

(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.

2018 Sessions at Powell's City of Books - Downtown

Session 1: 10 Wednesdays, Jan 24 – Mar 28

Session 2: 10 Tuesdays, Mar 6 – May 8

Session 3: 10 Wednesdays, Sept 26 – Dec 5 (skip 11/21)

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.](#)

2018 Prompt Workshop Facilitators

Session 1: Molly Newgard has been a volunteer at Write Around Portland since 2011 where she has facilitated workshops for adults living with memory loss, at-risk youth, and young adults with development disabilities, among others. Writing and art have been a part of her personal and professional life for as long as she can remember. With an MA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she spent close to a decade teaching art history at Portland State before shifting gears and taking a family sabbatical to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she found inspiration for her poetry and visited as many museums and architectural sites as possible. She now writes professionally in a more technical fashion in Institutional Advancement at Lewis & Clark College.

Session 2: Michele Sabatier has believed in the unifying power of words and images since she drew them on the walls in kindergarten. Convinced that merging personal imagery with writing is a key to tapping creativity, she spent twenty years as an editor and designer in nonprofit journalism before teaching grades 7-12 language arts in rural critical-needs schools for six years. Now happily retired, as a Write Around Portland volunteer Michele has facilitated writing workshops for low-income seniors and youth, adults with developmental disabilities, and the drop-in HOTLIPS series. She is also a Portland Art Museum docent, leading museum tours for visitors who are blind or have low vision, and partners with the Alzheimer's Association providing tours for visitors with early dementia and their caregivers.

Session 3: Neil Aitken is the author of two books of poetry, *Babbage's Dream* (Sundress, 2017), a semi-finalist for the Anthony Hecht Prize, and *The Lost Country of Sight* (Anhinga, 2008), winner of the 2007 Philip Levine Prize. Born in Vancouver, BC, he grew up in Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and various parts of western United States and Canada. Although trained as a computer programmer, he left that career in 2004 to pursue creative writing and teaching. He holds both an MFA in Creative Writing from UC Riverside and a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Southern California, and is a proud Kundiman poetry fellow. He is the founding editor of *Boxcar Poetry Review* and his own poems have appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *American Literary Review*, *The Collagist*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and elsewhere. In addition to his writing and editing, he also is the administrator of *Have Book Will Travel*, the co-director of *De-Canon: A Visibility Project*, and the host of the literary podcast series, *The Lit Fantastic*. He lives in Vancouver, WA where he works as an independent creative writing coach and leads writing workshops in the Portland area. For more information, visit his website: www.neil-aitken.com

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