

COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP

2024 Spring Writes Literary Festival Guidelines & Application Information

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Application Deadline: February 23rd, 9:00pm



ABOUT THE SPRING WRITES LITERARY FESTIVAL

Live: May 2nd to 5th / Zoom: May 11th to 18th
(Live & Zoom workshops through Sept)

- **The Spring Writes Literary Festival is a program of the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County (CAP).** Learn about all of CAP's programs, grants, and services at [ArtsPartner.org](https://www.artspartner.org).
- CAP organized the first Festival in 2009 in collaboration with the New York State Council on the Arts to shine a light on the abundance of literary talent in our region and to bring writers and audiences together. It has grown from 12 events that first year to 40 events in recent years.
- Events include panels, readings, performances, happenings, and workshops that can be of interest to established or emerging writers, and/or the literary-loving general public.
- In 2023 there were over 1500 live and Zoom registrations, estimated at 850 unique individuals, with 33% from other NY counties, other states. and other countries.
- Admission is free to the general public. (Some events with community partners may have a cover fee.)
- In 2024, we will have one weekend with just live events (May 2nd to 5th), with an additional week of Zoom only events from May 11th to 18th. Live and Zoom workshops may continue throughout the summer.
- Find 2023 Spring Writes event recordings at [SpringWrites.org](https://www.springwrites.org) along with the 110 [Participating Artists](#).

SEEKING ARTISTS

- **Events and participants are chosen through** an application process, CAP's collaborations and/or direct invitations to local community organizations and artists.
- **Event Organizers** fill out a google form application to propose **panels, readings, workshops, and performances or happenings.**
- **Individuals** can apply to be part of group readings that CAP organizes.

2024 PRIORITIES

- **Writers who reside in Tompkins County** will be one priority.
- **Writers from other areas are encouraged to apply if they fit the following priorities.**
 - **Diversity:** CAP's mission is to ensure equitable access to the arts, and to cultivate a creative culture that reflects our community's diversity. **We welcome requests from BIPOC and LGBTQIA writers, middle or high school student writers, writers that represent marginalized communities, and those with unique voices or challenges.**
 - **Presenting a diverse, varied, and exciting lineup of events** for the public is also a priority, as are events that have a likelihood (or history of) great audience attendance.
- **We welcome ideas that are inclusive of other arts forms.** (See "Performances and Happenings" below).
- **We are excited to work with you to create a great 2024 Festival! Email with questions or ideas!**
- **Note: Past participation is not a guarantee of 2024 inclusion.** The number of great incoming applications will far exceed our capacity.

FIVE TYPES OF SPRING WRITES EVENTS

Event Organizers:

Event Organizers propose and organize events. They will also be the point person for scheduling and communications with CAP for their group. Event Organizers can propose the following:

- **Thematic Group Readings** with 3 to 5 writers. 60 to 75 minutes.
- **Panel Discussions** (craft, genre, publishing, experiences...) 3 - 4 panelists. 60 to 75 minutes.
- **Performances and Happenings** There are many possibilities for literary themed events! Past performances and happenings have included play readings of work by local writers, local actors reading local authors' work [accompanied by music], storytelling, jazz poetry, open mics, games such as literary jeopardy or literary trivia, an independent book fair, an art show with a literary theme, film screenings, video, spoken word with dance, and more.
- **Workshops** (e.g. genre, writing, bookmaking...) can be up to 90 minutes.

Individuals can:

- apply to be part of **Group Readings**, CAP will organize 3 or 5 group readings with about 5 writers each. Each writer will have up to 10 minutes.
- Writers can read spoken word, memoir, poetry, fiction, creative literary nonfiction, have a play reading, run video or anything else with a literary theme, even a short performance.

STIPENDS

There are many different ways that organizations and individuals participate in Spring Writes, so writer stipends can vary from circumstance to circumstance. In general, we have stipends for group reading writers and panelists (about \$40 each), the Event Organizers (about \$150), and workshop leaders (about \$200). For performances with a large number of artists, there may be a max on the amount we can allocate for the entire event. Checks will be mailed after the event.

DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS

Live and Zoom

Applicants are asked for their preference for taking part in a Zoom or live event.

LIVE EVENTS: **Thursday, May 2 - Sunday, May 5**

- **All live events will be scheduled during one long weekend for visitor ease and increased audience participation.** Locations may include the Tompkins County Public Library, CAP's Gallery (CAP ArtSpace), Buffalo Street Books, Community School of Music and Arts, community centers, and more. We are planning for events on Thursday and Friday evenings, and throughout the day and evenings on Saturday and Sunday.
- Event Organizers can list location preferences. The Festival is quite a puzzle to put together with many moving parts, so preferences are not guaranteed.
- Tech needs: If an event has tech needs beyond microphones, the Event Organizer will organize, find equipment, and coordinate with the venue after scheduling.
- **Events must be in a wheelchair accessible location to be an official part of Spring Writes.** If you are accepted into Spring Writes but prefer to schedule your own event in a non-accessible location such as the Kava Bar or the Downstairs, it can be listed in the festival lineup and promoted as a "Community Partner Event," but we can not pay stipends. In these cases, artists can charge a cover.

ZOOM EVENTS: **Saturday, May 11 - Saturday, May 18, evenings**

- will be **scheduled and run by CAP** with links and registration on the Spring Writes website.
- can include video, screen sharing, and any other Zoom function.

WORKSHOPS: **May 3 through August**

- Some live workshops may be scheduled during the first weekend. Some workshops, both live and Zoom, will take place from late May through September. (We find that attendance is much stronger when workshops are separated by time.)

SPRING WRITES PROMOTION

Spring Writes is promoted by CAP through social media, paid radio and online ads, multiple event calendars and listings, banners, area listservs, downtown Ithaca promotion, Visitor Center promotion, radio interviews, multiple emails to our list of 11,000 CAP supporters, a Cinemapolis screen banner, emails to English Departments (local and statewide), an ad in Poets and Writers, and more. There will be multiple participating writer features on social media, with boosted posts to literary lovers far and wide.

- **NEW FOR 2024:** It is required that writers also promote their events (via social media and/or personal invites to networks) whether they are organizing an event or reading at an event. Specific links and suggestions will be provided.

TIMELINE: APPLICATION PROCESS & FOLLOW UP

Ask questions anytime or run ideas by Robin!

Programs@artspartner.org

February 23, 9:00pm: Application Forms Due

- If you have **multiple events to propose**, please fill out one form for each.
- You will have the ability to go back and **edit your applications** before the deadline. You may need to sign into google. If you do not have a google user name and password, you can create one.

Event Organizer Form: <https://forms.gle/pELj67UMZeV5NvdaA>

The application asks for contact info, type of event, proposed title and description, live or zoom preference, any alignment with stated festival priorities, event organizer short bio, names of potential participating artists, location preference if any. If selected, a follow up form collects more information, final copy, and your available dates and times.

Individuals into Group Readings form: <https://forms.gle/OTUibusE5XWPNK8RA>

Individuals are asked for contact info, a short bio, any alignment to stated festival priorities, what you would like to read, and genre. If selected, a follow up form collects more information, and your available dates and times.

February 26: Panel Meets

- A panel of local writers, Artistic Director nicole v. basta, and CAP staff will select from the proposals, based on the priorities listed above. We expect over 75 event proposals and may select up to 30, with up to 10 additional workshops. We expect about 50 individual writer applications and can accept 20.
- **Note:** When viewing proposals, CAP staff and the Artistic Director may contact applicants with questions or suggestions for tweaking a proposed event or event description with a goal of promoting wider public understanding and/or audience interest.

February 27 - 28: Applicants Notified & Follow Up Form Sent

March 10: Follow Up Forms Due

- If accepted, a follow up form is sent to Event Organizers for finalized event details, names and emails of participating writers, event needs, and (for both Event Organizers and Individual Artists) a checklist of available dates/times, final decision for Zoom or live preference.
- Note to Individuals: It is possible that if an individual accepted for a CAP organized group reading lists limited date options, those options may not line up with the majority and they may not be able to participate, despite being selected through the application process.

March 20: Bio Google Forms Due

- Once we have all participant names from the Event Organizer's follow up forms, we'll send all Spring Writes participants a google form to collect information for: a) the Participating Writer page on the Spring Writes website to include headshot, up to 65 word bio, contact info or links; and b) name and street address for mailing of stipend.