CITYLIT

stage

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

STORIES BEGIN *here.*

31st Street Stage

EAST 31ST STREET & BARCLAY STREET

10:00 AM - 6:30 PM



BALTIMORE BOOK FESTIVAL EST. 1996

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

PREVIEW WEEKEND

AMONG THE RUBBLE: CLAUDIA RANKINE PRESENTS "TRIAGE" IN CONVERSATION WITH KAYE WISE WHITEHEAD AT SNF PARKWAY THEATRE

Preview Weekend: Featuring **CLAUDIA RANKINE**, in partnership with **Red Emma's**, in conversation with Dr. **Kaye Wise Whitehead** about her new work, *Triage*. "No matter our posture," Rankine writes, "we are all among the rubble."

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

10:00 am - 11:00 am

FUNNY LADIES: STARS OF COMIC FICTION TALK SHOP

Three acclaimed women authors talk about their latest books, the craft of humor, and the role of comic fiction in the current social and political landscape. **AMY FUSSELMAN**, **SYDNEY RENDE** and **SUSAN COLL**, moderated by **BETSY BOYD**, bring a profound, inspiring, and laugh-out-loud funny discussion to the CityLit Stage.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

THE KNOTTED PATH OF BECOMING: STORIES THAT TEST THE HUMAN SPIRIT

PHILL BRANCH discusses his new book *The Double Dutch Fuss* with equal parts insight, depth, and humor with The Moth-like storytellers, **DIANA VEIGA**, **HEATHER MOYER**, and **JESS SOLOMON**, moderating. Authors share testimonies of heartbreak, the courage in navigating difficult conversations, and the resilience of the human spirit.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

INFERNO OF JUSTICE: *BURN DOWN MASTER'S HOUSE*

CLAY CANE unpacks *Burn Down Master's House* with **ANDY SHALLAL.** Deemed bold, brutal, unflinching, and "a resistance story for the ages," his new book is historical fiction about enslaved people who fought back against unimaginable cruelty.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

QUEERING BALTIMORE LIT

Some of Baltimore's best queer and trans writers **ALISON LUBAR**, **ALDRIN BADIOLA**, **ASHLEY ELIZABETH**, and **T. MAE MOLL** will read work spanning a variety of topics such as LGBTQ+ issues, family and legacy, and identity, moderated by **THE WORKSHOP PRINCE**. A live reading curated by Baltimore-based publishers **fifth wheel press** anthologies and **Mason Jar Press**' Jarnal.

4:00 pm - 5:45 pm

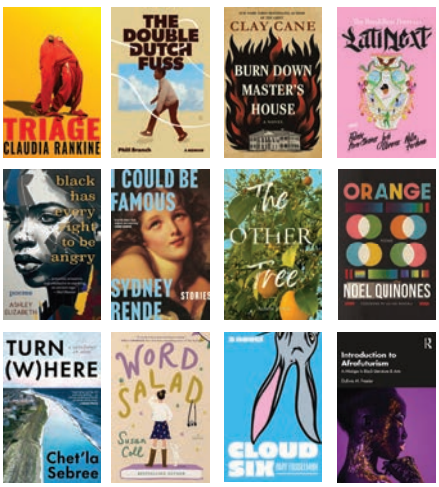
FIND YOUR WAY HOME: HOW WE POET OUR PATH & OUR PAST

Anchored by Philly-based poet **DENICE FROHMAN**, this session gathers a masterful group of poets and writers who take us on their singular journeys based on their new works, one-woman shows, poet-written essays, spoken word, and deliberate declarations of vulnerability and courage. An enlightening conversation and poetry reading featuring **CHET'LA SEBREE**, **MAUI SMITH**, **NOEL QUIÑONES**, and **DUEWA FRAZIER**.

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

SOUL EVOLUTION: A SOUL-STIRRING JOURNEY THROUGH TIME, SPACE, & SOUND

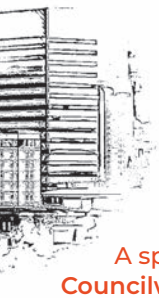
Soul Evolution with conjure womxn **AMOROUS EBONY** and producer, composer **ANTONIO EYEZ** brings a close to the festival day with an introduction by motivational speaker **KARENTHIA BARBER**. The performance blends classic soul with experimental sound, inviting audiences to witness, to ponder, to experience a soul evolution. Through these musical renditions, this production is an ancestral veneration, bridging the past and the present in a powerful celebration of identity and perseverance.



CHECK OUT ALL THE STAGES AT THE 2026 BALTIMORE BOOK FESTIVAL!

Explore all that the festival has to offer! From romance and sci-fi, to poetry and local author showcases, there is something special for everyone. To see the full schedule, visit **baltimorebookfestival.com**.

To learn more about **CityLit Stage**, visit **citylitproject.org/news** where you can view our full programming in detail.



CITYLIT
PROJECT

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Councilwoman Odette Ramos.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10, 2026
CityLit Studio XI: Writers on Craft, Creativity, & Community
CityLit & the Motor House present
Championing Banned Books & a Book Swap

October 22 - 25, 2026
Write Like a Mother Retreat
Featuring GLORY EDIM, CHRISTINE PLATT, & EMILY SOUDER – Baltimore, MD

December 6, 2026
20th A Home for the Heart to Live In
In partnership with **The Hopkins Review** & **Baltimore Museum of Art**, featuring TERRANCE HAYES, and a reading, curated by **Reggie Harris** at the **Motor House**

April 17, 2027
24th CityLit Festival
In partnership with the **Maryland Center for History** and Culture, featuring JERICHO BROWN

CityLit Project offers free signature events throughout the year. In this current polarized climate, your support means even more to us. We are truly grateful.

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