



Schedule

Saturday, September 22nd

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Introduction

Kevin Howarth, President, Broadleaf Writers Board of Directors

9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Zachary Steele, Executive Director and Founder of Broadleaf Writers

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Future of Publishing is Now: Exploring a Writer's Options in the New Media Age

Panelists: John Adcox, Christopher Golden, James A. Moore, Lou Aronica

Moderator: Zachary Steele

Sponsored by:



From Indie Publishing to immersive eBooks, the publishing model has undergone a dramatic transformation. Writers have a multitude of options to present their work to the public, yet understanding the potential gains and pitfalls to each is vital to success. Join the team from Gramarye Media, Inc. as they break down the paths you might take, answer your questions, and discuss where the world of publishing goes from here!

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Auditorium

Keeping it Real: Writing for Young Adults

Panelists: Nic Stone, Jackson Pearce, Lauren Morrill

Moderator: Alayna Tucker

“I try not to change, but I keep changing in all these tiny ways. I get a girlfriend. I have a beer. And every freaking time, I have to reintroduce myself to the universe all over again.”

–*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, Becky Albertalli

The young adult market shifts with each generation. What once spoke to teens now runs shy of what they seek. More and more, stories bridge the gap between the young adult and early adulthood. But where is the line? What speaks to today’s teenage reader, and what says too much? Join our panel as they delve into writing for today’s teen, and #firstworldproblems of the characters they create.

Conference Room

The Elusive Answer: The Mystery of the Mystery

Panelists: Brian Panowich, Trudy Nan Boyce, Eddy Webb, Booker T. Mattison

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

“It is ridiculous to set a detective story in New York City. New York City itself is a detective story.” –Agatha Christie

In every story, there is a mystery that must be solved. From a murder to the discovery within, characters and stories are driven by the need to unwrap the unknown. However, crafting the beginning and end of a mystery can be more maddening than finding out the butler did it.

Fortunately for you, our panel isn't keeping any secrets, so sit back and learn the art of the mystery from three writers who thrive on the unknown.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Ask the Agent: A Q&A Session with Literary Agent Cherry Weiner

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How do I find an agent? Which agent is right for me? What happens after I get an agent? Should I email an agent to check on my query? Wait, what's a query? We get it. Truly. You have questions about literary agents. A lot of questions. Well, here's an opportunity to get some answers! Join us for a free-for-all Q&A session with literary agent Cherry Weiner of the Cherry Weiner Literary Agency!

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

It's Alive!: Creating a Living World

Panelists: Trudy Nan Boyce, Nic Stone, James A. Moore, Christopher Golden

Moderator: Lauren Vogelbaum

Your world is the place where your characters—and readers—will live and spend all their time. Is it vivid or vague? Fascinating or faulty? Learn the essential elements of crafting your perfect world—whether you set your stories in a fantasy landscape or right here on planet Earth. From history to geography to culture, our panelists will share their tips, advice, and secrets on how to create a world that lives and breathes on the page.

Conference Room

Short & Sweet

Panelists: Jonathan Rabb, Stacia Pelletier, Booker T. Mattison, Eddy Webb

Moderator: Daniel Lamb

More often than not, the projects you tackle will have a shorter word count than a book. Brief pieces—be they essays, flash fiction, personal narratives, video games, or an issue of a comic—require a different plan of attack. This panel focuses on how to create strong short work that resonates with the reader, where our writers found inspiration for their shorter pieces, and the unique challenges that you might face when given a limited amount of space.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Auditorium

First Pages Critique

Panelists: John Adcox, Cherry Weiner, Kristy Hunter, Lou Aronica

Moderator: Alayna Tucker

The first page is an introduction to your story, and to your writing. To catch the eye of an agent, your first page needs to be on point. Join four industry professionals across a broad spectrum of publishing—nonfiction, kid lit, memoir, sci-fi, romance and women’s fiction to name just a few!—as they listen to and critique your first pages. Which pages will tantalize and intrigue? Gain invaluable insights from their gentle criticism and learn how to craft a killer first page!

Sunday, September 23rd

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

Welcome Back

9:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Workshop

Make Them Feel It: Developing Empathy for Your Characters

One of the most understated keys to drawing readers to your work is the ability to create an emotional connection to your characters and to your world. But how is that done? And what in the world is an emotional connection, anyway?

Join Broadleaf Writers’ Founder and Executive Director Zachary Steele for a workshop and discussion on developing a sense of empathy for your characters. Bring a pen and paper, or a laptop or tablet (and perhaps some coffee)! It’s time to write!

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Auditorium

Love is a Battlefield: Weaving the Love Story into Your Plot

Panelists: Lauren Morrill, Booker T. Mattison, Jackson Pearce

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

A spark, a bit of banter, a longing glance or a stolen kiss can add layers of appeal to any kind of story. Whether writing a romance or injecting a bit of tension into any plot, our panel will tell you how writing love is done and how to incorporate it into your story. Adding a dash of love—the chaste or the sensual, the will-they-or-won't-they?, a first kiss or a long marriage—can be very effective at motivating character, raising stakes and driving narrative.

Conference Room

Three Sides to Every Story: Why the POV You Choose Matters

Panelists: Stacia Pelletier, Jonathan Rabb, James A. Moore

Moderator: Daniel Lamb

When an accident happens, every witness provides a slightly different version of events. They tell the truth as they know it. You might say something else happened. Perhaps a video camera provides a different angle or a new detail unseen by anyone else. When we construct our narratives, how do we choose which point of view is the one to use? Our panel investigates the benefits of every option and advises how to use point-of-view to your best advantage.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Auditorium

Get it Done: Developing Good Writing Habits

Panelists: James A. Moore, Jackson Pearce, Brian Panowich

Moderator: Ian Campbell

You want to finish your manuscript, but you don't have the time. The kids are hungry. The cat is sleeping on your keyboard. The dryer won't stop squeaking. You just need a few minutes to chill in front of the television. Work stresses you out. The laundry won't do itself. You have a mountain of reasons why you can't write right now, and a universal weight of guilt hammering in your head. How are you supposed to finish your manuscript if you aren't sitting down to write it?

First of all, breathe. That's important. Secondly, have a seat and listen to three award-winning authors, who also happen to be normal human beings just like you, describe how they developed the writing habits to get their work done despite the world of distraction and responsibility that surrounded them.

Conference Room

Simplify, Simplify: Or, Simplify, ~~Simplify~~

Panelists: Eddy Webb, Christopher Golden, Jonathan Rabb

Moderator: Alayna Tucker

Henry David Thoreau once advised, "Our life is frittered away by detail ... simplify, simplify." If Thoreau was truly interested in making things clear and easy, why wouldn't he just say "simplify" once? The challenges we face in constructing clear narratives often differ, depending upon the piece. What are the right words to choose? What edits are worthwhile? Whose advice should you take? Do different genres allow for different standards? How does punctuation affect pacing? What should you look for when revising a work? Our panel will discuss how to achieve clarity in your prose, draft after draft.

12:45p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

We Belong: The Inner Struggle

Panelists: Lauren Morrill, Brian Panowich, Trudy Nan Boyce

Moderator: Lauren Vogelbaum

Sometimes it's difficult for us to say, in boldface with an underline and an exclamation point, that we are writers and accept that we deserve a seat at the table next to everyone else. This impostor syndrome and insecurity is all too common, even among published and acclaimed authors, so this affirming, honest panel will address these issues head-on to help you tackle whatever failures, obstacles and doubt stand between you and your writing goals.

Conference Room

Beginning, Middle, End: The Three-Act Structure

Panelists: John Adcox, Stacia Pelletier, Christopher Golden

Moderator: Ian Campbell

In the beginning, an introduction invests your readers in the characters and world you create. They marvel over the wonder of it all and long for it to continue forever. When the conflict arrives, they suffer alongside your protagonist as everything they come to know and love falls apart, with no end to the misery in sight. The pressure mounts, all hope lost as the tipping point turns the story on its end. Your reader finds it impossible to let go of the book as they journey through with your protagonist to the riveting conclusion.

Beginning, Middle, and End. The structure of your story is vital. Join our panel as they discuss the components of the three-act structure, and the various nuances within each.

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Auditorium

The End: My Project is Done, Now What?

Panelists: Zachary Steele, Kristy Hunter, Brian Panowich, John Adcox

Reaching The End is only the beginning. You've done the hard part, but now what? Between the myriad options available to publish your work, and the rigors of finding an agent and home for your book, choosing a path and understanding the steps leading you forward can be overwhelming. Bring your questions, your concerns, and your worries, and let us help you find your way!

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Zachary Steele