



Winter/Summer 2026

Year-Long Writing Projects



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

The Year-Long Writing Project 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 guests. Each participant will receive:

- **32 cohort meetings throughout the year.** Online cohorts will meet virtually throughout the year. Online cohorts have their virtual classroom available for use at any time during the program for communal and individual writing space.
- **4+ meetings** with best selling authors, luminaries in publishing, distinguished booksellers, and literary agents.
- **4 one-on-one mentor meetings** with the teaching artist to consult on your individual project (including a final full manuscript critique).
- **1 final public reading** for each cohort.
- Most importantly, you'll develop the resources and relationships to move ahead with a writing life once your project is finished.

Registration

Each Year-Long Writing Project cohort is limited to 12 people. No application is needed. When registration opens, you can join the waitlist for one genre at a time. Placement isn't guaranteed. Mentors will meet with you to confirm if your project is a good fit, with payment and registration following this call. Spots are first-come, first-served. If it's not a fit before the first class, you can get a full refund. See our terms and tuition page for details.

Free info sessions with Year-Long Writing Project mentors will be held in September/October 2024 for the winter cohorts and March 12 and April 8, 2026 for the summer cohorts. See loft.org for the info session recordings.

Loft Friend* registration opens:

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 10 a.m.

General public registration opens:

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 10 a.m.






*You must have been a Loft Friend by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, or Tuesday, April 8, 2025, in order to have received the email invite for early Loft Friend.

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

- Full payment: \$7,500 by check or credit card
- 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

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 December, 2026 to be completed no later than January 2027.

Final Manuscript Consultation

Submit final manuscript and schedule final manuscript consultation between December 2026 -February 2027. 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).

Cohort Meetings

Cohort meetings 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

Communal Writing Space

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.

Visiting Authors & Publishing Professionals

Over the course of the year, your instructor will arrange for several distinguished guests, published authors, and publishing professionals to visit cohorts during class. The purpose of these visits is to introduce students to enduring works of literature, the people who wrote them, and the sorts of people who help bring them to the world. These meetings will be largely informal and include ample opportunity to interact with and ask questions of the guests.

2025 Novel Writing Project

Virtual Cohort led by

Peter Geye

Thursdays & select Saturdays on Zoom

Starting January 29, 2026

Thursdays: 6-9 PM | Saturdays: 11 AM - 1 PM

Your novel, from first word to last and on to market. 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. This online cohort will meet via Zoom for all cohort meetings for the entire year.

Over the course of the next calendar year, we'll write seriously, we'll read like scholars, we'll meet best selling authors, luminaries in publishing, and distinguished booksellers and local literary agents. But most importantly, we'll develop the resources and relationships to move ahead with a writing life once the course is finished.



Weekly Cohort Meetings

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

YLWP Orientation

January 21, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Online, via Zoom

Final Public Reading

Thursday, January 7, 2027 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Tentative Visiting Guests

Throughout the year, four to six visiting writers and publishing professionals will meet with your cohort as special guests. Guests in 2026 include:

- Mona Susan Power
- Kawai Strong Washburn
- Amy Greene

Full Syllabus

Find all this information and much more in this cohort's full class syllabus, found [here](#).

Peter Geye

Peter Geye received his MFA from the University of New Orleans and his PhD from Western Michigan University, where he was editor of Third Coast. Geye is the author of the award-winning novels *Safe from the Sea*; *The Lighthouse Road*; *Wintering*, winner of the Minnesota Book Award; and *Northernmost*, forthcoming in April 2020. He currently teaches the Year-Long Novel Writing Project at the Loft Literary Center. Born and raised in Minneapolis, he continues to live there with his family.

Photo credit: Michael Lionstar



Cohort Schedule

Peter Geye



Winter Term 2026

January - April

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. CT

- 1/28/26
- 2/4/26
- 2/18/26
- 2/25/26
- 3/4/26
- 3/11/26
- 3/18/26
- 3/25/26
- 4/1/26
- 4/8/26
- 4/15/26

Winter Term 2025

January 30 - April 17

Thursdays Central Time
6:00-9:00 p.m.

- January 30
- February 6
- February 13
- February 20
- February 27
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27
- April 3
- April 10
- April 17

Fall Term 2025

September 18 - December 11

Thursdays Central Time,
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

- September 18
- September 25
- October 2
- October 9
- October 16
- October 23
- October 30
- November 6
- November 13
- Skip November 27
office closed)
- November 30
- December 4
- December 11

Cohort Breaks

August 17 - September 17

December 12 - January 29

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.

Final Reading

Thursday, April 23

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. CT

Online via Zoom

2025 Creative Nonfiction Writing Project

Virtual Cohort led by

신선영

Sun Yung Shin

Mondays & select Saturdays on Zoom

Starting February 3, 2026

Mondays: 6-9 PM | Saturdays: 11 AM - 1 PM

Join this creative nonfiction project to follow that inner voice that says it's time for you to write your book manuscript! The creative process requires time, space, support, skills, and containers in order to fulfill its potential. If you are ready to spend time giving shape to your stories, memories, images, research, reflections, and ideas with a knowledgeable and enthusiastic mentor and a supportive community of fellow writers, then this is the project for you.

You will be supported in developing and completing your creative nonfiction (CNF) project, which could be personal essays, lyric essays, narrative memoir, research-based storytelling, hybrid works, or other forms and approaches in the wide realm of CNF.



Weekly Cohort Meetings

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

YLWP Orientation

January 21, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Online, via Zoom

Final Public Reading

Monday, January 11, 2027 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Tentative Visiting Guests

Throughout the year, four to six visiting writers and publishing professionals will meet with your cohort as special guests. Guests in 2026 include:

- Michael Kleber-Diggs, poet, memoirist, and essayist
- Erika Stevens, literary agent
- Jennifer Thompson, literary agent
- Naomi Cohn, poet, essayist

Full Syllabus

Find all this information and much more in this cohort's full class syllabus, found [here](#).

신선영

Sun Yung Shin

Sun Yung Shin is a Korean-born creative nonfiction writer, freelance arts journalist, fiction writer, poet, editor, and children's book author. She is the author of the new experimental poetry/prose book *Six Tones of Water* co-authored with Vi Khi Nao; *The Wet Hex*, which won the Society of Midland Author's Award in Poetry and was a finalist for a 2023 Minnesota Book Award; *Unbearable Splendor*, a book of essays/poems which won a Minnesota Book Award in 2017; and two other acclaimed books of poetry. She is the editor/co-editor of three anthologies of essays including *What We Hunger For: Refugee and Immigrant Stories on Food and Family* (2021); *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* (2016); and *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption* (2006/2021). She is also the author of two illustrated books for children—most recently the co-authored *Where We Come From*, a finalist for the 2022 Minnesota Book Award. She has been awarded fellowships from the Bush Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the MacDowell Foundation, as well as an Asian American Literary Award. Forthcoming books include a picture book about legendary Detroit civil rights activists James Boggs and Grace Lee Boggs, and other projects. She has been teaching creative writing in community spaces, public school, and colleges and universities for two decades; with poet Su Hwang she is the co-founder of Poetry Asylum. She lives in Minneapolis with her family.



Cohort Schedule

Sun Yung Shin



Winter Term 2026

January - April

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. CT

- 1/28/26
- 2/4/26
- 2/18/26
- 2/25/26
- 3/4/26
- 3/11/26
- 3/18/26
- 3/25/26
- 4/1/26
- 4/8/26
- 4/15/26

Winter Term 2025

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Fall Term 2025

September 18 - December 11

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(office closed)
- November 30
- December 4
- December 11

Cohort Breaks

August 17 - September 17

December 12 - January 29

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.

Final Reading

Monday, January 11th (2027)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. CT

Online via Zoom

2025 Memoir Writing Project

Virtual Cohort led by

Kelly Sundberg

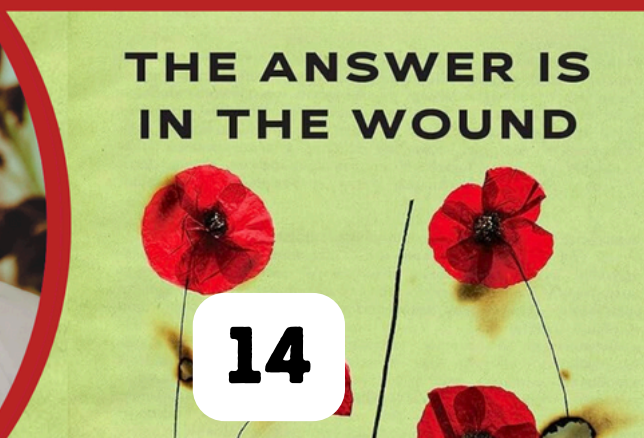
Wednesdays & select Saturdays on Zoom

Starting January 28, 2026

Wednesdays: 6-9 PM | Saturdays: 11 AM - 1 PM

Everyone leads a life that is important enough to write about. Some of you have known for a while that you want to write about your unique life or a specific time in your life, or perhaps a continuous theme in your life. Some of you simply have an idea that you want to write but may not be sure what you want to say, or may be hitting blocks when you sit down to write, or you may have a draft that isn't working in certain parts. Perhaps you're unsure about how to polish your manuscript and feel truly confident that it's ready to pursue publication. You want to know that your memoir is the best you can make it.

Although we will focus on memoir, writers who work in other creative nonfiction genres such as personal essay, travelog, nature writing, or narrative journalism, are also welcome. Our inspiration will be your perspective and your questions about your experience, your world, and the larger world around you. The class will combine lecture, discussion, reading, writing exercises, peer workshop and suggestions for revision.



Weekly Cohort Meetings

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

YLWP Orientation

January 21, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Online, via Zoom

Final Public Reading

Wednesday, January 13, 2027 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Tentative Visiting Guests

Throughout the year, four to six visiting writers and publishing professionals will meet with your cohort as special guests. Guests in 2026 include:

- Shannon Gibney
- Sheila O'Connor
- Zeke Caligiuri
- Erik Anderson, Senior Acquisitions Editor, University of MN Press
- Jennifer Thompson, literary agent at Nordlyset Literary Agency

Full Syllabus

Find all this information and much more in this cohort's full class syllabus, found [here](#).

Kelly Sundberg

Kelly Sundberg's memoir, *Goodbye, Sweet Girl*, was published by HarperCollins in 2018. Her essays have appeared in a variety of venues, including *Guernica*, *Gulf Coast*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Rumpus*, *The New York Times*, and others. Her essay "It Will Look Like A Sunset" was anthologized in *Best American Essays 2015*, and other essays have been listed as notables in the same series. She has been the recipient of fellowships and grants from the Ohio Arts Council, Vermont Studio Center, Dickinson House, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She lives in Columbus, Ohio and is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Ashland University. Her essay collection *The Answer is in the Wound* is slated for publication by Roxane Gay Books in 2025.



Cohort Schedule

Kelly Sundberg



Winter Term 2026

January - April

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. CT

- 1/28/26
- 2/4/26
- 2/18/26
- 2/25/26
- 3/4/26
- 3/11/26
- 3/18/26
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Winter Term 2025

January 30 - April 17

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September 18 - December 11

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- November 30
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- December 11

Cohort Breaks

August 17 - September 17

December 12 - January 29

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.

Final Reading

Wednesday, January 13 (2027)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. CT

Online via Zoom

Terms of Agreement

YLWP Registration & Payment Agreements

Payments can be made online at loft.org or over the phone by calling 612-379-8999, or by stopping by our office! Registration and wait lists are created on a first-come, first-serve basis. Two payment options are available:

Full Payment

- Loft Friend: \$7,440, paid in full at registration, which includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit.
- Regular Price: \$7,500, paid in full at registration, which includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit.
- Note: This payment option is available when you register online at loft.org, call the Loft office, or email edu@loft.org.

Payment Plan

- Loft Friends: \$3,750 at registration, with monthly payments of \$315.83 per month for twelve months (includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit. \$7,540 total tuition).
- Regular Price: \$3,750 at registration, with monthly payments of \$320.83 per month for twelve months (includes a nonrefundable \$500 deposit. \$7,600 total tuition).
- Note: Credit card 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.
- It pays to be a friend of the Loft! 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.

Refund Schedule & Policies

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.

Deadline for 100% Refund (minus \$500 non-refundable fee):
December 10, 2025 @ 5 PM CST (Winter)

Deadline for 50% Refund (minus \$500 non-refundable fee)
Dec 11, 2025 - Feb 5, 2026 @ 5 PM CST

If you choose not to participate and notify the education department of your intention to drop after 5:00 PM CST on any of the above dates, you will forfeit the first \$3,750 of your payment. Those who paid in full will receive a \$3,750 refund; the Loft will cancel the remaining payments for those on the payment plan.

*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 December 18, 2024. 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

The Loft reserves the right to substitute other writing professionals for any named authors or industry professionals in the event an unforeseen circumstance prevents the participation of anyone listed. There are no refunds for substituted guests. Visiting authors will either attend class in-person or via a Zoom session.

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.

Online Classes

The Loft will host and manage all Zoom sessions for the online cohort; a paid account is not needed to participate. The student will need access to a personal computer with a stable internet connection, camera, and microphone, or a mobile phone with these capabilities. See support.zoom.us for details or reach out to us at edu@loft.org. We are here to help you out during this year ahead!

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

Apply for Year-Long
Writing Project

Access Funds

We are able to offer 1 Access Funds seats in each cohort. If tuition is a barrier for you and you identify as someone from a marginalized background, we encourage you to apply. An application is required; for details and instructions on how to apply, please see the [Access Funds page](#).

Application Period:

Winter: October 1 - Nov 5, 2025

[Learn More](#)

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?



Happy writing!

-The Loft

