shelley Puhak**, **Richard Slotkin**, and **Michael Downs** represent multiple genres as they explore these questions and more, including history's ongoing role as a compelling and necessary subject for writers.

10:00AM - 11:00AM - BC205

Truth & Trauma: How We Write Authentic Stories of Pain

Four writers across genres, **Kristina Gaddy**, **Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson**, **Cija Jefferson**, **Wallace Lane** and **Neda Semani**, write global and local stories of war, loss, death, illness, abuse, crime, and discuss researching and writing trauma, as well as the effect working with difficult subjects can have on a writer.

10:00AM - 11:00AM - BC207

Possible & Impossible Futures

Jason Harris, **Sarah Pinsker**, **Erin Roberts**, and **K.M. Szpara** explore classic, recent, and upcoming near-future fictions and discuss the responsibilities and challenges of looking forward: utopias, dystopias, apocalypses, and hope.

11:00AM - 12:30PM - BC135

Your Classics Aren't My Classics: Decolonizing the Literary Canon for Asian Americans

What do Asian-Americans consider classics? How is it that the lack of media representation of Asians and Asian Americans has made it so that only white writers are ever considered canon? **Fran Del Rosario**, **Chris Jesu Lee**, **Mekita Rivas**, **Marissa Rodriguez**, **Eliza Romero** and **Sharon Tran** deconstruct the concept of a must-read as it applies to Asian Americans.

11:00AM - 12:00PM - BC143

You Can't Live Off Air: Money's in the Room

An open dialogue with funders, featuring representatives from the **National Endowment for the Arts**, **Maryland State Arts Council**, **Robert W. Deutsch Foundation**, **Maryland Citizens for the Arts**, **Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance**, and **Creative Capital** and grantee **Ashlie Kauffman** who shares the promise of receiving a grant.

12:00PM - 1:00PM - BC205

Identity in Artistry: Exploring the Queer Perspective

Writers **Jamie Grace Alexander**, **Mark King**, and **Clarence Orsi** integrate their identities in a way that provides insight into their lived experiences as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. They have used their artistic medium to share their experiences and explore sexual identity, creating works that showcase an underrepresented perspective.

12:30PM - 2:00PM - BC143

No One Leaves Home Unless Home is the Mouth of a Shark:

The Immigrant's Journey

Warsan Shire's poem “*Home*” shares the truths of many immigrants, migrants, and refugees in relation to leaving home. Why'd they leave? Why can't they return? **Ana Portnoy Brimmer**, **Daria-Ann Martineau**, **Girum Seid Mulat**, **Senait Mulugeta**, **Lark Omura** and **Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez**, poets originating from different parts of the world, including Ethiopia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad & Tobago, share their work and a piece of their story as someone “not from here,” and how their home still speaks in their poetry.

1:00PM - 2:00PM - BC135

Breaking Down Bars: Stories that Challenge Mass Incarceration

Dr. Tara Betts, **Tony Lewis, Jr.** and **Chris Wilson** join voices, share excerpts from their books and discuss the flaws and biases in mass incarceration. These writers discuss how prisons cripple communities of color and poor people, extend the power of policing, and create economic dependence on the corporatized prisons. Their books, and other writings expose the inefficacies of the prison system, challenge the perspectives people have about mass incarceration, and offer a bit of hope.

1:30PM - 3:00PM - BC205

Novelists at Work: How to Structure a Novel & Walk Away Like a Boss

Featuring **Jung Yun**, **Susan Muaddi Darraj**, **Katia Ulysse**, **Lauren Francis Sharma** and moderator **Danuta Hinc**. These writers share notes, observations, tips and reveal real-life challenges of creating flow on the page, making sense of the characters' lives they create and the whole messy ordeal of narrative logic, all told through the eyes and experiences of authors committed to the craft of fiction.

2:00PM - 3:30PM - BC135

What We Are: Speck, Good Hair, Vanilla Bean, Cinnamon & Pearl: When Words Make You Real

The anthology *The Beiging of America, Being Mixed Race in the 21st Century* takes on “race matters” and considers them through the firsthand accounts of mixed-race people in the United States including **Chelsea Lemon Fetzer**, **Jackson Bliss**, **Francis Frost**, **Naomi Raquel Enright**, and **Herbert Harris**, who unite with contributing editor **Tara Betts** in a reading and frank discussion “with unparalleled candor and unmatched honesty”.

2:00PM - 3:30PM - BC143

Poet This!

Based on **Lucille Clifton's** endearing phrase, “Why don't you poet that?” **Ailish Hopper** directs a panel of poets including **Thea Brown**, **Sarah Browning**, **Tafisha Edwards**, **Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez**, **David Yezzi**, **Winniebell Xinyu Zong** and **Enoch Pratt Free Library / Little Patuxent Review's** poetry contest winner **Jalynn Harris**, all at varying stages in their careers as poets.

3:00PM - 4:00PM - BC205

When it All Falls Down: Real Talk About Journalism in the Age of Trump

What it takes to be a journalist right now. *Baltimore Beat* founders **Lisa Snowden-McCray** and **Brandon Soderberg** talk nuts and bolts, what it means to be a journalist in 2019. Learn about journalism basics, pitching, storytelling with compassion, using social media, and more.

3:00PM - 4:00PM - BC205

It Takes a Village: Supporting the Local Literary Scene

Gwen Van Velsor of **Yellow Arrow Publishing**, **Maria Goodson** of **Writers & Words** and **Victoria Kennedy** of **Zora's Den** emphasize how Baltimore's thriving writing community depends on its inclusivity. Small presses, reading series, and writing community builders work together to weave a web of support for local writers with collaboration serving the greater literary good. This panel takes an in-depth look at the Baltimore independent literary scene and how to boost these efforts.

3:30PM - 5:00PM - BC143

We Need Diverse Books: Children's & Young Adult Literature

Seasoned and debut authors discuss the importance of new voices and share information about the publishing industry as they know it. **Sharon G. Flake**, who celebrates the 20th anniversary of *The Skin I'm In*, debut author of *Wilder*, **Andrew Simonet** (founder of Artists U), **Tiffany D. Jackson**, whose *Monday's Not Coming* won the 2019 NAACP Image Award, among others, and **Susan Muaddi Darraj**, author of the forthcoming middle-school series, *Farah Rocks*, with the first Arab-American characters ever, join **Enoch Pratt librarian Paula Willey** in an invigorating conversation about writing for children and young adults for today's diverse readership.