

BALTIMORE'S
21ST ANNUAL

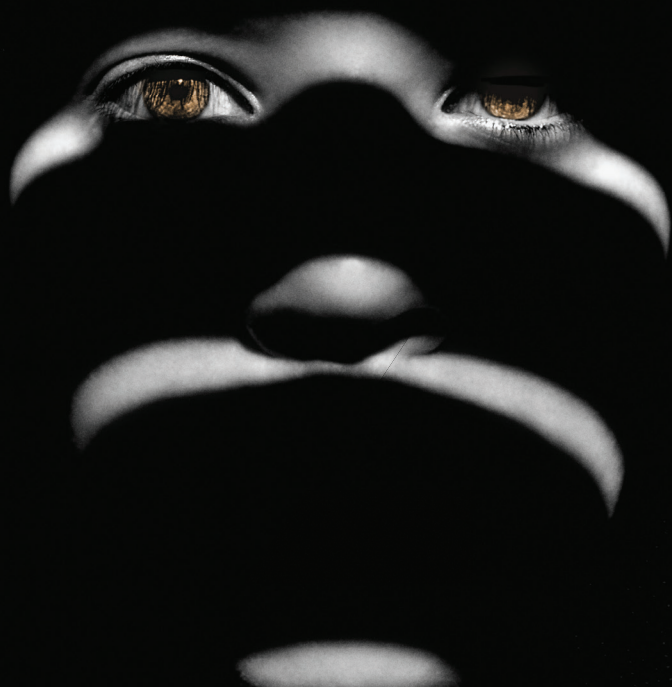


CityLit Project in partnership with
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra,
Chesapeake Shakespeare Company,
Hedgebrook, Greedy Reads,
and Scribente Maternum present

DISMANTLING THE CULTURE OF SILENCE

A three-day, in-person celebration
honoring readers and writers -
with a daylong program on
Saturday, April 20, 2024

Festival Independent Bookseller: The Ivy Bookshop
Media Sponsor: BmoreArt and Baltimore Beat
A Special Thank You:
Insight180, Baltimore National Heritage Area &
Baltimore Children & Youth Fund



OUR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS:



SATURDAY, APRIL 20: DAYLONG PROGRAM

JOSEPH MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL | 9:30AM - 6:30PM



10:00AM - 12:00PM ONE-on-ONE, 30-Minute Editorial Critique Sessions (\$10) "THE WINE BAR"

For writers looking to grow in their craft, seeking a second take on their work, revising a draft that's been sitting in your drawer, or starting a new piece – this is for you. One-on-One. Thirty minutes of me time. Why not have an editor take a look? Why not work with a seasoned, accomplished writer to discuss what to do to make your piece breathe? Rules matter. Think as if you're submitting to a journal. These editors will make you see your work differently.

Rebekah Kirkman (creative nonfiction)
Bret McCabe (creative nonfiction)
Kathy Flann (fiction, creative nonfiction)
Lisa Snowden (journalism)
Chelsea Lemon Fetzer (poetry, fiction)
Rosalia Scalia (fiction)
DuEwa Frazier (experimental, afro-futurism)
\$10 advanced registration required.

10:00AM - 11:00AM Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance presents 2024 Baker Artists – Literary Finalists AUDITORIUM

Working with the **Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance**, the **William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund** established the **Baker Artist Awards** in 2008 to support artists and promote Greater Baltimore as a strong creative community. The Baker Artists Awards confer \$90,000 in prizes annually on six area artists across each artistic discipline. Awardees receive showcase and exhibition opportunities at major Baltimore institutions and a feature on Maryland Public Television's Artworks. The awards are adjudicated from artists on the **Baker Artist Portfolios** website. **ELIZABETH EVITTS DICKINSON**, the 2023 Mary Sawyers Imboden Prize winner, is the first literary artist to win the prestigious prize. Her work encompasses cultural criticism, narrative nonfiction, investigative journalism, short fiction, and memoir. The 2024 Literary Finalists include:

A recipient of Guggenheim, NEA, and Fulbright Fellowships, five Pushcart Prizes, and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, **LIA PURPURA's** (*All the Fierce Tethers*), work is defined as "fiercely elegant yet filled to the brim with guilty pleasures." **MICHAEL DOWNS** is the author of three books and has served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Poland. **PATRICK SMITHWICK's** new memoir *War's Over, Come Home, A Father's Search for His Son, Two-Tour Marine Veteran of the Iraq War*, is a call to action, vaulting the author onto the national stage. Multi-disciplinary artist **NGUYỄN KHÔI NGUYỄN** is the cartoonist of the Ignatz nominated comic series, *The Gulf*, which includes original drawings, music, and animation. Writer and musician **KRISTINA R. GADDY** is the author of *Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History*, at the crossroads of slavery, religion, and music. **JEANNIE VANASCO**, the author of two memoirs, *Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl* and *The Glass Eye*, has a forthcoming third book, *A Silent Treatment* in 2025.

10:00AM - 11:15AM Echoes Across Eras: Poetry Time Travel with Baltimore's Chicory Magazine LOBBY STAGE

Embark on a poetic journey through time with the **Chicory Revitalization Project**. Delve into Baltimore's literary, poetic, and activist past, present, and future through the lens of *Chicory*, a Baltimore Black community poetry magazine published from 1966-1983 that's being revived today. A panel discussion with Baltimore poets across generations uses poetry to preserve Baltimore's culture and amplify its distinct voice, celebrating the living legacy of those voices. Poet, educator, editor, and lyricist, Baltimore's **MELVIN E. BROWN**, the longest-serving editor of *Chicory*, is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars with two poetry collections, *In the First Place* and *Blue Notes and Blessing Songs*. **REJJIA CAMPHOR**, a transdisciplinary artist, educator, and organizer, teaches at Writers In Baltimore Schools and founded the environmental community project, Sister

Stream Catcher. National Slam Champion **SLANGSTON HUGHES** is the artistic director of DewMore Baltimore, former coach of the two-time world champion Baltimore City Youth Poetry Team, and founder/member of the winningest poetry slam team, Slammageddon. Poet and performing artist, **TAYE CALDWELL**, a Patterson High School freshman, is a 2023 Baltimore Youth Poet Laureate Competition finalist. **PATRICE HUTTON**, founder of Writers in Baltimore Schools, and **A'NIYA TAYLOR**, Baltimore Youth Poet Laureate, 2022-2023, join the discussion. Whiting Fellow and founder of the Chicory Revitalization Project **MARY RIZZO**, will moderate.

11:30AM - 1:00PM Creating Living Archives: On Contemporary Trans Poetics LOBBY STAGE

Creating Living Archives is a poetry reading and panel discussion that centers the works of queer and trans-Asian diasporic poets curated by **LAWRENCE-MINH BUI DAVIS**, troublemaker, curator of Maps to the Next World (Smithsonian), and co-founder of *The Asian American Literary Review*. Held in a time of major anti-trans legislation and censorship efforts sweeping the country, three trans poets gather to share their work and discuss how they use poetry and the literary arts to document, sustain, and imagine trans futures, poetry as possibility. Poet, performance artist, and public historian **CHRYSANTHEMUM** is a recipient of the 2023 Justin Chin Memorial Scholarship from Lambda Literary and a Kundiman fellow. **NOAH ARHM CHOI's** *Cut to Bloom*, poetry collection won the 2019 Write Bloody Prize. They were nominated for Best of the Net in 2022, shortlisted for the Poetry International Prize, and work as the Director of the Progressive Teaching Institute at a school in New York City. As a practitioner of ancestral medicine through poetry, teaching, energy healing, and creating ceremony, **RIVER DANDELION** is the author of *remembering (y)our light*. He has performed and presented his work globally from the Dodge Poetry Festival to the University of Havana.

11:30AM - 1:00PM THE 'STATE' OF BALTIMORE When a Means to Information is Threatened: Documenting and Preserving History to Avert a Culture of Silence AUDITORIUM

This year's **'State' of Baltimore** invites media outlets to discuss their work in an age where access to history and information is being widely questioned or muted. Join this illustrious panel at the forefront of disseminating information in varying capacities. What happens when that information is threatened or silenced in tumultuous times when people need more than one source for information directly affecting their lives? This panel, comprised of artists, scholars, journalists, and editors, share the importance and 'culture' of their work, their challenges with 'distractions' and waning attention spans, the dissolution of newsrooms, etc. Expect a thought-provoking discussion to inform and enlighten you about the threats to how they operate, that include the rise in AI images and content, what they're doing to sustain themselves when life happens in 30-second sound bites, and why these outlets deserve your support. **LISA SNOWDEN** is the co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of **BALTIMORE BEAT**, a digital and print-based news product, which seeks to elevate underrepresented voices and drive meaningful conversations around pressing societal issues. **CARA OBER** is an artist, curator, and the founding editor and publisher at **BMOREART**, Baltimore's art and culture magazine, who writes regularly about artists, museums, and material culture. Artist and executive director of **AFRO CHARITIES**, **SAVANNAH WOOD** leads the charge to increase access to the 130+-year-old AFRO American Newspapers' extensive archives, and remains invested in sharing and preserving Black stories. Maynard 200 Fellow, **JASMINE VAUGHN-HALL** is the West Baltimore neighborhood and community reporter for

CONTINUED >

The **BALTIMORE BANNER** and author of *Umbrella for Every Sh*tstorm*, a collection of inspiring quotes. Local radio host of Morning Edition at **WYPR**, Baltimore's NPR News Station, **ASHLEY STERNER** has been a familiar over-the-airwaves voice for nearly two decades. Historian and postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, **DR. LAUREN FELDMAN** serves as the Project Coordinator of **JHU HARD HISTORIES**, a public history initiative that examines the histories of racism and discrimination at the university. Award-winning writer **ALANAH NICHOLE DAVIS** is a lead reporter for **Technical.ly**, a multi-market news organization that connects a community of technologists, entrepreneurs, and other professionals, and will moderate.

1:30PM - 3:00PM
Palestinian American Writers Speak: On Remembrance: When Words Become Our Strength
AUDITORIUM

For many Palestinian American poets, memoirists, and novelists, writing is a turbulent process met with obstacles, including censorship and a publishing industry that often seems closed to their voices. Six award-winning Palestinian American writers discuss their experiences: What issues do they confront when writing for a largely non-Palestinian audience? How do they articulate their identity in times of devastation? What role does literature play when Palestinian voices are threatened with erasure in unimaginable times? They discuss how words are forms of remembrance and support through unrest and sorrow. **SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ** is the award-winning author of children and adult books, whose, *Behind You is the Sea*, was named a most-anticipated book of 2024 by Apple Books, The New Yorker, Ms Magazine, and more. She won the highest prize awarded by the Maryland State Arts Council, the Independent Artists Award for literature. **ZEINA AZZAM** is a writer, editor, and poet laureate of Alexandria, Virginia, whose most recent collection is *Some Things Never Leave You*. **ETAF RUM**'s debut novel, *A Woman Is No Man*, garnered attention as a Today Show

Read. Her latest novel, *Evil Eye* was recognized as an NPR Best Book of the Year. **GEORGE ABRAHAM** (they/he) is a poet, performance artist whose debut poetry collection *Birthing* won the Arab American Book Award. They are the executive editor of Mizna, and co-editor of *Heaven Looks Like Us: Palestinian Poetry*. **LAILA EL-HADDAD** is an author, social activist, policy analyst, and journalist. She co-authored *The Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Culinary Journey* and is a leading voice on Gaza whose work centers on food, politics, and her life as a Palestinian mother and journalist.

1:30PM - 3:00PM
THIS is How We Do It: Black Writers give up the goods on writing, publishing, and all literary things
90-minute Craft Intensive
LOBBY STAGE

Contributors of Hurston-Wright Foundation's *How We Do It: Black Writers on Craft, Practice, and Skill*, edited by Jericho Brown and Darlene Taylor, share their essays and best practices. A handbook and a reference tool, *How We Do It* is a thoughtful representation of Black literary artists who establish their own creative practice while celebrating and widening the scope of the Black writer's role in art, history, and culture. Used as a tool and guide, writers examine the complexities of range and style with essays: "When a Character Returns," "How to Write a Memoir or Take Me To The River." All are welcome. Co-founder and President Emerita of the Hurston/Wright Foundation, **MARITA GOLDEN** is an award-winning author of over twenty works of fiction and nonfiction with a recent work *The New Black Woman Loves Herself, Has Boundaries, Heals Every Day*. **RION AMLICAR SCOTT** is the author of the story collections *The World Doesn't Require You* and *Insurrections* and one of Maryland Humanities OMOB's Top Three finalists. Multidisciplinary DC-based artist **DARLENE TAYLOR**'s creative works explore race, place, and memory in fiction and visual narratives that reclaim Black life in mixed media silhouettes. "These pages offer cultured visions of the way Black writers gather, remember, and talk it out."

3:30PM - 5:00PM
This IS the Honey Poets: "A Jubilee of a People Dreaming Wildly"
Special guest **KWAME ALEXANDER**
AUDITORIUM

After a day of robust discussions, poet, educator, producer, and #1 New York Times bestselling author **KWAME ALEXANDER** joins us as a special guest in a celebratory finale. Expect poetry readings by *This IS the Honey* anthology contributors, **CHET'LA SEBREE**, **KIMBERLY A. COLLINS**, and **MARITZA RIVERA** before Kwame takes the stage and shares his own. Called a breathtaking poetry collection on "hope, heart, and heritage," *Honey* celebrates Black life in tender meditations and haunting lyricism. It includes promising and prominent poets in a vibrant collection, a must-have keepsake. The session name comes from Festival poet Mahogany L. Browne's poem with the same title as the book. Kwame will be in conversation with former Enoch Pratt librarian **DEBORAH TAYLOR**, who will also discuss *Why Fathers Cry at Night*.

As a world-class creative, innovator, and visionary, Kwame is the Emmy-winning Executive Producer, Showrunner, and Writer of **The Crossover TV series**, based on his Newbery-Medal-winning novel of the same name, which premiered on Disney+ in April 2023. The series was produced in partnership with LeBron James' SpringHill Company and Big Sea Entertainment, Kwame's production company dedicated to creating innovative, highly original children's and family entertainment. Deborah has chaired and served on many American Library Association (ALA) committees, including the Newbery Awards, Coretta Scott King Book Awards, and the Michael L. Printz Award.

Poets include Army veteran and Puerto Rican poet **MARITZA RIVERA**, the creator of a short form called Blackjazz, the author of *About You*, who co-edited the anthology *Diaspora Café: D.C.* with Jeffrey Banks. **CHET'LA SEBREE** is the author of *Field Study*, winner of the 2020 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets, and *Mistress*, a

2020 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work-Poetry nominee. Callaloo Fellow and Pushcart finalist **KIMBERLY COLLINS** teaches at Howard University, is the author of *Bessie's Resurrection*, and founder of SOAR (So Others Ascend Righteously).

3:30PM - 5:00PM
The Art of Reinvention: How to Chase Success but Not Lose Yourself
MATEO ASKARIPOUR in conversation with D. Watkins
LOBBY STAGE

New York Times bestselling debut novelist **MATEO ASKARIPOUR**, whose *Black Buck* was an immediate bestseller, a cautionary tale that reads like the Wolf of Wall Street, and serves as a manual on how to survive as 'other' in a corporate world. He speaks on reinvention and navigating success with Baltimore's NYT bestselling, success story **D. WATKINS**. When the novel launched, Ron Charles (Washington Post) wrote, "A month ago, I'd never heard of Mateo Askaripour. Today I would buy anything from him." National Book Foundation named him a 2023 "5 under 35" recipient. His forthcoming novel, *This Great Hemisphere*, introduces an invisible Sweetmint, illustrating the degree to which reality can be shaped by non-truths and vicious manipulations while shining a light on the option to surprise ourselves when we relinquish narratives others have written for us. D. Watkins' most recent book, *Black Boy Smile*, "is a love letter to Black boys in concrete cities." Editor-at-Large for Salon, Watkins writes for the HBO mini-series *We Own This City*, and was featured in the HBO documentary, *The Slow Hustle*. A talk. A reading. Two widely successful authors discuss keeping it real when success lands at your doorstep.



THE WRITER'S ROOM is designed to engage participants face-to-face with authors in an informal conversation about the different aspects of writing, including questions about craft, research, writing process, challenges, and publication. Featured authors wind down from being 'on' and simply engage with the writers. In the past, **Emily St. John Mandel, Terrance Hayes, Nikky Finney, Jenny Offill, Hanif Abdurraqib, Fatimah Asghar, and Roxane Gay** participated and simply loved it. A hit with festival attendees! This year's featured TWRs are meant to engage you and for you to ask questions.

Writing While Aging: We're Not Done Yet

11:30AM - 1:00PM | ZAMOISKI ROOM

One of the factors of silencing is how the publishing industry views and treats older writers, and how senior authors imbued with worlds of wisdom experience ageism. We openly discuss working through omission based on age, and how writers in their winter years, working seriously at their craft, doing all the things, require support. Many writers become discouraged at the prospect of submitting manuscripts while aging. While some publishers/agents think you have to be in your twenties to debut as an under-35 writer to gain an audience, these authors are here to tell you differently. How many stories do you have within you if you're riding 70? We're pushing back on that theory, as baby boomers start to reclaim themselves after their first retirement. We want to ensure that writers **Not. Give. Up.** This talk dares to be inspirational, transformative, and a wake-up call to those in doubt, and those who need a reason to keep stepping into their worth. Co-founder and President Emerita of the Hurston/Wright Foundation, **MARITA GOLDEN** is a veteran teacher of writing at many universities and the award-winning author of over twenty books. **KENDRA KOPELKE** is co-editor and co-founder of *Passager*, a Baltimore-based press for over 30-plus years, with a vision to combat ageism by demonstrating the extraordinary imagination and creativity of and empowering older writers.

Literary Artists: AI and Authentic Innovations

4:00PM - 5:30PM | ZAMOISKI ROOM

What the printing press did for publishing, what the personal computer did for writing, and what the Internet did for marketing, **AI** is

the next transformative technology impacting the literary arts. It is here to stay and it won't stay put. What are its pitfalls, what are its upsides, and how do writers and publishers keep pace with the changes it ushers in? From creation to copyright, from morality to monetization, from benignity to biases, **AI** now touches every aspect of the journey from artist to audience. Join two creatives who shed light on AI, and the role it plays in the life of writers and publishers who are thinking carefully about how AI is changing the literary **Arts**. Writer, publisher, teacher, arts administrator, founder of **CityLit Project**, and the Director of Mason Creative Writing, **GREGG WILHELM**, also co-founded Watershed Lit: Center for Literary Engagement and Publishing Practice, a collective of organizations whose missions create and promote transformative experiences in the literary arts. **WENDY QUEEN** is the Director of Project MUSE at Johns Hopkins University Press, whose leadership and contributions have ensured that MUSE continues to innovate across its platform and business models for the benefit of its partner publishers.

Who We Become: Don't Be Afraid

5:30PM - 6:15PM | LOBBY STAGE

A musical performance

The festival finale spotlights new to the Baltimore music scene, **BE STEADWELL** with roots in jazz, acapella, and folk. Be is a queer pop composer and storyteller whose films have screened in festivals around the world, who has composed songs for Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and who has a forthcoming new album, *Dear Ex Musical*. "With honesty, humor, and originality, Be Steadwell brings a poet's heart to her songs. She is true to her Muse." - Christian John Wikane, PopMatters

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company | 7:00PM - 9:30PM

Praising the Mouth That Speaks: A spine for the world to listen. Turn up the volume.

The **21st CityLit Festival launches** with poetry at the center with this year's theme, **Dismantling the Culture of Silence**. **MAHOGANY L. BROWNE**, a musical artist and an assembly of poets feature in an evening of poetry, music, and connection. In the past, this standing-room-only event served as a finale but this year's gathering begs for poets who reflect, where listening becomes a way of being. Mahogany's works include *Vinyl Moon*, *Chlorine Sky* (optioned for Steppenwolf Theater), *Black Girl Magic*, and banned books: *Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice*, and *Woke Baby*. She's the Executive Director of JustMedia, designed to support the groundwork of criminal justice leaders and community members. Queen of the soulful bounce, **BLACK ASSETS**, originally from Itta Bena, Mississippi, is a queer international recording artist who leaves you with an unforgettable musical experience. **A'NIYA TAYLOR** is a spoken word artist, community advocate, and Baltimore's (2022-23) Youth Poet Laureate. **WORDSMITH** is a creator in the world of performance, and BSO's artistic partner. The Baltimore Sun selected him as one of 25 2024 Black Marylanders to watch. **NANCY MURRAY** is a poet, memoirist, playwright, and storyteller, who recently published her first poetry collection *The Colors of Fear*. **RYAN JAFAR ARTES** (he/she/they) is an activist, memoirist whose work calls for a cultural renaissance from the perspective of lived experience as a transracial transnational South Asian Indian American adoptee. Carolyn Forché calls poet **MATT HOHNER**, whose new collection, *At the Edge of a Thousand Years* won the 2023 Jacar Press Poetry Book Contest, "a poet unafraid of risk." Amazon Kindle best-selling author **DR. LATORIAL FAISON**, the powerhouse author of over twelve poetry books, is well known for her poem, "What is Black History?" Vocalist and Cave Canem fellow **ALEXA PATRICK** (*Remedies for Disappearing*) stage production debuted as *Un/Sung* in the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved* was directed by Bill T. Jones moderates.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

Greedy Reads - Remington | 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Shut Up & 'Speak': Ways to shut down the noise and write your next best thing.

Master Class with **JAMI ATTENBERG**

What does it take to lead a creative life every day? New York Times bestselling author **JAMI ATTENBERG** offers a workshop on how to carve out a creative life for yourself. The author of seven novels, the 2022 memoir *I Came All This Way To Meet You*, and the motivational creativity book *1000 Words: A Writer's Guide to Staying Creative, Focused, and Productive All Year Round*, Jami is a "writer's writer," with decades of experience in pursuit of a creative life. This workshop shares ideas and perspectives for putting your own creativity first: How can writers best serve their own creative processes? How important is community to our writing lives? How to create a life in this business of art? A talk and a writing prompt with a group write-along. Jami shares how the **#1000wordsofsummer** became a worldwide literary movement in a collaborative environment. Her wildly popular, grassroots movement inspired the collection about becoming and staying motivated, discovering yourself and your creative desires, and approaching your craft from a new direction. Featuring advice from over fifty well-known New York Times bestsellers, Pulitzer Prize winners, and stars of the literary world, such as Gay, Groff, Ng, Wolitzer, and Machado, paired with vibrant word art illustrations, open any page of *1000 Words* and get a quick, fulfilling hit of inspiration.

This Master Class gives attendees 90 minutes to engage with a celebrated author. Meaningful discussions about craft combined with a lecture, Q&A, exercises, and handouts are provided by some of the greatest authors of our time. Past presenting authors include **Kiese Laymon, George Saunders, Susan Straight, Dinaw Mengestu, Kia Corthron, and Yrsa Daley-Ward.**

CITYLIT FESTIVAL FEST WEST

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCRIBENTE MATERNUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

Seattle, Washington

scribentematernum.com

The Work That Makes All Other Work Possible w/ANGELA GARBES

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Without domestic care and labor, no other work – creative or professional – is possible. This session will explore the history of why care work is undervalued, then challenge and expand our understanding of what ‘mothering’ and care labor is and can be. We’ll explore our own care journeys – the memories, emotions, and physical sensations – that brought us to where we are today and reframe care work as rich terrain for writing and storytelling. **ANGELA GARBES** is the author of *Essential Labor: Mothering as Social Change*, called “a landmark and a lightning storm” by *The New Yorker*. *Essential Labor* was named a Best Book of 2022 by both *The New Yorker* and NPR.

How to Write a Family Portrait w/ KRISTEN MILLARES YOUNG

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Tell the stories that have preoccupied, amused, and defined your family for generations. In this hour-long generative writing workshop, essayist **KRISTEN MILLARES YOUNG** will use guided prompts and discussions to help you plan, write, and revise your family stories. By reflecting on intimate truths of those stories long-muted or forgotten, we can redefine how we think about ourselves and generations of our kin, consider how we contribute to our communities, and spark vital conversations. Participants will leave with new pages. Thank you to Washington Humanities for sponsoring this event!

Writer-Moms Panel Discussion and Social w/ Angela Garbes, Kristen Millares Young, Maggie Mertens, & Amber Flame

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Gather with other moms-who-write to chat about life as a writer-mom and to connect with a community of other creative parents. We'll hear from local accomplished writers (who also happen to be moms) to learn about their creative lives in a lively panel discussion. Stay to mingle and socialize and form connections. Drinks and food will be available for purchase. Joining the conversation will be **ANGELA GARBES, KRISTEN MILLARES YOUNG, MAGGIE MERTENS,** and **AMBER FLAME.**

Enormous thanks to Rachel Berg Scherer - Midwest Writing & Editing and Elizabeth Doerr -Doerr & Co



Angela Garbes



Kristen Millares Young



Maggie Mertens



Amber Flame

CITYLIT FESTIVAL PARTNERSHIPS

The **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** has been recognized as one of America's leading orchestras and one of Maryland's most significant cultural institutions. The orchestra is internationally renowned and locally admired for its performances, recordings, and community and educational initiatives including OrchKids. The BSO is the only American orchestra with year-round venues in two distinct metropolitan areas, designed with the orchestra in mind: the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, and the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda. Jonathon Heyward succeeded Music Director Laureate and OrchKids Founder Marin Alsop as the Orchestra's next Music Director.

bsomusic.org

[@baltsymphony](https://www.instagram.com/baltsymphony)

Founded in 2002 **Chesapeake Shakespeare Company** brings great classic theatre to Maryland, and beyond. The company offers performances of Shakespeare and other plays of classic stature that are unforgettable, challenging, and innovative. The organization serves 30,000+ people annually through artistic projects and intentional community engagement. CSC's vibrant education program includes an extensive matinee series, camps, classes, and in and out-of-school residencies.

chesapeakeShakespeare.com

[@ChesapeakeShakespeareCompany](https://www.instagram.com/ChesapeakeShakespeareCompany)

Baltimore Children & Youth Fund builds partnerships that support the ecosystem focused on opportunities for Baltimore youth by providing support to leaders and organizations. They find truth and knowledge in the patterns in the natural world that they can apply in social justice movements and liberatory practices. The ecosystem they envision is an extraordinary interconnected web of physical, psychological, and energetic networks that envelop the vibrant lives of Baltimore's youth, positively shaping their very existence.

bcyfund.org

[@bcyfund](https://www.instagram.com/bcyfund)

Hedgebrook is a global community of women writers and people who seek extraordinary books, poetry, plays, films, and music by women. Their mission supports visionary women-identified writers whose stories and ideas shape our culture now and for generations and offer residencies, Radical Craft Retreats on Whidbey Island, and public programs that bridge writers and readers around the world.

www.hedgebrook.org

[@hedgebrook](https://www.instagram.com/hedgebrook)

BmoreArt, the leading resource for contemporary art and culture in the Baltimore region is a platform for creative and critical discussions. They apply editorial and community-building capabilities including digital publication, a biannual print journal, community events, lectures, and social media, to further cultural and economic interests.

bmoreart.com

[@bmoreart](https://www.instagram.com/bmoreart)

Baltimore Beat is a Black-led, Black-controlled nonprofit newspaper and media outlet. Their mission honors the tradition of the Black press and the spirit of alt-weekly journalism with reporting that focuses on community, questions power structures, and prioritizes thoughtful engagement with readers.

baltimorebeat.com

[@baltimorebeat](https://www.instagram.com/baltimorebeat) | [@baltibeat](https://www.instagram.com/baltibeat)

Baltimore National Heritage Area promotes, preserves, and enhances Baltimore's historic and cultural legacy and natural resources for current and future generations.

explorebaltimore.org

[@bmorenha](https://www.instagram.com/bmorenha)

Greedy Reads opened in Fells Point in 2018 and in Remington in 2019. Books in both locations are carefully (obsessively) selected by the owner, Julia Fleischaker, a 20-year publishing industry veteran.

www.greedyreads.com

[@greedyreads](https://www.instagram.com/greedyreads)

Reading Partners – Baltimore promotes, preserves, and enhances Baltimore's history dedicated to ensuring that children in the U.S. have the reading skills necessary to reach their full potential. Their mission is to help children become lifelong readers by empowering communities to provide individualized instruction with measurable results. They are committed to educational equity and actively interrupt systemic racism, poverty, and social inequality.

readingpartners.org

[@rpbaltimore](https://www.instagram.com/rpbaltimore)

insight180 is a brand consulting and design firm that helps forward-thinking businesses and nonprofits clarify, focus, and differentiate themselves through brand messaging and design. Lovers of words, conscious companies, and mission-driven nonprofits, insight180 adopted CityLit Project seven years ago to help amplify their mission.

insight180.com

[@insight180](https://www.instagram.com/@insight180)

The Ivy Bookshop is the popular independent bookstore owned by Emma Synder located on 5928 Falls Road. They have served as CityLit Festival booksellers for five years.

theivybookshop.com

[@theivybookshop](https://www.instagram.com/@theivybookshop)

University of Baltimore is where MFA graduate students learn to write, design, and publish their own books. Learn to Plork = play + work, a creative way of life for life.

ubalt.edu

[@ubcreativemfa](https://www.instagram.com/@ubcreativemfa)

Joyful Signing provides communication access solutions to clients nationwide. Services include American Sign Language (ASL), Trilingual interpretation, CUED Speech, Tactile and Oral interpreting, Captioning services for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community, and Reading Services for the Blind.

joyfulsigning.com

LITERARY MARKETPLACE

The daylong portion of the festival returns with an outdoor Literary Marketplace with vendors from small publishers, independent presses, journals, self-published authors, and organizations that offer literary services.

- Silent Books Publishing
- akinoga press
- Reading Partners – Baltimore
- J. Hawki
- Good Contrivance Farm
- Nobleman Publishing
- Baltimore Review
- The Hopkins Review
- Shanequa Waison-Ratray
- Through a Glass Darkly
- Hoot Off the Press
- Trina Glass
- Passager
- Publik / Private
- Grub Street Literary Magazine
- Little Patuxent Review
- Yellow Arrow Publishing
- Zora's Den
- Hedgebrook
- Soft Savage Press
- E. Evans Paull

THE VILLAGE

CityLit Project recognizes these organizations as part of its Village, local, regional, and state-wide organizations that serve readers and writers by displaying their information at signature events and on our website. We realize many individuals and organizations...bookstores, entrepreneurs, reading series, and more – do their level best to provide services, information, and opportunities to grow and enhance the lives of poets and writers. We support and amplify the work of these cultural individuals and institutions.

citylitproject.org/about-us/the-village

- Artist U
- A Revolutionary Summer
- The Baltimore Review
- Center for Black Literature
- Dance & Bmore
- Doerr&Co
- Furious Flower Poetry Center
- George Mason University Creative Writing
- Howard County Poetry & Literature Society
- Iceland Readers Retreat
- Libraries Without Borders
- Maryland Writer's Association
- Midwest Writing & Editing
- Multi Mind
- The Modell Lyric
- Passager
- Pen Parentis
- Poe Baltimore, The Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum
- Reading Partners -Baltimore
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- The Poet & The Poem from The Library of Congress
- The Inner Loop
- Writers & Words
- Yellow Arrow Publishing
- Zora's Den

CityLit Project recognizes and honors the enduring presence of indigenous peoples in Baltimore City, including the Piscataway, Lumbee, and Eastern Band of Cherokee community members. As we gather in literary spaces, we are committed to championing emerging and established Native poets and writers on our platforms. We invite you to download the *Guide to Indigenous Baltimore*.

CityLit Project nurtures the culture of literature, creates enthusiasm for the literary arts, connects a community of avid readers and writers, and designs opportunities for diverse audiences to embrace the literary arts with five signature events, the **CityLit Stage**, the **CityLit Studio: Writers on Craft, Creativity, & Community**, the **CityLit Festival**, and **A Home for the Heart to Live In** poetry series. CityLit is a founding sponsor of **Scribente Maternum** (Writer Moms) and features an annual, innovative **Write Like a Mother Retreat**.
citylitproject.org | scribentematernum.com

FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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Alan King is a videographer, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and poet.
alanwking.com/nyckencole-2

CITYLIT STAFF:

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