



2024-2025 Year-Long Writing Project Handbook - Summer Start Online

Table of Contents:

Loft Mission & Vision.....	1
Our Commitment to Equity and Antiracism.....	1
Registration.....	1
Participation Information.....	2
Cohort Meetings.....	3
Final Readings.....	4
Consultations and Visits.....	4
Communal Writing Space.....	5
Registration Policy Note.....	6
Payment Options.....	6
Refund Policy.....	7
Refund Disclaimers.....	8
Additional Costs.....	9
2024 Children’s Literature Writing Project with Lisa Bullard.....	10
2024 Year-Long Fiction Writing Project 2024-2025.....	18
Year-Long Writing Project Access Funds.....	27



Loft Mission & Vision

The Loft advances the power of writers and readers to craft and share stories, to create and celebrate connections, and to build just, life-sustaining communities. We envision a world where the power of the word liberates minds, deepens relationships, and inspires movements for people and planet. As an antiracist organization, the Loft develops literary experiences for writers, readers, and storytellers because racism dehumanizes people, and poetry and stories deepen our connection to our shared humanity. Recognizing the relationship between race, power, and resources, we prioritize the engagement of BIPOC/marginalized communities and work for the equitable distribution of our power and resources.

Our Commitment to Equity and Antiracism

The Loft's ongoing commitment to being an anti-racist organization means that everyone within the Loft community—staff, board, teaching artists, students, audience members, and other program participants—share the responsibility of cultivating an equitable classroom, conference, festival, and event learning environment. We ask that every Loft community member help to create spaces that reflect our shared anti-racist and equity-based values, as articulated in our [values statement on equity and anti-racism](#); in our [antiracism commitment](#); and in our [code of conduct](#). If you have questions or concerns about taking on this shared responsibility while a student in a class or Year-Long Writing Project, please reach out to the Loft's Program Manager of Education at mmanzler@loft.org.

Registration

Registration opens on April 18 for Friends and April 19 for the general public. Priority consideration in Year-Long Fiction or Children's Literature cohorts by May 7. Registration is on a first-come; first-serve basis. Once registered and payment confirmed, we will schedule a check in between you and the teaching artist to ensure that the program is a good fit for your goals. In the unlikely chance



you and the teaching artist meet and your project is not a fit, you are eligible for a full refund. More details [here](#).

Come to our free, virtual [information session](#) on May 1 at 4:30-5:30 PM or May 16 at 12-1 PM to hear from the teaching artists, get detailed information about each of the Year-Long Writing Projects, and see if this program is a fit for you.

Participation Information

Participation is limited to 12 people per project cohort for the year. Cohorts will form a close community of writers. There is no application for the Year-Long Writing Projects; registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Access Funds require an application.

Each participant will receive:

- Four one-on-one mentor meetings with the teaching artist to consult on your individual project (including a final full manuscript critique)
- Online cohorts will meet virtually throughout the year; no in-person meetings will be required. Online cohorts have their virtual classroom available to them via Zoom for the duration of their year. These spaces are available for Year-Long Writing participants to utilize at any time for writing and discussion space outside of group cohort meetings.
- 32 cohort meetings throughout the year. These meetings will include:
 - Instruction on craft
 - Engaging discussion of craft, readings, and student work
 - Generative writing time
 - Workshopping
 - Visiting authors and publishing professionals
 - Teaching mentor consultations
 - Final manuscript consultation



- A final public reading (five to seven minutes from each reader) at the Loft, or virtually for the online program, in April 2025.

Cohort Meetings

During the summer term (June–August), cohorts will meet biweekly (every other week) and select Saturdays. Each cohort will meet weekly again during the fall session (12 weeks, September–December) and winter/spring session (12 weeks, February–April). For details on exact dates and times, visit the project specific webpages:

[Fiction Writing Project](#) | [Children’s Literature Project](#)

Each meeting will be organized and carefully planned, and you will be asked to participate fully. The cohort simply won’t work without everyone’s engagement; your participation is key throughout, as class meeting times are meant to keep your writing goals on schedule. Many of the cohort meetings will include virtual visits with established publishing professionals.

The main focus of each cohort’s time will be workshop-based and craft-focused, and you will also be assigned a series of books and craft exercises.

During the summer months, you will focus even more on your own writing with direction from their teaching mentor.

September is a time for assigned craft study and independent study/work, and to make progress on your manuscript.

In the fall and winter/spring sessions, cohorts will focus on writing, workshopping, and revision but will also move into discussions about the business of writing and publishing. Class meetings will host industry professionals as special guests.

In addition to class meetings, each participant will have four one-on-one meetings throughout the year with Alison or Lisa to consult on individual book projects. This



includes a final manuscript consultation session that will take place in May or June 2025 once the teaching artist has had a chance to read and critique each manuscript. Manuscripts must be handed in on the final day of the winter/spring term class session in April 2025, and the final one-on-one meeting must take place no later than June 2025.

Final Readings

The Year-Long Writing Projects will culminate in a public reading online via Zoom in April 2025. Each student will read for five to seven minutes from their manuscript.

Consultations and Visits

Visiting Authors & Publishing Professionals | Over the course of the year, several published authors and publishing industry professionals will visit cohorts during class.

These visits are intended to provide guidance and resources to you on your career path, and will be largely informal and include ample opportunity to interact with and ask questions of the guests. Visiting authors will either attend class in-person or via a Zoom call.

These meetings are not intended as an opportunity for you to pitch your work, nor does enrolling in a Year-Long Writing Project guarantee future publication.

Teaching Artist Consultations | Each student is expected to meet individually with their teaching mentor regularly during the Year-Long Writing Project. Meetings will be scheduled as follows, with accommodations made to suit the needs of individual students:

- one introductory meeting, to take place before cohort meetings begin in June 2024;
- one meeting at the beginning of summer,
- one meeting at the end of summer,



- one final manuscript consultation meeting at the conclusion of the writing project (more about manuscript consultations below)

The purpose of these meetings will be wide-ranging and individualized, but their primary function is to discuss plans and courses of action for each writer.

Final Manuscript Consultation | At the end of the Year-Long Writing Project, students are expected to submit their final manuscript to their teaching artist. The teaching artist will read each submission, provide a written critique, and meet individually with each student to verbally discuss feedback. These consultations will take place after the conclusion of the Year-Long Writing Project in April 2025 and must be scheduled between May 2025 and June 2025 (no extensions or exceptions).

Please note: it is the responsibility of each student to complete and submit their manuscript to their teaching artist by the final class meeting. If a student fails to do so, the teaching artist will only read what has been submitted on the final day of class. Final manuscripts must also be properly formatted (refer to your syllabus and confer with your teaching artist for details).

Communal Writing Space

Online cohorts have their virtual classroom available to them via Zoom for the duration of the program. These spaces are available for Year-Long Writing participants to utilize at any time for writing and discussion space outside of group cohort meetings.

Registration Policy Note

As with any Loft class or event, the Loft reserves the right to refuse registration or participation to anyone disruptive to the class environment or disrespectful of the teaching artist, fellow students, or an equitable learning environment for all.



Payment Options

Payments can be made online at loft.org, over the phone by calling 612-379-8999, email at edu@loft.org, or stopping by the Loft office at Open Book at 1011 Washington Ave South #200 Minneapolis, MN 55415.

- 1. Full Payment: \$7,500 is due in full at the time of registration, which includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit.**
- 2. Sezzle Payment Plan: \$1,875 due at the time of registration, followed by four interest-free installment payments over six weeks. This payment plan is only available when you register online at loft.org.** At checkout, simply select the “pay with Sezzle” option. You will pay \$1,875 on the day of registration (including a \$500 nonrefundable deposit), followed by three more interest-free payments of \$1,875 over six weeks. Approximately 25% of the balance is due each time until it is paid off. Sezzle is a third-party payment platform that securely processes and manages the payments.
- 3. Monthly Payment Plan: \$3,750 is due at the time of registration, which includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit.** 12 monthly payments of \$320.83 will be made via a credit card number given to the Loft at the time of registration. Credit cards must have an expiration date that extends through the following year. A fee of \$50 will be assessed for each occurrence of a return of payment for insufficient funds.

If the student is a Loft friend at the qualifying level (either a monthly sustaining friend or a one time donor of \$60 or above) they will receive a \$5 discount on their monthly payments. The total cost of this payment plan is \$7,600 for regular price and \$7540 for Loft friends.

Full access to the Year-Long Children’s Literature Writing Project or Fiction Writing Project:

- \$7,500 for non-benefits constituents paid in full at registration



- \$7,440 for Loft friends paid in full at registration
- \$7,600 on payment plan for non-benefits constituents (\$3,750 at registration, \$320.83 per month for twelve months)
- \$7,540 for Loft friends (\$3,750 at registration, \$315.83 per month for twelve months)
- \$1,875 on Sezzle (followed by 3 payments of \$1,875 over six weeks)

Refund Policy

The student understands that their initial payment includes a \$500 non-refundable deposit.

If you decide not to participate once registered, please notify the Education Department of your intention to drop by calling 612-379-8999. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements with someone else from the waitlist.

Full Refund Deadline | If you register for the Year-Long Writing Project and decide not to participate, you must notify the Education department **no later than 5:00 p.m. CT on Tuesday, May 28, 2024**, in order to receive a full refund **minus the nonrefundable \$500 deposit**.

- What this means if you paid in full: \$7,000 (for non-benefits constituents) / \$6,940 (for friends) refunded
- If you paid with Sezzle: \$7,000 refunded to original payment method
- If you're paying monthly: \$3,250 refunded; all 12 upcoming automatic monthly payments canceled

50 Percent Refund Deadline | If you register for the Year-Long Writing Project and decide not to participate anytime **after 5:00 p.m. CT on Tuesday, May 28, 2024**, you must notify the Education Department of your intention to withdraw **before your first cohort meeting in 2024** in order to receive a 50 percent refund.

- What this means if you paid in full: \$3,500 refunded



- If you paid with Sezzle: \$3,500 refunded to original payment method and/or upcoming payments canceled
- If you're paying monthly: all 12 upcoming automatic monthly payments canceled

Conditions for a 100 Percent Refund | In the rare event that, after the required introductory one-on-one meeting between the student and teaching artist (which takes place before the first class meeting), one or both parties feel that the program or student/teaching mentor relationship is not a good fit, the student may notify the Loft's Education Department of their decision to withdraw and receive a 100 percent refund. This is the **only** opportunity for any student to receive a 100 percent refund. To withdraw and claim a refund, students must notify the Education Department (612-379-8999) **after** the one-on-one meeting with their teaching artist and **before** the start of the first class meeting.

Refund Disclaimers

- There are no refunds once the first class meeting has started. No exceptions.
- There are no refunds in the event of a substituted visiting guest. If an unforeseen circumstance precludes the scheduled participation of a visiting author or industry professional, the Loft reserves the right to substitute another high-caliber writing professional in their place.
- There are no refunds or prorated tuition for students who are unable to attend a class session, visiting author event, final reading, or scheduled one-on-one meeting for any reason, including illness, vacation plans, life events, etc. It is the student's responsibility to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of the program, obtain missed class content from the instructor, and reschedule any missed one-on-one sessions with respect for their instructor's schedule.



Additional Costs

- Book purchases (though consider libraries and used book stores!)
- Writing tools (laptop, notebooks, pens/pencils, etc.)
- High speed internet connection
- Costs associated with updating software for old computers
- Any unforeseen costs not listed here

If you have additional questions that have not been covered here, please contact the Loft Education Department at 612-379-8999.

Technology

High speed internet access and an up to date computer with camera and microphone are required. The Loft is not able to provide internet or computer technology to students, but we are happy to provide resources and assistance with accessing technology. Please email edu@loft.org with any accommodation requests at least two weeks in advance of the class start date so that we have adequate notice to take care of your request.

If you have questions or concerns about your technology needs, please connect with the Loft's Education team at edu@loft.org **before** registering.



2024 Children’s Literature Writing Project with Lisa Bullard

The Loft Literary Center

Project Leader Lisa Bullard

Thursdays Via Zoom | all times listed in US Central Time

Starts June 13, 2024

Year-Long Children’s Literature Project Schedule - Summer Start Cohort

Meeting dates

(Calendar is subject to adjustment; specific class dates listed after the workshop description)

[Year-Long Writing Project Information Session #1](#)

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

4:30-5:30 p.m. CST

Online/Zoom

[Year-Long Writing Project Information Session #2](#)

Wednesday, May 16, 2024

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Online/Zoom

[Year-Long Writing Project Registration](#)

Opens April 18 for friends; April 19 for general public

Priority consideration by May 7

10:00 a.m.CST via website, phone, or email

Year-Long Writing Project Orientation Meeting

Required of all participants

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Online/Zoom



Year-Long in Children's Literature Final Public Loft Reading

Thursday, April 24, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

Online/Zoom

Summer 2024 Session Meetings

8 Thursdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled.

June 13 – August 17, 2024

- 8 full class meetings, Thursdays and Saturdays, with additional one week of individual conferences
- **Note:** no meeting July 4
- Half-hour individual meetings instead of workshop on July 25

Summer Independent Study Time

August 19-September 12

One month of independent study time between the final summer meeting and the start of the fall cohort meetings; this time is to be used for independent writing time, focusing on aspects of craft your teaching mentor feels will help your development as a writer; deep reading, of your own work as well as books outside of the cohort reading list that will benefit your writing; one to one meetings with your teaching mentor; writing group meetings with your cohort members.

Fall 2024 Session Meetings

12 Thursdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. CST except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled.



September 19 – December 12, 2024

- Note: No meeting November 28

Winter/Spring 2025 Session Meetings

12 Thursdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

January 16 – April 3, 2025

Final workshops this term and final guest author.

Final manuscripts are turned in on April 3, with a final one to one meeting scheduled with teaching mentor no later than June 26, 2025.

Course Description

Books can play a profound role in influencing children’s curiosity, understanding, and imagination—and the writers who create these titles often help shape the lives of children they will never meet. This year-long program will immerse adults who are interested in writing children’s books in a study of this dynamic and challenging arena. Writers will explore the possibilities inherent in creating books at the intersection of exceptional craft and the distinctive demands of a young audience. If you have ever dreamed of writing a children’s book, this deep dive into writing for young readers will give you a solid foundation for pursuing that goal. Class sessions will focus on what goes into creating appealing picture books, easy readers, chapter books, and middle grade books. We’ll explore fiction, nonfiction, poetry, hybrid, and graphic approaches for readers/listeners ages newborn to twelve. We’ll evaluate a diverse and inclusive assortment of contemporary published children’s books. We’ll discuss students’ works-in-progress in a way that provides constructive and respectful feedback. Class lectures will focus on techniques and real-world examples of how you can make your own writing more powerful. Small-group sessions and guest lecturers will add to your sense of being part of a writing community. Out-of-class assignments will stretch you as a writer.



The teaching mentor is committed to creating a classroom environment where every student is welcomed and valued, with a goal of helping each student reach the next level with their writing. The program is open to writers who are already writing for children and those who are new to this arena. The program is not a guarantee of publication, but we'll definitely talk about how you might shape your work so it is more likely to be appealing to today's publishers. However, the program also has much to offer individuals who are writing for other purposes, including the creation of family stories or self-publishing. The element that will bring us together as a cohort is a commitment to creating work that engages and inspires young readers.

One-on-One Consultations and Final Manuscripts

Each student will also meet one-on-one with the project leader four times over the course of the year-long program. These meetings include one introductory meeting before the program kicks off on June 13, 2024, and one manuscript consultation session after April 3, 2025 when the program concludes (and by which date you need to have submitted your 3-5 final manuscripts, to be completed no later than June 26, 2025).

Assigned Readings

We'll explore a diverse and inclusive list of children's books, including picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and young adult titles such as: *A Different Pond* by Bao Phi, *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer, *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich, *All Thirteen* by Christina Soontornvat, *Victory. Stand!* by Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes, & Dawud Anyabwile, *Last Night I Sang to the Monster* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

May 1, 2024 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: info session #1 (Online/Zoom)

May 16, 2024 1:00 pm-1:00 pm: info session #2 (Online/Zoom)

June 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: orientation meeting (Online/Zoom)

April 24, 2025 7:00 p.m.: public reading (Online/Zoom)

Workshops: Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Central Time (except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled)

Summer Session

June 13, 2024

June 20, 2024

June 27, 2024

July 11, 2024

July 25, 2024: individual conferences

August 1, 2024

August 15, 2024

August 17

Fall Session

September 19, 2024

September 26, 2024

October 3, 2024

October 10, 2024: individual conferences

October 17, 2024

October 24, 2024

October 31, 2024

November 7, 2024

November 14, 2024

November 21, 2024



December 5, 2024

December 12, 2024: individual conferences

Winter/Spring Session

January 16, 2025

January 23, 2025

January 30, 2025

February 6, 2025

February 13, 2025

February 20, 2025: individual conferences

February 27, 2025

March 6, 2025

March 13, 2025

March 20, 2025

March 27, 2025

April 3, 2025

April-May: final individual one-hour meetings



2024 Year-Long Fiction Writing Project with Alison McGhee

The Loft Literary Center

Project Leader: Alison McGhee

Via Zoom | all times listed in US Central Time

Year-Long Fiction Project Schedule - Summer Start Cohort

Meeting dates

(Calendar is subject to adjustment; specific class dates listed after the workshop description)

[Year-Long Writing Project Information Session #1](#)

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

4:30-5:30 p.m. CST

Online/Zoom

[Year-Long Writing Project Information Session #2](#)

Wednesday, May 16, 2024

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Online/Zoom

[Year-Long Writing Project Registration](#)

April 18 for friends and April 19 for general public

10:00 p.m. Central Time via website, phone, or email

Year-Long Writing Project Orientation Meeting

Required of all participants

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Online/Zoom



Fiction Writing Project Final Public Loft Reading

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.

Online/Zoom

Summer Meetings

9 Tuesdays & Saturdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Central Time and 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Central Time except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled.

June 10 – August 17, 2024

- 8 full class meetings, Tuesdays and Saturdays, with additional one week of individual conferences
- **Note:** no meeting July 2
- Half-hour individual meetings instead of workshop on July 23

Summer Independent Study Time (August 18-September 9): Independent study time between the final summer meeting and the start of the fall cohort meetings; this time is to be used for independent writing time, focusing on aspects of craft your teaching mentor feels will help your development as a writer; deep reading, of your own work as well as books outside of the cohort reading list that will benefit your writing; one to one meetings with your teaching mentor; writing group meetings with your cohort members.

Fall Meetings

14 Tuesdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Central Time except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled.

September 10 – December 17, 2024

- 10 full class meetings with additional two weeks of individual conferences
- **Note:** No meeting October 15 or November 26
- Half-hour individual meetings: October 29, December 17
- Guest authors/speakers throughout this term



Winter/Spring Meetings

12 Tuesdays | 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled.

January 7 – April 8, 2025

- 12 full meetings with additional two weeks of individual conferences
- Note: No meeting February 11
- Half-hour individual meetings February 25
- Guest authors/speakers throughout this term
- Final manuscripts will be turned in on April 8, with a final one-to-one meeting scheduled with teaching mentor no later than May 30, 2025

Course meetings

Our workshop will meet every week over Zoom; there will be no in-person meetings. Typically, five Tuesdays in a row will be devoted to discussion of craft, mini-lectures, writing prompts, and feedback on 3-4 workshop submissions, with oral feedback and a written summary expected from participants and editing, margin notes, written summaries, and oral feedback from the Teaching Mentor. The sixth Tuesday will be devoted to 20 to 30-minute individual conferences.

Course Description

We'll be diving into fiction in all its glorious forms throughout the year. What are you drawn to? What are you interested in writing? Short stories, flash fiction, sudden fiction, novels for adults, novels for children, less-definable fiction forms and structures: we are open to all of it. I've always loved to experiment in my fiction writing and you should feel free to do the same. The advantages of a multi-genre fiction workshop are many: reading and thinking deeply about fiction in a genre adjacent but unfamiliar to your own work can expand our creativity and positively



influence our own writing. Throughout the year, you may be drawn to and want to experiment with various forms of fiction, and we welcome that as well.

Despite the possibility of multiple genres of fiction, our workshop will encompass all the building blocks of fiction in general. We'll talk about what all fiction, no matter its specific form, shares in common: the creation of people and places and worlds that are alive to us, that feel real no matter how speculative they may be, that share some deep humanity with ourselves. We'll consider the architecture of various fictional forms—what are the essential frameworks of short stories, novels, flash fiction, and other less definable works? How did each writer achieve their purpose? What can we learn from every piece of reading, and every writer submission, that we read?

We'll read widely throughout the year, with an emphasis on brief writings that illuminate fiction's breadth and depth and beauty. Note that our readings will often include writing that's *not* fiction; poems, creative nonfiction, small essays and memoirs, even children's picture books all contain structures, language, and innovative frameworks that can help us be better fiction writers. We'll also invite critically acclaimed guest authors to some of our meetings, the better to understand their processes and sources of creativity. These discussions will be informal and free-ranging, based largely on your own questions regarding the authors' work. We may also host a discussion with a publishing professional, such as an agent, editor, or bookseller.

Workshop Structure

Each meeting will include discussion of assigned readings, a brief writing prompt, mini-craft lecture (for example, Tense, Point of View, Beginnings, Endings, Character Development, etc.), followed by discussion of submissions (typically three submissions per session). Each writer will submit up to two submissions per each five- to six-week period. Word count limits will depend upon your chosen genre, but



for long-form writers who are submitting twice in each period, each submission will not exceed 4000 words. Most work should be double-spaced and page-numbered, using 12-point font and a standard typeface. We'll spend approximately twenty minutes per individual submission per workshop session. If your goal is to experiment with various forms of fiction and delve deeply into all aspects of fiction writing and craft, you will be able to do that. If your goal is to complete a full draft of your fiction project, you will be able to do this by the end of the year as well.

Our aim, when reading and discussing each submission, is to focus on the life within it. What is the heart and soul of the piece? Where does it come alive? What fascinates you about it? What would you love to see more of? How about the title? The voice and style and use of language? The beginning? The ending? The arc and flow of the passage? Does this character or that one spark your intrigue, melt your heart, piss you off, cause you to consider your own life more deeply or from a different angle? All submitted work will be considered as in-process and generative, finding its way through forest and sunshine, struggle and longing, joy and sorrow, the mundane and the wild.

During our 20- to 30-minute individual conferences (roughly every six weeks), we'll discuss any questions and curiosities you have about your own work, from micro to macro, and whatever else you'd like to talk about with regards to the absorbing world of fiction writing. We'll also meet once before the workshop begins so that we can discuss your goals for the year and make sure we and the workshop are a good fit for you. Your final manuscript will be submitted on April 1, 2025. I'll send you a written summary critique letter by mid-May 2025 at the latest, after which we'll schedule a one-hour final consultation.

Assigned Readings

Selections will include work from, among others, the following authors:

- Kim Fu
- Claire Keegan



- Tommy Orange
- Naomi Shihab Nye
- Julie Schumacher
- Jason Reynolds
- Carson McCullers
- Mona Susan Power
- Danusha Lameris
- Laurie Foos
- James Baldwin
- George Saunders
- Elizabeth Strout
- Kazuo Ishiguro
- William Maxwell
- Ross Gay
- Helene Tursten
- Elizabeth Acevedo
- William Stafford
- Ari Tison
- Leslie Jamison
- Ada Limon
- Celeste Ng

FICTION

May 1, 2024 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: info session #1 (Online/Zoom)

May 16, 2024 1:00 pm-1:00 pm: info session #2 (Online/Zoom)

June 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: orientation meeting (Online/Zoom)

April 22, 2025 7:00 p.m.: public reading (Online/Zoom)

Workshops: Tuesdays & Summer Saturdays, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM or 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Central Time (except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled)

Summer Block One: Character Development and Dialogue

June 11

June 25

June 29 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

July 16

July 23: individual conferences

Summer Block Two: Point of View and Tense

July 30

August 3 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

August 13



August 17 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time

Fall Block One: Settings, Structures, and Frameworks

September 10

September 24

October 1

October 8: individual conferences

October 22

October 29

Fall Block Two: Showing and Telling: Narrative Voices

November 5

November 12

November 19

December 3

December 10

December 17: individual conferences

Winter and Spring Block One: Chronology: Beginnings, Middles, and Endings

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

February 4

February 11

February 18: individual conferences

Winter and Spring Block Two: Voice, Language, and Style

March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25



April 1

April 8: FINAL CLASS, manuscripts due

April-May: final individual one-hour meetings

Year-Long Writing Project Access Funds

The Loft offers Access Funds spots for each of our year-long writing projects in memoir, fiction, and poetry. Join the Access Funds pool and submit an application [here](#) from **April 2 – May 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM (Central Time Zone)**. Access Fund applicants will be notified no later than June of award status. If selected as a finalist, Loft will host virtual or phone interviews for final selection with the participant and teaching artist to ensure project and program fit. Please do not contact the Loft education office before May 28 about the status of your application. One Access Fund award per cohort (2 Access awards in total).

We encourage individuals from historically marginalized communities to apply, including, but not limited to, Black and Indigenous people and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+ individuals, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities. We anticipate far more applications from highly qualified candidates than we can possibly accept. Please know our scholarship committee reads every application we receive and evaluates them holistically based on five central factors (in no particular order):

1. **Describe your current writing project.** What is your writing project about and how can the Loft community help you achieve your goals? Why the Loft, why now?
2. **Demonstrated interest in the art and craft of writing.** What experience do you have with writing and writing workshops? How have you demonstrated a commitment to the craft, whether professionally or personally?



3. **Desire for resources and community.** What other resources or opportunities have you had (or not had) access to? Why do you seek the community a small, intensive cohort provides?
4. **Experienced barriers to participation in artistic career development.** The Loft understands that financial barriers are not the only barriers to participation in writing development opportunities. Have other factors impacted your ability to participate in similar programs? Do you identify as part of a historically marginalized community? Please also describe what financial factors impact your need for financial assistance. Are you enrolled in a public assistance program, such as TANF; MFIP; General Assistance; WIC; Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or Minnesota Care; SSI (disability, not retirement); food stamps; Section 8 Housing? If not, what factors impact your need for financial assistance to take a Loft class?

Access Funds Application Timeline

- May 7 at 11:59 PM CST: Application closes
- April - June: Selection committee will review applications and Loft will reach out to Access Fund finalists to schedule interviews with teaching artists
- Early June: Finalists will be notified of their status