Attendee Guide

North America’s Largest Literary Conference

Oregon Convention Center

awpwriter.org
#AWP19
The AWP Conference & Bookfair is an essential annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Each year more than 12,000 attendees join our community for four days of insightful dialogue, networking, and unrivaled access to the organizations and opinion-makers that matter most in contemporary literature.

Why choose #AWP19?

• Choose from over 550 literary readings, panel discussions, and bookfair stage events focusing on fiction, nonfiction, poetry and prose, social and regional issues, craft, teaching, publishing, marketing, and so much more.

• Access to the largest literary marketplace in North America. The AWP Bookfair features over 800 small presses, literary magazines, e-journals, trade publishers, writers’ centers, retreats, residencies, and writing programs from universities around the world.

• Hear readings, discussions, and attend book signings from your favorite writers, reviewers, publishers, and peers. Some of our most recent featured presenters have included Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Edwidge Danticat, Mark Doty, Rita Dove, Jennifer Egan, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ishion Hutchinson, Terrance Hayes, Tyehimba Jess, Min Jin Lee, Danez Smith, Layli Long Soldier, Sigrid Nunez, Ann Patchett, Mary Ruefle, Carmen Maria Machado, Colum McCann, Claire Messud, Lorrie Moore, VietThanh Nguyen, Claudia Rankine, George Saunders, and hundreds more.

• Network, collaborate, and have fun with your peers at hundreds of parties, receptions, and offsite events to really personalize your experience.

“I was thrilled to moderate an insightful, diverse, thoughtful, serious, funny, amazing event on the enduring legacy of William S. Burroughs. This event could have only come together at AWP.”

— Ira Silverberg, Strategic Advisor, Open Road Integrated Media, and Former Literature Director of the National Endowment for the Arts
The keynote speaker is Colson Whitehead, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author of *The Underground Railroad*. The official conference schedule will be available online mid-October, 2018.

To view the most up-to-date list of featured presenters, visit the [Featured Presenters](#) page on our website. A complete list of conference events and presenters can be found on the [2019 Conference Schedule](#) on the AWP website.

**Registration**

All attendees must be registered to attend the conference and you can [register](#) on our website! Once you register, you will receive an email with your unique registration code that you will need to pick up your registration materials onsite at the conference, including your registration badge, your #AWP19 tote bag, and a full conference schedule.

**#AWPTips**

Arrive in Portland on Wednesday, March 27 and pick up your registration materials before the Thursday rush! Registration is open from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27. Expect longer registration lines on Thursday morning.

**AVOID THE RUSH, PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION MATERIALS EARLY!**

Registration opens Wednesday, March 27, 12 noon to 7:00 pm

"The AWP conference is the greatest gathering of writers, publishers, and magazine editors in the United States. The conference allows writers to break out of their isolation and come together every year to discuss their craft and celebrate their art. Our profession would be a great deal poorer without it."

—Pablo Medina, Graduate Program Director, Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing, Emerson College, and the author of *Cubop City Blues*
Attendees are welcome to take breaks at their leisure, and concessions will be available in the Convention Center and in the Bookfair. There are also many dining options around the Oregon Convention Center available to attendees. For breakfast, you can stop by the Gluten Free Gem bakery (0.6 miles), Citizen Baker (0.2 miles), J Café (0.2 miles), Cup and Bar (0.3 miles), or Pine State Biscuits (0.6 miles).

#AWPTips

**EAT BREAKFAST!** A good breakfast can carry you through most of your day.

Attendees may also enjoy the many restaurants and bars close to the Convention Center for lunch and dinner, including Altabira (0.2 miles), Table 6 (under 0.1 miles), Nong’s Khao Man Gai (0.5 miles), and Sizzle Pie (0.5 miles).

If you’d like to get away from the Convention Center for the evening and explore other great restaurants in Portland, check out Tasty n Alder, Mother’s Bistro & Bar, Screen Door, Lechon, Marukin Ramen, Teote, Pok Pok, and ¿Por Qué No? Taqueria. The Bye and Bye and Blossoming Lotus are great vegan options.

Also nicknamed “Drip City,” Portland is one of the coffee capitols of the US, with over 40 roasters within city limits and a coffee shop on nearly every corner. Whether you head to Portland’s best-known coffee chain, Stumptown Coffee Roasters for an aeropress, to the more intimate Coava Coffee for their single-origin options, or to Heart Coffee Roasters for a sweet & clean shot of espresso, you are sure to experience some of the best coffee in the country. If you’re looking for a caffeine-boost near the Convention Center, check out Cup and Bar (0.3 miles) or Trailhead Coffee Roasters (0.3 miles). You can also visit Shift Drinks, Bit House Saloon, or Expatriate for specialty coffee cocktails.

“The AWP conference’s audience of thousands of passionate readers, writers, and teachers has been the perfect forum to showcase the National Book Critics Circle award winners and finalists. Over the past five years, I’ve hosted numerous events featuring some of contemporary literature’s best authors, and it’s hard to beat the scope of the conference year after year.”

—Jane Ciabattari, Vice President/Online, National Book Critics Circle
Portland is Oregon’s largest city and sits on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, with a beautiful view of Mount Hood to the southeast. The city is best-known for its eclectic culture, the thriving food and music scene, its focus on environmental sustainability, and for its unofficial slogan “Keep Portland Weird.”

#AWPTips

While exploring Portland, the fastest, easiest, and most affordable mode of transportation is Portland’s TriMet system, which includes the MAX light rail, the Portland Streetcar, and the bus lines. All TriMet systems are wheelchair accessible. For more information on travel options, visit our Hotel & Travel page.

The first stop on any #AWP19 attendee’s list should be Powell’s City of Books, the official bookseller of #AWP19 and the largest independent new and used bookstore in the world. The headquarters location takes up a full city block in the Pearl District, located on the west side of the Willamette River. After you visit Powell’s check out the amazing restaurants and shopping (tax-free!) in the Pearl District.

Just south of the Pearl District and right on the Willamette River is Old Town Chinatown, Portland’s oldest neighborhood. Browse hundreds of local handcrafted goods, snack on exotic foods, and enjoy live music at the Portland Saturday Market. Old Town is also the home to the original Voodoo Doughnut location where you can get unique doughnut flavors like Mexican Hot Chocolate, Vicious Hibiscus, or one of their vegan options like School Daze PB&J. Once you grab your doughnut of choice, head to the Lan Su Chinese Garden, under a half mile away, to relax and enjoy.

South of Old Town is Downtown Portland, home of Portland State University, the Portland Art Museum, and the gorgeous Washington Park. Washington Park offers miles of hiking trails, a Japanese Garden, the Oregon Zoo, and the International Rose Test Garden, where you can learn why Portland is known as the “City of Roses,” seeing more than 10,000 rose bushes with over 650 varieties.

Portland is also a great place to experience some of the country’s most beautiful natural landscapes, like Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge. If you are looking for a day hike, Forest Park is located just northwest of Portland and covers seven miles along the Tualatin Mountains. Portland also offers many wheelchair accessible trail options.
#AWPTips for First Timers

AWP is excited to welcome all those who will experience the Conference & Bookfair for the first time. We expect you will be inspired, encouraged, and invigorated in your writing life by all the AWP Conference & Bookfair has to offer. While the conference is chock-full of activities, resources, and writerly community, it can also be overwhelming due to its sheer size and scope.

Here are a few tips to help you get the most from your #AWP19 experience!

1) PLANNING IS KEY
Take a look at our online or mobile app conference schedule beforehand and design a personal schedule. Leave yourself enough time to look over the 550 events, or search the schedule by keyword or author. Allow some flexibility in your schedule as well. Choose a few ‘must-see’ events and a few ‘might-see’ events each day.

#AWPTips

You don’t want to overschedule yourself and burn out on the first day. Aim for three or four events a day and plenty of time at the Bookfair.

2) FEEL FREE TO COME AND GO FROM EVENTS AS YOU LIKE
All conference events are open to registered attendees, so you can move freely from event to event. If an event isn’t as advertised, feel free to take off early and head to a different event. Please be respectful of the presenters as you come and go.

#AWPTips

If you attend an event that doesn’t adhere to the event’s title, category, or description, let us know by rating the event on the #AWP19 mobile app.

3) VISIT THE BOOKFAIR AGAIN
As former featured presenter, Maud Casey, once described it, the Bookfair is “a wonderland: the surprise, the discovery. Book love and joy at every turn. And, of course, the incomparable swag.” The Bookfair is often ranked as the most popular part of the conference. With over 800 exhibitors, it’s tough to make it to all the booths in one trip. Come a few times, talk with the exhibitors, buy a book. Use your #AWP19 Tote Bag for your haul!
4) BRING BUSINESS CARDS & BUILD YOUR LITERARY COMMUNITY

Networking and community-building is one of the best parts of the conference. You will meet so many amazing students, writers, publishers, agents, teachers, and arts administrators in your time at the conference. The best advice is don’t be shy! Go up to people, introduce yourself, give out those business cards, and take someone else’s in return. The people you meet and the connections you make don’t have to end once the conference is over. Follow up post-conference, stay in touch, and build your literary community.

#AWPTips

We advise that you prioritize meeting new contacts and building relationships, not necessarily to sell your novel or sign with an agent. We recommend not bringing copies of your manuscript. If a publisher or agent is interested in connecting with you post-conference, they’ll follow up with you!

More #AWPTips:

• Leave room in your suitcase to bring home books & other swag from the Bookfair!
• Follow #AWPTips & #AWP19 on Twitter & join the Facebook event group.
• It’s never a bad idea to bring a snack, bottle of water, and a cellphone charger.
• Don’t forget to check out offsite events! When making your schedule, factor in transportation time to and from the offsite event.
• Wear your most comfortable shoes!

#AWP20 in San Antonio

Next year, AWP is heading to San Antonio, Texas from March 4-7, 2020! If you’re interested in becoming a presenter at #AWP20, consider submitting an event proposal. Submissions will open in March of 2019 and close on May 1, 2019.

More #AWPTips:

Start thinking of your #AWP20 proposals during #AWP19! Did you hear someone on a panel who shares your literary interest? Introduce yourself and ask them if they might be interested in joining your proposal.