



PRESS RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Transitions to Full Independence

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) has reorganized its operations to adopt an autonomous non-profit model and will no longer be affiliated with a university. Since its inception in 1967, AWP has been affiliated with a college or university – most recently with the University of Maryland, and earlier still with George Mason University – but effective today AWP is now fully independent.

“Our organization is now at a key turning point; we’re financially and institutionally strong enough to become autonomous, and that’s a natural next step in the evolution of a non-profit of our size and stature,” said Dr. Chloe Schwenke, Interim Executive Director, AWP. “We are thankful to the University of Maryland and others for their partnership over the years and for supporting us through our growth. We look forward to a continuing strong relationship with the university, especially given our proximity to campus in our current location.”

AWP will continue its mission to foster literary achievement, advance the art of writing as essential to a good education, and serve the makers, teachers, students, and readers of contemporary writing. Over the past 50 years, AWP has grown to support more than 550 college and university creative writing programs, 150 writers’ conferences and centers, and 50,000 writers throughout North America. AWP also works with a growing number of allied literary organizations to build audiences for contemporary literature. Its conference – which will next take place in Portland, Oregon in late March 2019 – attracts 12,000 each year, and AWP’s magazine has a growing circulation of tens of thousands of readers.

For the foreseeable future, AWP will remain located in the Discovery District campus adjacent to the University of Maryland at College Park.