

(prompt) **Community Writing Workshops at Powell's Books**

Write Around Portland offers a unique generative workshop called *Prompt* designed for writers and aspiring writers in the greater Portland area who want to participate in a Write Around workshop *and* support the communities we traditionally serve who might not otherwise have access to writing and community.

Based on the acclaimed Write Around Portland model, this dynamic 10-week workshop incorporates our favorite writing exercises designed to inspire the writing life, including freewriting; work with writing elements; strength-building feedback and early-draft revision. The workshop caps off with a community broadside.

Proceeds help fund Write Around Portland programs, including our free workshops in hospitals, treatment centers, schools, senior centers, prisons, low income housing buildings and homeless shelters.

Pre-registration is required and is limited to 14 adults per workshop.

NOTE: Spaces fill quickly! Call us (503.796.9224) if you have any questions and to discuss payment options.

Please scroll down to learn more about our registration, payment and cancellation policies.

2017 Sessions at Powell's City of Books - Downtown

Session 1: 10 Tuesdays, Jan 24 – Mar 28

Session 2: 10 Wednesdays, Mar 1 – May 3

Session 3: 10 Mondays, Sept 25 – Dec 4 (skip 11/20)

Session 4: 10 Wednesdays, Sept 27 – Dec 6 (skip 11/22)

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Location: Powell's City of Books

[1005 W. Burnside, downtown Portland](#)

Cost: \$300 - Payment plans available

Cost includes free parking, snacks and access to the "Bowels of Powell's."

(Accessing the "bowels of Powell's" requires climbing a flight of 12 stairs.)

Workshop facilitators listed below.

[Register online now.](#)

2017 Prompt Workshop Facilitators

Session 1: Sara Guest is an editor and poet. Previous work has included editor for Encyclopaedia Britannica, producer for Harpo Studios (Oprah's Book Club), program coordinator for Write Around Portland, and visiting artist for the Pacific Northwest College of Art. She is currently the resources manager for creative think-tank Sockeye. Recent work can be found in *West Branch Wired* and local anthology *An Untold Gaze*.

Session 2: Gwen McNeir produced her first poetry chapbook in the third grade and never looked back. Besides writing poetry and creative nonfiction, she has worked as a technical writer and researcher, communications consultant, and grant writer. She holds an MFA in Writing from Pacific University. Gwen has volunteered with Write Around Portland since 2005 and has facilitated workshops for people of all ages and backgrounds, from seniors in low-income housing to fifth graders in an afterschool program. Her work is forthcoming in *Reed* magazine.

Session 3: Chris McDonald writes under the name Chris Yamashita. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon State University and has had stories published in *Weave*, *Compose*, and *Your Impossible Voice*. He won the Defilippis-Rosselli award for writers of color and was a Semi-Finalist in Dzanc Books' International Literature Awards. A Write Around workshop facilitator since 2013, Chris has facilitated workshops for burn/wound survivors, adults with developmental disabilities, and low-income families.

Session 4: Lara Bjork writes fiction, in mostly legible longhand and usually in public. Professionally, she has written and edited environmental reports, museum exhibit labels, and, most recently, grant proposals. A long-time fan of Write Around Portland, she has facilitated workshops with people whose lives have been affected by organ donation, people who are connected to Portland's Old Town neighborhood, and anyone else who shows up at the table.

Prompt Frequently Asked Questions

What is the workshop like?

Prompt is a generative writing workshop. The focus is on creating new work using freewriting. The facilitator will bring in prompts, writing exercises and writing samples to explore different writing elements and styles. In later weeks the facilitator will introduce revision exercises.

Prompt is not genre or style specific. It works for people writing poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and screenplays. Many people choose to try out different styles and genres while others stay focused on their preferred genre.

Because *Prompt* participants generate new writing, our feedback model for this workshop focuses on what is strong in the writing so people can build from their strengths. *Prompt* is not a critique group, there is no homework and the workshop focuses on writing done during the workshop rather than bringing in outside work.

There is always a range of people in the workshop and it is a great fit for new writers, people returning to writing and people with a regular writing practice.

I'm working on a writing project. Can I work on the project in the workshop?

Yes. Most people aren't working on one specific project for the workshop, but some people have definitely done this. Some people use the prompts each week to delve further into their novel, screenplay, etc.

What can you tell me about the facilitator?

Please see facilitator bios above. All *Prompt* facilitators have completed a 27-hour training on our workshop model and have led community writing workshops for Write Around Portland.

Do you have scholarships?

No. Payments for *Prompt* and our workshops at HOTLIPS Pizza are used to help fund all of our free workshops in partnership with social service agencies throughout the community. *Prompt* fees are set; HOTLIPS workshops have a sliding-scale option. We do offer a payment plan for *Prompt*. Please call our office at 503-796-9224 for more information.

What if I'm out of town or miss a week?

That's fine. Most people end up missing a week or two. If you'd like, you can ask the facilitator for the prompts you missed. We can't discount or refund any funds for missed weeks.

Can I try it out first to see if I like it?

No, unfortunately we cannot have participants try *Prompt* due to a limited number of spots available. However, if you'd like to try our freewriting and feedback model, you are welcome to join us at HOTLIPS Pizza for our sliding-scale drop-in workshops. Our *Prompt* workshops will go more in depth and you'll start to build a community with the other writers, but our workshops at HOTLIPS Pizza are a great way to get a taste of a Write Around Portland workshop.

What if I need to cancel?

Please see our Refund and Cancellation Policy below.

Prompt Registration, Cancellation and Refund Policies

How to Register

- To ensure the success of our workshops, registration is limited to 12-15 adults per workshop (depending on the workshop). These slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
- Your registration will not be accepted without full payment, unless special payment plan options are made in advance. See below for more information about payment plans. Registrations will be processed in the order they are received.
- After the workshop spaces are filled, we will take names on a waiting list. If space becomes available, we will contact people, in order, from the waiting list.

- NOTE: By paying for the workshop in part or in full, registrants agree to these registration, cancellation and refund policies.
- We will mail or email registrants additional information, including a map and parking instructions.

Payment Plan Options

Call us at 503.796.9224 to discuss and arrange payment options.

Cancellation Policy

Write Around Portland reserves the right to cancel any workshop. In the event of cancellation, registrants will receive a full refund (read below for exceptions regarding inclement weather and other unexpected closures). We reserve the right to substitute workshop facilitators.

Inclement Weather or Other Unexpected Closures

In the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather or another unexpected closure, Write Around Portland will attempt to reschedule the cancelled workshop session for a later date and notify registrants. If the session cannot be rescheduled, Write Around Portland will issue full refunds to registrants.

NOTE: for some workshops, a make-up date for unexpected closures may be included in the list of workshop dates at the time of registration; if so, registrants are expected to hold that date open in case of rescheduling.

Refund Policy

Write Around Portland will assess a 25% handling charge for participant cancellations received up to 5 business days prior to the first day of the workshop.

Alternately, your payment may be applied to a future 10-week workshop in the same calendar year, contingent on availability, if you let us know 5 business days prior to the first day of the workshop for which you are registered.

No refunds or credits will be given 5 business days prior to the first meeting or thereafter.

We do not prorate the cost for sessions missed by participants and do not offer makeup sessions.

Individual Workshop Participant Needs

Write Around Portland welcomes adults (18 and older) to participate. We will make every effort to make accommodations for individuals. Please contact us at 503-796-9224 at least one week prior to the first workshop with requests for specific accommodations.

Questions? Call 503.796.9224