



Broadleaf Writers Association — Presents —

The 6th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference

— A Virtual Experience —

OCTOBER 16-17, 2021

Panels & Workshops • Pitch Sessions • Mentoring Sessions • Dynamic Speakers •
Open Storytelling Hour • Community Lunchtime Chats • Improve Your Writing

For more information, please visit
broadleafwriters.com



6th Annual Broadleaf Writers Conference

Schedule of Panels & Workshops

Saturday, October 16th

Room A

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Link:

Introduction

Maryann Lozano, Conference Co-Chair

9:10 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

Welcome

Zachary Steele, Executive Director and Founder of Broadleaf Writers

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Room A

Never Write Alone: How to Create a United Writing Community

Panelists: Jacinta Howard, Deesha Philyaw, Kelly Quindlen, Adam Sass

Moderator: TBD

There's a reason you've heard the oft-uttered African proverb -- "It takes a village to raise a child" before. Because when the kid gets the benefit of the larger community, he or she is all the better for it, and the parents also get some help along the way.

The same advice applies for raising a novel from infancy to publication. When writing for a specific community, your go of it will be easier and your book will be better if you lean on others in your community rather than trying to take it solo. Our panelists will share with us how they've relied upon their specific communities for support and valued insight, benefited from it, and then returned the favor in kind as active participants trying to pay it forward for the good of their entire village.

Room B

Link:

Workshop #2: Your Book is Your Business

Presented by Elizabeth Copps

Completing your manuscript is only the beginning. To find a home with most publishing houses, it needs representation. You need a literary agent. However, the prospect of finding an agent is no small challenge and working with an agent to sell your manuscript to editors requires an understanding of the industry. Join Elizabeth Copps of Copps Literary Services for a workshop covering frequently asked questions on the querying process, what agents mean by "the current marketplace", what to expect once an agent begins submitting your manuscript to editors, and much more! Elizabeth is ready to answer your questions!

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Room A

Link:

It Came From Broadleaf

Panelists: Benjamin Carr, Jessica Nettles, Zachary Steele

Moderator: TBD

Broadleaf Writers is an organization of writers passionate about creating a writing community to assist other writers. When any of our members find success, we want to lift them up, give them a platform, and celebrate along with them. So, what happens when three of Broadleaf's own have books coming out in the same year? Well, this. Join our three newest authors for a discussion on the importance of writing conferences, making connections, and the benefits of being an active part of a writing organization. And a little talk on the books they emptied their souls to write.

Room B

Link:

Writing for Now: Capturing Current Events with Balance and Perspective

Panelists: Trudy Nan Boyce, Anjali Enjeti, Man Martin

Moderator: TBD

The world around us is rapidly and drastically changing every single day. No, this is not the start of a fear-inducing ad to sell life insurance, it's just fact. And as the writers of our world hoping to capture, analyze, and make sense of our zeitgeist -- either for those living it or for those who will one day want to learn about it -- how can we best incorporate current events and topics into our writing of novels, essays, and more? Our panelists -- who've done just this sort of thing a time or two -- weigh in on how to write meaningful, mindful stories about the world around us without becoming preachy or heavy handed. Listen in to get with the times. Purchase of life insurance not required.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Room A

Link:

Sweep Them Off Their Feet: Your Moveset for Writing Romance

Panelists: Jacinta Howard, Sally Kilpatrick, Kelly Quindlen

Moderator: TBD

You lock eyes from across the room. Your heart flutters. Your breath quickens. Your palms sweat. And then you pick up a pen and stare at the blank page, unsure of what comes next. That's because, in the real world, romance is often a thing that *just happens* between people. But you, as the author, now have the distinct pleasure of dictating every bit of that romance -- as well as how it then shapes your characters. If you want to sweep them (your readers) off their feet with your words, then join us for a literary first date with these e-steam-ed panelists who've nailed this romance thing to the tree where their characters have carved their initials in the trunk.

Room B

Link:

You've Created a Monster: Writing Horror

Panelists: Melanie Anderson, Andy Davidson, Stephen Graham Jones, Lisa Kroger

Moderator: TBD

Hunched painfully over a desk, with rattled nerves and bloodshot eyes, horror writers summon both inner and otherworldly demons into their pages. The demons bring threats of unspeakable evil and looming danger. Madness awaits if you look into the

creatures' eyes. And yet readers cannot look away. What are the tools that inspire terror? Is it better to build psychological dread or send a slasher with an axe into any given scene? Our panelists know good scares and the power that the horror genre contains.

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Lunchtime Chat

Link:

Join Founder & Executive Director, Zachary Steele, for a live lunchtime chat on anything that's on your mind! Or head to one of our breakout rooms to meet and chat with a few of our speakers! This is your chance to meet these fabulous authors and ask more questions!

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Room A

Link:

Pick Your Poison: Weapons, and Magic, and Poisons, oh my!

Panelists: Trudy Nan Boyce, James Moore, Adam Sass

Moderator: TBD

Beware the taste of bitter almonds. A werewolf can only be killed by a silver bullet. A vampire can only enter your home upon invitation. A debutante must work within the standards set by polite society. The Dark Side - and all its magics and power - are never used by a true Jedi.

Authors design the rules of the world they create, especially within genres like fantasy, crime and horror. But every piece of good fiction follows its own playbook, then allows its characters to test their boundaries. Our panelists discuss their weapons of choice, the magic at their fingertips and how to build a world with logical guidelines that a reader can understand.

Room B

Link:

Workshop #1: The Art of Storytelling

Presented by Zachary Steele

Every story has a beginning, middle, and end. Whether you are a student of the three or four act method, moving characters through a plot is where the art of storytelling begins. But to truly have your story sing, it needs tension. It needs a personal flaw your character must overcome. It needs structure. Join Broadleaf Writers Founder & Executive Director, and author of *The Weight of Ashes*, Zachary Steele for a presentation on the elements and art of storytelling. From the inciting event to the resolution, the road to great storytelling weaves through the beats and debates your characters must endure. Learn the path and get your manuscript ready for readers.

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Room A

Link:

First Pages Critique

Panelists: Lou Aronica, Elizabeth Copps, Chelsey Emmelhainz

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

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 our literary agents 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, October 17th

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome Back

Link:

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Room A

Query Letter Critique

Panelists: Lou Aronica, Elizabeth Copps, Chelsey Emmelhainz

Moderator: Carmen Slaughter

When Little Orphan Annie got left on the doorstep, her parents included a note to ensure that their baby would be handled with care and affection. When you're querying new agents about your talent or your latest project, appealing to them for kindness and attention can seem just as intimidating. In this panel, agents will critique your query

letters to tell you their strengths and ways they can improve, all to help you get your baby into the right home.

Room B

Link:

Sleeping in the Bed You Made: Tropes v. Traps v. Tells

Panelists: Trudy Nan Boyce, Jacinta Howard, Lisa Kroger, Kat Zhang

Moderator: TBD

Ever written yourself into a corner? Been trapped by a trope? Felt like you're adhering too closely to genre "tells" just to make sure your reader "gets it"? Yeah, we've been there, too, and we've learned how to escape each one so our characters weren't stuck sleeping in the itchy beds we'd made for them. But rather than just tearing the sheets off the mattress, we're going to carefully pull back each one to dissect the tells, tropes, and traps that can make your novel uncomfortable for your readers, your characters, and yourself. Join us, learn from our mistakes, and sleep well afterwards.

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Room A

Link:

Say What?: How Not to Write Crappy Dialogue

Panelists: Man Martin, Deesha Philyaw, Kat Zhang

Moderator: TBD

Words without passion or motivation, revealing nothing to the reader, can bring your story to a halt.

"Hello. How are you?" "I'm fine." "Neat."

Lame conversations, empty of meaning or absent any rising tension, are the bane of a scene's existence. Lousy dialogue is the equivalent of writing *"Have a good summer"* in someone's yearbook. You have to know the right words to say. How do you write an argument that crackles and builds? How do you distinguish two characters' voices in a conversation so that everyone doesn't sound like you? How do you create a chorus of voices? How do you write a moment where something is left unsaid? Frankly, my dear, I don't know. But our panelists do.

Room B

Link:

It's Alive!: Creating Authentic Characters That Live and Breathe

Panelists: Andy Davidson, Anjali Enjeti, Sally Kilpatrick, James Moore

Moderator: TBD

You've seen it countless times before in your favorite books and shows -- the flat character that's just *there*, but doesn't *do* much or *feel* real. And what always comes across is that the author didn't quite know how to handle writing that character in order to make him or her authentic. In this panel, you'll get concrete advice on how to avoid building flat, forgettable characters of your own so that they truly live and breathe. Our panelists will also discuss crafting and giving voice to characters outside of your own demographic (race, gender, sexual preference) so that you can successfully write naturally in a voice not already your own.

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Room A

Link:

Beware the Pit: Avoiding Writing Pitfalls

Panelists: Melanie Anderson, Andy Davidson, Anjali Enjeti, Sally Kilpatrick

Moderator: TBD

Every experienced novelist will tell you that they made tons of mistakes in their earlier works. The very next thing they'll say is that, looking back on their past writings, the obvious signs of danger in their novels were everywhere: Too much telling, not enough showing; head hopping abound; narrative threads that never became knots; and so on and so forth. But you, brave writer, can avoid such misfortune. By heeding our panelists' hard-earned advice, you'll be better able to notice the "beware the pit" signs surrounding your own plot and characters -- and won't walk right into them.

Room B

Link:

You Never Forget Your First: The Debut Novel

Panelists: Benji Carr, Jessica Nettles, Adam Sass, Kat Zhang

Moderator: TBD

Writing a manuscript is just the first step. Once written, it needs an agent. It needs a home. You dream of the day you can see your book on a shelf, in the hands of a reader. But the journey from writing to bookstore is not so linear. From agent to shelf brings a constant stream of choices: edits, deadlines, rewrites, cover art, marketing plans, blurbs, and reviews. Join four authors who made the journey from manuscript to debut (and beyond!) and learn how to better prepare for your first swim in the publication pool.

12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunchtime Chats

Link:

Join Founder & Executive Director, Zachary Steele, for a live lunchtime chat on anything that's on your mind! Or head to one of our breakout rooms to meet and chat with a few of our speakers! This is your chance to meet these fabulous authors and ask more questions!

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Room A

Link:

Well, That Didn't Work: Trolling the Manuscript Graveyard

Panelists: Man Martin, James Moore, Kelly Quindlen

Moderator: TBD

You've written the thing. You feel good about the thing. But nobody else wants to read the thing. And damn that hurts, doesn't it? Here's how to survive the manuscripts that didn't make it. Our panelists dust off those first books they'd written that never got to see the full light of day, crack open the pages, and tell us how they picked up the pieces and kept putting pen to paper in spite of it all. Because this writing thing is a business after all -- it takes work to make it work -- and if you're not getting told "no," then you're never trying anything new.

Room B

Link:

You Can Handle the Truth: Writing Nonfiction

Panelists: Melanie Anderson, Anjali Enjeti, Lisa Kroger

Moderator: TBD

The history of the universe, the stories of our world, or someone's personal experience can feel impossibly daunting to a writer. Not only are you limited by facts that you have to report, you also often have a responsibility or respect toward the real people that appear within your pages. How do you tackle a non-fiction project? What is the scope of a memoir or biography? Join our panelists for a discussion on how they successfully navigated their way through true stories.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Room A

Link:

The House That Built You: The Books, Movies, and Art That Inspired

Panelists: Benji Carr, Andy Davidson, Jessica Nettles, Kelly Quindlen, Adam Sass,
Zachary Steele

Moderator: TBD

The origin of every story written often begins in someone else's pages. Whether from the pages of a book, scene in a screenplay, lyrics or music from a song, inspiration comes from all corners. Join our panel for an entertaining roundtable on the stories they cherish, the soundtracks they write to, the artists that inspired them, and the scenes that made them geek out way more than may want to admit. Be ready to chime in! We want to know what inspires you.

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Zachary Steele