

(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.

2020 Sessions at Powell's City of Books - Downtown

Session #1: 10 Wednesdays, Jan 15 – Mar 18, 2020

Session #2: 10 Thursdays, Mar 5 – May 7, 2020

Session #3: 10 Mondays, Oct 5 – Dec 14, 2020 (skip 11/23)

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: [Powell's City of Books](#), Downtown Portland

Fee: \$300 (Payment plans available.) Fee includes snacks and access to "Powell's Loft." (*Accessing the "Loft" requires climbing a flight of 12 stairs.*)

[Register online now.](#)

[Click here for more details about *Prompt*.](#)

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm

Location: Powell's City of Books

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

Cost: \$300 - Payment plans available

Cost includes snacks and access to the "Bowels of Powell's."
(*Accessing the "Powell's Loft" requires climbing a flight of 12 stairs.*)

Workshop facilitators listed below.

[Register online now.](#)

2020 Prompt Workshop Facilitators

Session 1: Patricia Kullberg, MD, MPH worked for two decades in a clinic of last resort in downtown Portland. *On the Ragged Edge of Medicine: Doctoring Among the Dispossessed*, a memoir about her patients and her practice, was published in 2017 by OSU Press. Her historical novel, *Girl in the River* (Bygone Era Books, 2015), explores mid-twentieth century Portland through the lives of a high dollar hooker and the famed abortionist Ruth Barnett. Her novel-in-progress follows the intertwined lives of two families living in Vanport, a housing project for World War II era shipyard workers. Kullberg lives in Portland, where she volunteers as a board operator for KBOO and agitates against fossil fuels with Physicians for Social Responsibility. She has facilitated workshops for Write Around Portland since 2012.

Session 2: Upon reading her very first sentence, with its decoding of each word and the world that emerged from them strung together – Thumbelina begins traveling on her lily pad – **Dominique Brillanceau** knew that words were not only utilitarian but unlocked many worlds: the ones in books but also ones she could create. Since then, she has always written in journals, short stories and poetry. Born and raised in France, she remembers her first year in the U.S and her weekly letters home where she wrote her observations and critiques of the new culture. Enamored with English – so much simpler than French – she taught English as a Second Language for 30 years at Portland Community College. She writes every day, the challenge being to use the fewest words to express as much as possible. To her, Prompt means pushing her creativity to bring many worlds forth and together in a short time.

Session 3: Hannah Withers is a writer and short person living in Portland, OR. She's taught creative writing at the University of Montana, and in Montana's youth correctional facilities. Her fiction and journalism have been published by *The Kenyon Review*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *The Believer Magazine*, and *NPR*, and she was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Gulf Coast Fiction Prize. She's finishing up her novel about cowboys (female), and rage (also female), and loves writing to find humor, and voice, and the soft, painful parts underneath those things.

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

Write Around Portland will not issue a refund due to an unexpected cancellation outside of Write Around Portland's control. This includes closures due to inclement weather, emergencies, facilitator illness, venue/partner cancellations or another unexpected closure. Write Around Portland will attempt to reschedule the cancelled workshop session for a later date and notify 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. Refunds minus the 25% handling charge will be issued by check.

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