



BALTIMORE'S
22ND ANNUAL
**city
lit
fest
ival**

CityLit Project in partnership
with Lord Baltimore Hotel
and Red Emma's present

OUR stories
give
LIGHT
TO OUR future

Stargazer (Theo), LaToya M. Hobbs, 2022, Woodcut.
Photo Credit: Ariston Jacks

Saturday, April 5, 2025 | 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL
20 W Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201




LITERARY MARKETPLACE
Over 65 vendors and an Open Mic


skill building

- **One-on-One 30-Minute Editorial Critique Sessions** (\$10) *NEW - First Come, First Served*
- **Writing For Your Life** - A Poetry Workshop with Seniors
- **DAN FESPERMAN - Less is More: Building suspense from the get-go by withholding and writing 'small.'** (\$10) Masterclass - Registration required. Visit citylitproject.org.
- **The Publishing SEEN** 90-minute craft intensive
- **Making a Life as an Artist: Writers as Entrepreneurs** 90-minute craft intensive

luminary lit talk

- **God, I'm Here: BERNICE L. MCFADDEN,**  *Firstborn Girls*
- **What My Father and I Don't Talk About: MICHELE FILGATE**

readers reap

- **The Weekly Reader Live!** 
- **When They See Us: Reckoning With History**
- **The Literary Life of AI: Output Through the Years**

unlawful acts – fortifying the future

- **The 'State' of Baltimore: Arts as a Cultural Force**
- **We Are More Than One Story**
- **Voices From the Palestinian Diaspora**
- **Tipping Point: Climate. Crisis. Critical.**
- **Trans Authors Speak UP: Between Your Ears: The Power of BEing Seen**
- **Writing Between Worlds: Misplacement, Memory, and Meaning**

literary limelight

- **Showcasing BAKER Literary Finalists** 

Friday, April 25, 2025

BALTIMORE UNITY HALL
1505 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, MD 21217



**a good time for the truth:
DewMore Baltimore Youth Poetry Summit**

10:00 am - 3:30 pm
Youth Poetry Summit

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Youth Poetry Slam Competition
Open to the public
Featured Poet: **RUDY FRANCISCO**

RED EMMA'S
3128 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218



We Who Do Words: CityLit Festival Poetry Finale

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Musical Guest: **WIFTY BANGURA**
Featured Poets: **DOMINIQUE CHRISTINA, ERICA DAWSON, MICHAEL B. TAGER, SYLVIA JONES, AILISH HOPPER**
Mistress of Ceremonies: **TRACY DIMOND**

SPONSORS:



Our Stories Give Light to Our Future, a good time for the truth,
and We Who Do Words

Rest in Power – Nikki Giovanni (June 7, 1943 - December 9, 2024)



CITYLIT
PROJECT

#citylitfest2025 |
@citylitproject | @citylitproject | CityLitProject

Visit citylitproject.org for updated details.

FESTIVAL DETAILS

Saturday, April 5, 2025



LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

20 W Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Literary Marketplace - Open Mic

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

One-on-One 30-Minute Editorial Critique Sessions (\$10)

KAREN HOUPPERT, BRET MCCABE, REBEKAH KIRKMAN, CHELSEA LEMON FETZER

New - First Come, First Served

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Writing For Your Life - A Poetry Workshop with Seniors

Former Poet Laureate GRACE CAVALIERI

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Less is More: Building Suspense From the Get-go By Withholding and Writing 'Small'

Masterclass with DAN FESPERMAN (\$10)

The Weekly Reader - Live!

LAUREN FRANCIS-SHARMA, MAI SENNAAR, JACOB BUDENZ, & STEVEN LEYVA with MARION WINIK

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

God, I'm Here

BERNICE L. MCFADDEN, *Firstborn Girls*, in conversation with TRACY CHILES MCGHEE

The Literary Life of AI: Output Through the Years

LILLIAN-YVONNE BERTRAM & NICK MONTFORT with WENDY QUEEN

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

The 'State' of Baltimore: Arts As a Cultural Force

PATRICIA OFORI, JOHN JOHN WILLIAMS, GAIL COOPER, & VICTORIA KENNEDY with ALANAH NICHOLE DAVIS

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

When They See Us: Reckoning With History

MARTHA S. JONES, IRVIN WEATHERSBY, & KAYE WISE WHITEHEAD with DR. LAWRENCE JACKSON

Showcasing BAKER Literary Finalists

Literary Artists & JEN GROW

2:30 - 3:30 pm

We Are More Than One Story

ZEEVA BUKAI, KEVIN SHIRD, & KAREN OUTEN with HANNAH GREICO

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Voices From the Palestinian Diaspora

NAJLA SAID, SAHAR MUSTAFAH, & ISSAM ZINEH with DR. DIYA ABDO

The Publishing SEEN

90-minute craft intensive

SYLVIA JONES, JEANNA HAWKI, SARAH DANIELS, DORA MALECH, & CASEY PLETT with ANNIE MARHEFKA

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

What My Father and I Don't Talk About

MICHELE FILGATE in conversation with SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ

TIPPING POINT: Climate. Crisis. Critical.

MARY ANNAÏSE HEGLAR & ERIC PUCHNER with NAADIYA HUTCHINSON

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Making a Life as an Artist: Writers as Entrepreneurs

90-minute craft intensive

DIANE R. SCOTT, ANDREW SIMONET, & DIMITRI REYES with CHERRIE WOODS

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Trans Authors Speak UP: Between Your Ears:

The Power of BEing Seen

CASEY PLETT, NIC ANSETT, & ADDIE TSAI

Writing Between Worlds: Misplacement, Memory, and Meaning

DIANA ROJAS, JUDITH KRUMMECK, PANTEA AMIN TOFANGCHI, & AMARA OKOLO with ABBY HIGGS

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