



2024

Year-Long Writing Programs



MISSION

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.

VISION

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 & 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, Marianne Manzler, at mmanzler@loft.org.

YEAR-LONG WRITING PROJECT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

This one-year program is dedicated to equipping writers with the skills, resources, strategies, and community they need in order to write, revise, workshop, ideate, and complete a book-length project. Whether you are working on a novel, short stories, flash fiction, young adult, multi-genre, or children's literature, our award-winning and published teaching mentors are here to help, advise, cheer you on. You also form a close community with a small cohort of writers and get individualized feedback throughout the year with structured learning opportunities, writing workshops, and visiting writers and publishing professionals.

- You'll join a small cohort for a year of rigorous reading, focused writing, meticulous revising, and deep study of craft.
- You'll meet best selling authors, luminaries in publishing, distinguished booksellers, and literary agents.
- You'll receive individualized feedback on your full manuscript project from award-winning and established mentor writers.
- Most importantly, you'll develop the resources and relationships to move ahead with a writing life once your project is finished.

YEAR-LONG WRITING PROJECT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

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.

Registration

Priority deadline by June 4, 2024 for summer start.

At the time of registration, students have three payment options, with an included non-refundable \$500 deposit:

- 1 Full payment: \$7,500 by check or credit card**
- 2 Monthly Payment Plan: \$3,750 due up front, with 12 monthly payments of \$320.83 will be made via the credit card given to the Loft at registration.**
- 3 Sezzle: \$1,875 due at the time of registration, followed by four interest-free installment payments over six weeks.**

Participation is limited to 12 people per project cohort for the year. There is no application for the Year-Long Writing Projects. When registration opens, you will be able to sign up for the Year-Long course via the website and pay in full at that time, or you can give us a call at 612-379-8999 to set up the payment or Sezzle plan.

After payment has been received and your registration spot is secured, we will then schedule the introductory phone call between you and the teaching artist to ensure that the program is a good fit for your goals. In the off-chance you or your Project Mentor decides this is not a good fit after the introductory phone call or before your second session of class, you are eligible for a full refund.

The Loft will host another free info session in September and October 2024 with our Novel Writing and Creative Nonfiction Project mentors for January 2025 start date.

Group Cohort Schedule

Summer Meetings 2024

June 10 - August 17

Workshops: Tuesdays Central Time
(except for weeks when individual consultations are scheduled), 6-9 PM
CST

Summer Block One: Character Development and Dialogue

- June 11
- June 18
- June 25
- July 9
- July 16
- July 23: individual conferences

Summer Block Two: Point of View and Tense

- July 30
- August 6
- August 13
- August 20

These cohort meetings will include:

- Instruction and discussions on craft, readings, and student work
- Generative/communal writing time
- Workshopping
- Visiting authors and publishing professionals
- One-on-one teaching artist consultations
- Final manuscript consultation

Cohort Break

August 20 - September 10

This time is to be used for independent writing and reading and thinking about aspects of craft with regard to your own work and that of published writers. Note that you will meet individually with your teaching mentor on September 3, one week before our regular cohort reconvenes for fall workshops.

Group Cohort Schedule

Fall Meetings 2024

Sep. 10 - Dec. 17

Fall Block One: Settings,
Structures, and Frameworks

September 3: Individual

consultations

September 10

September 24

October 1

October 8

October 22: individual
conferences

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/Spring Meetings 2025

Jan. 7 - April 8

Winter and Spring Block One:

**Chronology: Beginnings,
Middles, and Endings**

- January 7
- January 14
- January 21
- January 28
- February 4
- February 18
- February 25: 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**

WORKSHOP MODEL

The workshop model varies by instructor. The purpose of the workshop component is to help our writers see their work in a new light, to ask thoughtful questions of their peers, and to generate new energy for revising.

For example, in the past, the Poetry Apprenticeship has used the Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process workshop model, a supportive and writer-centered process that puts the control in the artist's hands. In this workshop model, a workshop functions like so:

- ✔ The readers will state for the writer what is working. Readers provide statements of meaning— what was memorable, interesting, and engaging about the work.
- ✔ The writer asks questions about their work. (Ex: “What part of the piece held the most weight for you?” or “How did you interpret the ending of this piece?”) The readers answer the questions without suggesting changes.
- ✔ The readers ask the writer neutral questions about their work. (Ex: “How did you make the decision to do x?” or “Where do you feel the core of the piece is located?”)
- ✔ The readers ask the writer for permission to offer opinions about the submitted work. (Ex: “I have an opinion on the work's title if you'd like to hear it.”)
- ✔ The writer ends the workshop by briefly discussing how the workshop went, any ideas they have for revision, asks for any clarification, etc.

● One-on-One Meetings with Teaching Artist

Each student is expected to meet individually with their teaching artist regularly during the Year-Long Writing Project. The purpose of these meetings will be wide-ranging and individualized, but their primary function is to discuss plans and courses of development for each writer.

Meetings will be scheduled as follows, with flexibility, and with accommodations made to suit the needs of individual students:

- One initial meeting/call before the program kicks off in June to ensure program and participant fit;
- One meeting before winter break begins;
- One meeting after winter break ends;
- One manuscript consultation session with the Teaching Artist after the program concludes (and you submit your final manuscript) in April, to be completed no later than June 28, 2025.

● Final Manuscript Consultation

Submit final manuscript and schedule final manuscript consultation between May 2025 and June 2025. At the end of the Year-Long Writing Project, students are expected to submit their final and complete manuscript to their teaching artist. The teaching artist will read each submission, provide a written critique of each manuscript, and meet individually with each student to verbally deliver feedback.

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 and bound. 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 their year. These links are available for Year-Long Writing participants to utilize at any time for writing and discussion space outside of group cohort meetings.

Visiting Writers & Publishing Professionals

Throughout the year, 4–6 visiting writers and publishing professionals will meet with your cohort as special guests.

- Julie Schumacher
- Ari Tison
- Laurie Foos
- Sara Crowe of Sara Crowe Literary

2024 Fiction Writing Project

Virtual Cohort led by
Alison McGhee

Tuesdays on Zoom | Starting June 11, 2024 | 6–9 PM

One year is plenty of time to write a novel. That's the first lesson of this year-long course. The hundred other lessons that follow will take into account everything from how to begin to how to end, and what to do with your novel once you've finished.



WEEKLY COHORT MEETINGS

via Zoom link sent in confirmation email | all times listed in CT

YLWP ORIENTATION

Wednesday, June 4, 2024 | 6–7:30 p.m. | Online, via Zoom

FINAL PUBLIC READING

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 7-8:30 PM | Online, via Zoom

NOVEL WRITING PROJECT BOOKS

Participants will be assigned four novels to read and learn from throughout the year. Examples of past cohort novel assignments include:

- 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
- Kazuo Ishiguro
- William Maxwell
- Ross Gay
- Helene Tursten
- Elizabeth Acevedo
- William Stafford
- Ari Tison
- Leslie Jamison
- Ada Limon
- Celeste Ng

Alison McGhee

Alison McGhee is the critically acclaimed and New York Times bestselling author of many books for all ages, from novels for adults, young adults, and children, to picture books and graphic-ish novels, as well as poems, essays, and micro-memoirs. She is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Geisel Medal, the Christopher Award, four Minnesota Book Awards, and McKnight Foundation and Minnesota State Arts Board grants. She was a finalist for the German National Book Award, and her work has been translated into more than twenty languages. Teaching is a vocation second only to writing for her, and she founded Metropolitan State University's creative writing program, where she taught for many years. She has also taught in various MFA programs, including those at Hamline and Vermont College of Fine Arts, and been a guest artist at Carleton College, Macalester University, and the University of Minnesota. She is also the creator and host of the podcast *Words by Winter: Conversations, reflections, and poems about the passages of life*. You can find her at alisonmcghee.com.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

YLWP Registration And Payment Agreements

Payments can be made online at loft.org or over the phone by calling 612-379-8999. Registration and wait lists are created on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Full Payment	Sezzle Payment Plan	Monthly Payment Plan
\$7,500 is due in full at the time of registration, which includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit.	\$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'll pay \$1,875 on the day of registration (including a \$500 nonrefundable deposit), followed by three more payments of \$1,875 until you have paid in full, over the course of six weeks.	\$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. Total tuition for the program on the payment plan is \$7,600. A fee of \$50 will be assessed for each occurrence of a return of payment for insufficient funds.

Refund Schedule & Policies

Payments can be made online at loft.org or over the phone by calling 612-379-8999. Registration and wait lists are created on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Refund Schedule

If you decide not to participate once registered, you may notify the education department by calling 612-379-8999 no later than 5 p.m CST on the second session of your class. (June 18.)

Deadline for 100% Refund (minus \$500 non-refundable fee) May 28, 2024 @ 5 PM CST

Deadline for 50% Refund (minus \$500 non-refundable fee) Before your second cohort's meeting, May 28 - June 18, 2024 @ 5 PM CST

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 artist 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 after January 29 (first day of class). To withdraw and claim a refund, students must notify the Education Department by calling 612-379-8999 or by email at edu@loft.org after the one-on-one meeting with their teaching artist and before the start of the first class meeting.

Visiting Lecturers and Guests

If you decide not to participate once registered, you may notify the education department by calling 612-379-8999 no later than 5 p.m CST on the second session of your class. (Either February 5th, 7th, 8th, or 14th depending on your cohort's schedule.)

Refunds for Missed Sessions

There are no refunds or prorated tuition available to participants who are unable to attend a class session, conference event, final reading, or scheduled one-on-one session for any reason, including illness, vacation plans, life events, etc. It is the participant's responsibility to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of the program, obtain missed class content from the teaching artist, and reschedule missed one-on-one sessions.

Notably, on occasion, the instructor may need to miss or reschedule a class. In this instance, the instructor will work with the cohort to find a makeup date.

Removal of Disruptive Students

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

COVID-19 Policy

The Loft strongly recommends that every participant has access to high speed internet; updated software; and a working, reliable computer with video and speaker features. **Please consider this as you decide if our online program is right for you.**

For the greatest protection against COVID and other viruses, the Loft strongly encourages—but does not require—that constituents wear a mask to Loft classes or events. However, in accordance with CDC guidelines, if you have a known exposure in the last ten days you must wear a mask in order to participate. If you are showing symptoms, have a temperature above 100.0, or test positive for COVID, you should not attend any in-person classes or events. If you're part of an in-person class, teaching artists are willing to share information that was discussed and handouts that were distributed if you are unable to attend classes due to COVID-related symptoms (or any illness). As ever, this is a fluid situation, we will continue to monitor community transmission rates and communicate updates or changes as needed.

For questions regarding this policy, we ask that you please email edu@loft.org or call our Education Team 612-379-8999.

Additional Costs

Possible additional costs associated with participation in the Writing Projects are the responsibility of the participant.

Some additional costs to consider may include:

- **Copy fees for manuscript printing and workshopping, and in some cases, costs for mailing (to your teaching artist or fellow students, for accessibility accommodations)**
- **Book purchases (though consider libraries and used book stores)**
- **Writing tools (laptop, notebooks, pens/pencils, etc.)**
- **Transportation to the Loft**
- **Parking costs—there is FREE parking available in the Open Book lot on a first come, first serve basis. If the lot is full, you will need to pay for parking at local meters or lots.**
- **High speed internet connection**
- **Costs associated with updating software for old computers***
- **Any unforeseen costs not listed here**

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

Apply for Winter

ACCESS FUNDS

Deadline: May 17

The Loft offers Access Funds spots for each of our coveted **Year-Long Writing Projects** in fiction

Timeline:

May 17, 11:59 PM CST:
Applications Close

May - June:
Review & Interviews

June 4:
Final Notifications

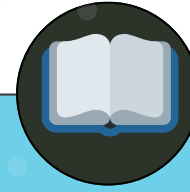
Loft.org/ACCESS

Evaluation Criteria:



Current Writing Project:

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?



Demonstrated Interest:

What experience do you have with writing and writing workshops? How have you demonstrated a commitment to the craft, whether professionally or personally?



Desire for 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?



Barriers:

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?