



## Year-Long Writing Project Details

### Writing Project Participation

Participation is limited to 12 people per project for the year that will form a close cohort of novelists, poets, or memoirists. There is no application for the Writing Projects.

Each participant will receive:

- 4 one-on-one meetings with the teaching artist to consult on your individual project, which includes a final full manuscript critique.
- A communal writing and discussion space at Open Book, for the duration of the Writing Project.
- 27 cohort meetings throughout the year. These meetings will include:
  - Workshop
  - Visiting authors and publishing professionals
  - Instructor consultations
  - Final manuscript consultation
- A final public reading (5-7 min from each reader) at the Loft in January 2020.
- A \$250 Loft gift card upon completion of the program, so that participants may continue their engagement with the writing life and further support their studies of writing craft with future Loft services (more classes, attend a conference, take an online class, etc.)

### Cohort Meetings

Project participants will meet as a class and cohort for two twelve-week terms, one in the winter/spring and one in the fall/winter. For details on exact dates/days of week, visit the project specifics pages.

Each meeting will be organized and carefully planned, and each participant will be asked to participate fully. The class 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 visits (in-person or virtual) with established publishing professionals. Project specific pages (linked above) will list some of the expected visits.



Our work will range over several topics. To begin, we'll focus on fiction (for Novel Writing Project), nonfiction (for Memoir Writing Project), or verse (for the Poetry Project) and how their various elements work in concert. We'll also consider the architecture of our projects and begin to work immediately on putting plans into place. The main focus of our time will be workshop-based, but we'll also read and study a series of books.

During the summer months, you'll focus even more on your writing, which you'll do on your own, with direction from the teaching artist.

In the fall term, we'll begin by focusing on more writing, workshopping, and revision, but we'll also move more directly into discussions about the business of writing and publishing. For these purposes, we'll be visited by several industry professionals.

In addition to class meetings, over the course of the year-long program, each participant will have 4 one-on-one meetings with Peter, Nicole, or Danez to consult on individual book projects. This includes a final manuscript consultation session that will take place in January or February 2020, once the teaching artist has had a chance to read and critique each manuscript. These will be handed in on the final day of the fall/winter term class session.

### **Loft Gift Card and Final Reading**

Each participant will be given a \$250 Loft gift card upon completion of the program, so that participants may continue their engagement with the writing life and further support their studies of writing craft with future Loft services (more classes, attend a conference, take an online class, etc.)

The year long Writing Projects will culminate in a final public reading at the Loft. For details on each one, please visit the Project Specifics pages.

### **Consultations and Visits**

**Visiting authors and publishing professionals:** As stated, several distinguished guests will visit us during the course of the year. The purpose of these visits is to introduce students to enduring works of fiction, memoir, or poetry, 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. Please, do not ever use these meetings as an opportunity to pitch your own work. Visiting authors will either attend class in-person or via a Skype session.

**Teaching Artist consultations:** Each student will be asked to meet individually with Peter, Danez, or Nicole regularly during the Project. Meetings will be scheduled as follows: one meeting during the winter/spring term, one meeting at the beginning of summer, one at the end of summer, and one at the conclusion of the writing project, when we'll discuss your final manuscript. The purpose for these meetings will be wide-ranging, but their primary function is to discuss plans and courses of action for the aspiring writers.

**Final manuscript consultation:** At the end of the Project, students will be expected to submit their final and complete manuscript. Peter, Danez, or Nicole will read each submission, provide a written critique of each manuscript, and conduct a final consultation to present the critique. These consultations may extend into February 2020 but must take place no later than February 28, 2020. No extensions can be made, and no exceptions.

PLEASE NOTE: final manuscripts must be properly formatted and bound (refer to your syllabus and confer with your teaching artist for details). Only manuscripts turned in on the last day of class will be read for the final consultation. That is to say, it is the responsibility of the student to finish their manuscript by the final class meeting. If a student fails to complete it, the teaching artist will only read what has been submitted on the final day of class. Please also note that ENROLLING IN THIS PROJECT DOES NOT ENSURE PUBLICATION.

The Loft will designate one classroom at Open Book as communal writing and discussion space, for the duration of the year-long Writing Projects. This room will be available during the same time frame as the project evening meetings throughout the year (6-9 p.m.) for the purpose of having a regular place for project cohorts to gather and write even when not in class. More details will be forthcoming.