WELCOME TO WORDPLAY!

We are so thrilled to welcome people from all corners of Minnesota and from across the region for a day of celebrating authors in conversation, books and ideas, and connection and community!

The Loft’s Wordplay event is one of the very palpable ways that our work at the Loft creates connections—connections between authors and audiences, between people and place, and between the issues and ideas that are defining our times. The Loft’s 2023 Wordplay festival is a grand exploration of this year’s theme—Narrative Power—which riffs on the Toni Cade Bambara quote “The job of the writer is to make the revolution irresistible.”

Loft programs and events cultivate joy and celebrate community while exploring power, problems, and possibilities in areas that are personal, public, and planetary. Each of us can play a part in making the change we want to see. Writers offer us stories and poems to ignite important conversations, to illuminate our understanding, and to fuel our movements. We’re so eager for you to contribute meaningfully to this day and to engage with our participating authors. We hope your conversations continue beyond the festival grounds. We’re glad that you’re here!

Let’s play!

Arleta Little
Executive & Artistic Director

Shahenda Helmy
Director of Special Events
Find more information about this and other Loft programs at loft.org, including information on:

- Loft access funds—loft.org/access
- Loft classes—loft.org/classes
- Teaching at the loft—loft.org/teach
- Year-Long Writing—loft.org/ylwp

Tag your posts with the hashtag:
#Wordplay2023

**Lights, Camera, Wordplay!**
Strike a pose with your favorite novel, author, or bookshop at one of our many incredible festival locations, including our photo booth! Don't forget to tag us @loftliterarycenter and use our hashtag #wordplay2023 to document your experience on this summer day of bookish adventures!

**Apply the power of narratives to remove barriers to your goals.**

Contact us: info@innocenttech.com
LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
The Loft recognizes the original peoples of this place and affirms tribal sovereignty. We acknowledge that the state of Minnesota, the Loft, and Open Book exist on the unceded homelands of the Dakota people.

TICKETING & SEATING
At all venues and all events, entry and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no additional tickets required for individual events during the street festival. Please note that your wristband gets you entry to the festival itself (which features more than 20 onstage events and access to local vendors) but does NOT guarantee entry to any individual event.

POLICIES & SECURITY
All bags will be checked by security upon entry by the Loft’s security team Sequeerity. Wordplay does not allow firearms, weapons, or outside alcohol on the festival premises. Only empty water bottles will be allowed in; there are water filling stations on the festival grounds. Feel free to bring in your own food and dogs on leashes. We reserve the right to ask disruptive guests to leave without refund. Please report any suspicious or disruptive activity to a staff member, volunteer, or security personnel.

ACCESSIBILITY
All festival venues and stage locations are wheelchair accessible and have seats reserved for people with disabilities. All programs will include ASL interpretation. Metro Mobility pick-up and drop off will take place in front of the Periscope building at 921 S. Washington Avenue.

BOOK SIGNINGS
Most authors will sign books immediately following their onstage event, unless otherwise noted. For each author, you may bring in one pre-owned book to be signed. Any additional books must be purchased from a festival book vendor in order to be signed. Book dealers may NOT bring books into the book signing area. Dealers with rolling carts and/or wagons are not allowed on the festival grounds.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS
Come to the Festival Information Booth to enter your name into a raffle for a complimentary headshot session with local professional photographer, Lisa Buck! All conference attendees are eligible for $100 off a headshot session. Valued at $300. https://www.lisabuckphoto.com/

Bringing kids? Check out our Youth Stage, where you can find CYA-centered programming, participate in fun, family-friendly activities, and visit our bounce house.

AERIAL POETRY PROJECT
Due to recent aircraft regulatory changes made by the FAA, both aerial banner pulling companies in Minnesota have suddenly discontinued their services. As an unfortunate result, the Aerial Poetry Project by Alyssa Baguss is unable to take place as a part of this year’s Wordplay Festival. Despite these circumstances, we are thrilled to share with you the Narrative Power inspired poem that was to be flown over the festival written by local artist Chavonn Williams Shen:

WE ARE BORN CULTIVATORS
BOOKMARK THIS: mprnews.org/books

THE THREAD
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TALKING VOLUMES

MPR NEWS WITH KERRI MILLER - FRIDAYS AT 11 A.M.

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Loft programming is made possible through the generous contributions of Loft members and by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
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Arleta Little
Loren Taylor
Melinda Ward
Embodied Literature: How Our Bodies (Dis)Connect Us From Who We Are

**MPR STAGE** loft.org/schedule for details

Allison Wyss

Said Shaiye

Writing Sovereignty

**LOFT STAGE** loft.org/schedule for details

Ari Tison

Marcie Rendon

Vanessa Riley

YourClassical Storytime with MPR

**YOUTH STAGE** loft.org/schedule for details

Open Book Showcase

**OPEN BOOK STAGE** loft.org/schedule for details

Nothing programmed in this slot for the indoor Open Book stage, but if you've never been, take some time to explore the building including our friends at Milkweed Books, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and FRGMNT Coffee.
SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, JULY 8 | Noon

Alexander Chee on Narrative Power
MPR STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Drag Story Hour
YOUTH STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

It Ran In My Family Until It Ran Into Me: Confronting Generational Trauma
LOFT STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Healing Words
OPEN BOOK STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Alexander Chee
Arleta Little

Sid Sity
Old Man Zimmer

Tyriek White
Kyle Tran Myhre

Lane Moore
Ellie Roscher

Idra Novey
WORDPLAY
SATURDAY, JULY 8 | 1:30 p.m.

Socially Engaged Fiction
MPR STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Jennifer Clement
Jamila Minnicks

Processing Trauma Through Memoir
LOFT STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Emi Nietfeld
Rachel Louise Snyder
Juliet Patterson

TOO EARLY: Picture Book Reading & Craft Activity
YOUTH STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Nora Ericson

Writing from Home: Finding Spaces You Belong
OPEN BOOK STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Nicole Kronzer
Krista Burton
WORDPLAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 8 | 3:00 p.m.

The Memories We Hold: Black Womanhood in America
MPR STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Mahoganey L. Browne

Lyeette Wanzer

A is for ACTIVISM: Artistic Depictions of Stories Overlooked
YOUTH STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Rachel Werner

Adrian Matejka

Climate Change in Literature
LOFT STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

Claire Wahmanholm

Siddhartha Deb

Kathryn Savage

Mizna Summer Journal Launch
OPEN BOOK STAGE
loft.org/schedule for details

George Abraham

Zeina Hashem Beck

Sarah Cypher

Lena Khalaf Tuffaha
WORDPLAY
SATURDAY, JULY 8 | 4:30 p.m.

The Price of Whiteness
MPR STAGE loft.org/schedule for details

Jeff Sharlet
David Mura

Where We Come From
YOUTH STAGE loft.org/schedule for details

Diane Wilson
Sun Yung Shin
John Coy
Shannon Gibney

Books to Screen: Paul Tremblay & Caroline Kepnes
LOFT STAGE loft.org/schedule for details

Paul Tremblay
Caroline Kepnes

On Memory and Mystery
OPEN BOOK STAGE loft.org/schedule for details

Rebecca Makkai
Belinda Huijuan Tang
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Queer: The Importance of Queer Voices</strong>&lt;br&gt;MPR STAGE</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>loft.org/schedule for details&lt;br&gt;Krista Burton&lt;br&gt;Eileen Myles&lt;br&gt;Antonia Angress</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Little Kids, Big Voices: Social Justice in Kids’ Lit</strong>&lt;br&gt;YOUTH STAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td>loft.org/schedule for details&lt;br&gt;Junauda Petrus&lt;br&gt;Arleta Little</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How We Do It: Black Writers on Craft, Skill, &amp; Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;LOFT STAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td>loft.org/schedule for details&lt;br&gt;Mitchell Jackson&lt;br&gt;Frank X Walker&lt;br&gt;Darlene Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telling Marginalized Stories</strong>&lt;br&gt;OPEN BOOK STAGE</td>
<td></td>
<td>loft.org/schedule for details&lt;br&gt;Franny Choi&lt;br&gt;Manuel Muñoz</td>
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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth @ Wordplay
Stop by the Youth Stage area and explore our various kids’ and youth activities all day long, including:

• Drag Story Hour MN
• MPR YourClassical Storytime
• Children’s Theatre Company
• Wordplay Bounce House

Summer Youth at Open Book
Come stop by our table and learn more about the Loft’s youth offerings, and don’t forget to write and submit your own six-word memoir to be entered into a raffle for a free summer 2023 class spot!

From July 18–August 11, the Loft’s Summer Youth program is back in full force! Each week features a different theme from narrative power and novel writing to sci-fi writing and spectacular worlds. Join us for a summer of fun, stories, and making new friends! Learn more:

loft.org/youth
(Not ready for the party to stop? Join us for free evening events with Wordplay authors! Please register in advance or at the door for any of these free events.)

**“Knock at the Cabin” viewing and discussion with Paul Tremblay**

*Open Book Performance Hall | 7:15–9 p.m.*

Join us for a screening of M. Night Shyamalan’s KNOCK AT THE CABIN (starring Jonathan Groff and Dave Bautista) followed by a talkback/Q&A with author Paul Tremblay. Popcorn provided!

**Wordle Cup Tournament**

*Radisson Red | 7:30–9 p.m.*

Test your speed and vocabulary against other Wordplay participants and authors in a Wordle competition! Winner gets a $250 Loft gift card.

**Wordplay Trivia**

*Hotel Emery | 7:30–9 p.m.*

Presented in Partnership with Trivia Hub | Compete in teams of 4-5 to see who reigns supreme in literary knowledge! Prizes available for 1st and 2nd place teams.

**Green Card Voices Story Stitch**

*Tattersall Distilling, 1620 Central Ave NE | 7:30–9:30 p.m.*

Join Green Card Voices and community members in telling stories and encouraging people to get to know one another. We’ll be providing custom cocktails for the event!
Founded in 1974, the Loft is a haven for readers and writers; one of the largest centers of its kind in the country. Our mission is to advance the artistic development of writers, foster a thriving literary community, and inspire a passion for literature.
Loft Offerings

• **Classes**: more than 300 classes each year for readers & writers, youth & adults.

• **Events**: conversations that center marginalized people and provoke important questions.

• **Grants and Awards**: ensuring that emerging and established artists are rewarded, mentored, and recognized.

• **Services**: manuscript critique, year-long writing projects, one-on-one coaching, Bring the Loft to You, and more. The Loft works across this community and state in numerous ways to help you reach your goals.

• **Wordplay & Wordsmith**: annual gatherings for readers and writers. Stay tuned for info on these events for 2024!
Thank you!
loft.org/wordplay