

(prompt) Community Writing Workshops Online

Write Around Portland offers a unique generative workshop called *Prompt* designed for writers and aspiring writers 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 at 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.

2021 Sessions Online

Session 1: 10 Thursdays, Jan 7 – Mar 11, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 pm

Session 2: 10 Saturdays, Mar 13 – May 15, 2021 from 10 am-12 pm

Session 3: 10 Thursdays, Sept 16 – Nov 18, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: In the comfort of your own home or any location with a tech device with microphone & camera capabilities and Internet access. You will receive a Zoom link to the online workshop in your registration confirmation email.

Fee: \$300 (Payment plan available.)

[Register online now.](#)

Prompt Workshop Facilitators

Session 1: Katie Steele grew up wanting to be a spy, and failing that, a writer. After spending formative years writing poetry, short fiction and essays at the Chicago Academy for the Arts,

she moved to Portland, where she continued to study short fiction with professors, students and other writers at Reed College. She completed her undergraduate thesis on the expanded role of activist networks and religious institutions in the years of recovery that followed Hurricane Katrina, and graduated with a BA in Religion. Her work has been published in *Eclectica Magazine* – later reprinted in *Eclectica's 20th Anniversary "Best Poetry"* anthology – and *Reed Magazine*. Delving into playwriting, she also adapted Anne Sexton's *Transformations* into a play for a Chicago theater group. Following graduation from Reed, she began work with Write Around Portland, beginning with random tasks around the office and providing assistance at readings and fundraising events before becoming a Workshop Facilitator. She is excited to hold a safe and engaging space to explore and forge connections through the act of writing.

Session 2: 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 the 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 writing poetry, he also works on literary translations of contemporary Chinese poetry and has recently completed his first opera libretto, a commissioned work for LA Opera. He lives in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada where he works as an online creative writing coach and manuscript editor.

Session 3: Chelsea Querner is a poet and pug-lover living in Portland. She originally hails from the Boston area and earned her MFA in creative writing from UNC-Greensboro, where she served as the Poetry Editor of *The Greensboro Review*. Chelsea has been involved as a volunteer in the Write Around Portland community and as a facilitator since 2015. When not writing, Chelsea can be found hiking mountains for inspiration, dancing on her yoga mat or couch surfing with her pug, Mia.

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* are used to help fund our free workshops in partnership with social service agencies throughout the community. *Prompt* fees are set. 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 our weekly drop-in online writing workshops. Our *Prompt* workshops will go more in depth and you'll start to build a community with the other writers, but our weekly workshops are a great way to get a taste of a Write Around Portland workshop. You can find more information on the [Workshop page](#) on our website.

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 Zoom link to the online workshop.

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 refund (read below for exceptions regarding inclement weather and other unexpected closures) for the session(s) missed. 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 up to 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.