

2023 Facing Pages Statewide Literary Arts CONVENING



DRAWING WATER FROM THE WELL *STRATEGIES TO FLOURISH*

**Sunday afternoon, Sept. 17th —
Tuesday lunchtime, Sept. 19th, 2023**

FREE REGISTRATION

**Meeting Venue: JoLi, 384 East Avenue,
Rochester, NY 14607**

**Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott, 390 East
Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607**

Join literary colleagues from across New York State for this year's annual gathering. You can look forward to poems, inspirational talks, workshops, and generative round-robin sessions with plenty of downtime to connect and reconnect with literary colleagues and friends. As always, your ideas and perspectives will be at the center of our discussions. Our goal is for you to leave joyful, connected, and supported, with new resources to better advance your own work and the work of your organization.

Day 1

Sunday Afternoon, September 17



ANDERSON ALLEN



CATHY LINH CHE



ANNETTE DANIELS TAYLOR



MARY GANNON



JISU KIM



JEFFREY LEPENDORF



RICARDO MALDONADO



ALISON MEYERS



BRUCE MORROW

1:00-2:30PM PRE-CONVENING

MENTORING Group Session with Kim McKernan

An authentic brand is unique, sets you apart, and has a purpose. It connects with the people you serve and drives long-term loyalty. You want your organization to reflect a greater purpose that resonates with the community/ ties you serve, your board members, funders, and employees. This interactive session will explore the reasons why a true brand matters for your organization. We will begin by defining your brand's "why" by exploring your values and beliefs. A true brand is a valuable asset and a contributor to your long-term success. This session is your chance to get started on one for your organization.

- *Open to 2022 and 2023 LitNYS Advancement Mentee Organizations
- *Be sure to request Saturday night hotel if needed

3:00PM CONVENING OPENING REGISTRATION & HOTEL CHECK-IN

Arrive & Check-in at Courtyard Rochester Downtown Marriott
390 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607

Proceed to meeting venue (next door to hotel) to register & get name tag
JoLi, 384 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607

4:00PM WELCOME: Debora Ott & Laurie Torrell

POEM: Anderson Allen

OPENING INSPIRATIONAL TALK: Alison Meyers - Where We Are: Deepening Identity & Purpose

Introduction of Chris Fanning, Emcee

4:30PM SESSION 1: A Life in Literature Across the Generations

Moderator: Ira Silverberg
Panelists: Jisu Kim, Paul Morris, Laurie Torrell, Jamia Wilson

6:00PM ZEN SOUND BATH: Jeffrey Lependorf

Unwind and bliss out as Jeffrey performs a set of traditional Zen meditation masterpieces on the Shakuhachi flute.

7:00PM DINNER - OPENING RECEPTION

Music: Rodney Appleby



RODNEY APPLEBY



PETER CONNORS



RUTH DICKEY



RON KAVANAUGH



CHRISTIN LEAHY



VERONICA LIU



KIM MCKERNAN



PAUL MORRIS



STEPHEN MOTIKA

Day 2

Monday, September 18

8:00AM YOGA: Pen-sive Asanas with Anderson Allen
 During this session, you will be invited to share a phrase or word that will be woven into mantra throughout various yoga sequences. At the end of the yoga session, there will be a focused writing portion followed by a chance to share your musings. This practice will be fueled by unity and filled with inspiration to power new imaginings.

8:30AM MENTOR MEETING
 *Open to LitNYS Advancement Program Mentors

8:00-9:30AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:30AM READING: Chad W. Post

WELCOME: Christine Leahy, NYSCA Program Director, Arts Education + Literature

10:00AM SESSION 2: Strategies for Adaptive Response:
 How to Be Prepared for The Unexpected
 Workshop Facilitator: Jeffrey Lependorf

Facing challenges? Trying to figure out a better way to do things? Google or ChatGPT not giving you a simple answer or a great solution? Join us to explore some techniques and strategies for facing the unknown toward coming up with practical solutions. Get your hands dirty (not really) and have fun (really!) taking part in some group solution-making.

12:00PM LUNCH
 Inspirational Talk: Jamia Wilson - A Career Arc in Publishing

2:00-5:00PM SESSION 3: Round Robins

Capacity, Burnout, Staying Inspired, Finding Joy & Managing Joy and Exhaustion - Cathy Linh Che & Stephen Motika

Workplace Culture and Collective Decision-Making - Veronica Liu & Lee Norton

Collaborations, Partnerships, & Coalition-Building - Between Organizations & Community - Maria Ta & Nathalie Thill

Resources & Funding in the Current Context - Bruce Morrow & Lisa Willis

Board Issues - Ruth Dickey & Mary Gannon

6:00PM DINNER
 Music: Rodney Appleby

Day 3

Tuesday, September 19

8:00AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:30AM READING: Annette Daniels Taylor

9:35AM SESSION 4: Casting Down & Filling Our Buckets
 Moderators: Bruce Morrow & Maria Ta
 Presenters: Peter Conners, Ron Kavanaugh, Veronica Liu, & Martha Rhodes

In this generative session, we'll brainstorm ideas for working together to advance the literary arts in New York State. How can literary presenting and service organizations support small publishers/presses and emerging artists? What actionable outcomes will enhance resource and information sharing among our community of literary organizations in New York State?

11:00AM HOTEL CHECK OUT

12:00PM LUNCH

Closing Inspirational Talk: Ricardo Maldonado

ADJOURN - ADIEU

PRESENTERS



LEE NORTON



DEBORA OTT



CHAD POST



MARTHA RHODES



IRA SILVERBERG



MARIA TA



NATHALIE THILL



LISA WILLIS

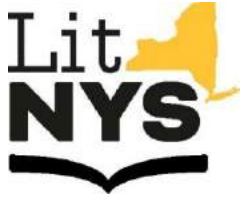


LAURIE TORRELL



LitNYS is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

LitNYS is administered by **Just Buffalo Literary Center** with project coordination by: **Debora Ott**, LitNYS Founding Director
Laurie Torrell, LitNYS Project Consultant



2023 *Facing Pages* Statewide Literary Arts Convening

Sunday afternoon, 9/17/23 – Tuesday lunchtime, 9/19/23

DRAWING WATER FROM THE WELL ***Strategies to Flourish***

FREE REGISTRATION with Hotel & Meals included
Space is limited – Please register by August 24, 2023!

Meeting Venue: Joli, 384 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Rochester Downtown, 390 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

REGISTRATION FORM – return this form

Please provide the following information for each person registering:

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I am attending the entire Convening Sunday afternoon – Tuesday lunch.

Or if attending only part of the Convening, indicate below which days:

I am attending Sunday I am attending Monday I am attending Tuesday

HOTEL for out-of-town guests is included in reservation.

Please check if you are requesting a hotel room which we will book for you.

I do not need a hotel room

Hotel needed for BOTH Sunday night 9/17 and Monday night 9/18

Hotel needed for Sunday night (9/17) only Hotel needed for Monday night (9/18) only

Hotel room needed also for Saturday night 9/16

(Mentoring program guests who cannot get there by 1pm on Sunday without overnight stay)

Are you willing to share a room? YES NO If yes, with whom: _____

RETURN completed registration form to Just Buffalo: submissions@justbuffalo.org

We will confirm receipt. Questions: info@justbuffalo.org or (716) 832-5400.

2023 Facing Pages – Statewide Literary Arts Convening

TRAVEL: Attendees are responsible for their own travel arrangements.

*If traveling by Amtrak select Rochester Louise M. Slaughter station, not Bus Terminal!

REQUEST FOR TRAVEL STIPEND - return this form with your registration only if requesting stipend

LitNYS is committed to supporting broad participation in the Convening. This includes those from all parts of the state and from organizations small, medium & large, and the entire literary arts ecosystem. If travel costs are a hardship, travel stipends of \$75 are available for those traveling 60+ miles to attend (limit one per organization) and may be used toward mileage, train or flight. **First-come, first-served basis.**

Please check if you are requesting a Travel Stipend of \$75 (provided by check at convening).

Check should be made out to the individual the organization

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Additionally, [CLMP](#), the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, provides travel grants of up to \$500 for NYS-based literary magazines and presses, which are also available on a first-come, first-served basis. If interested, please apply for a CLMP Travel Grant [here](#), and please contact Montana Agte-Studier, Director of Membership and NYSCA NYTAP, at magte-studier@clmp.org with any questions.

If you are from a literary presenting organization & not a literary magazine or press and the travel costs present a hardship for you, please contact LitNYS at info@justbuffalo.org.

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We will confirm receipt. Questions: info@justbuffalo.org or (716) 832-5400.



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It is Administered by Just Buffalo Literary Center

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Debora Ott, LitNYS Founding Director &
Laurie Torrell, LitNYS Project Consultant

2023 Facing Pages – Presenter BIOS

Anderson Allen “Poetically Undefined” Allen is an artist healer blending theater, poetry, and yoga as mediums to foster the mind-body connection across communities of all ages. When he’s not on his mat or hanging high from a ladder, he enjoys penning haiku on his daily walks around the city. Anderson is currently an Artist-in-Residence at The Avenue Blackbox Theatre where he volunteers his time as an artist mentor and theater technician, and part of The Avenue’s wellness team. Anderson’s greatest honor is his commitment to building a loving community.

Rodney Appleby is an actor, musician, singer, composer, and teaching artist. The original bassist for The Souls of Solomon, a Buffalo-based gospel group known as the pioneers of gospel funk, he toured and played in festivals and concerts globally with the likes of Deep Purple’s Ian Gillan, Chuck Berry, Albert Collins, Mary Wells, the Motown review, and Eddie Kendricks – of the Temptations – as well as many others. In 1995, Rodney was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame while recording and performing with the Buffalo-based group Anthracite. In the 1990s, he served as Just Buffalo Literary Center’s Director of Interdisciplinary Programs in Poetry & Jazz. A long-time member of Ujima Theatre Company, he served as its Music Director on many productions over the course of thirty years. Currently, he hosts the Rodney Appleby Experience, a podcast on 106 LIVE Radio, in Atlanta, is engaged as a teaching artist, and has developed curriculum for the Dunbar Project, Ujima’s youth arts workshop, and the Love Supreme School of Music in Buffalo, NY.

Cathy Linh Che has worked in nonprofit administration, education, and publishing for over 15 years. In 2012, Cathy was hired as a communications consultant for Kundiman. In 2014, she became Kundiman's Managing Director, and she was hired on as Executive Director in 2016. She has also worked for Kaya Press, New Directions Publishing, and Poets & Writers and has taught at New York University, Fordham University, The Polytechnic University at NYU, and Sierra Nevada College. Cathy is the author of the poetry collection *Split* (Alice James Books), winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize, Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the Best Poetry Book Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

Peter Connors is Executive Director & Publisher of BOA Editions where he has worked since 2003. He is also author of ten published books of nonfiction, poetry, and fiction, published by such presses as Da Capo, City Lights, Cornell University Press, White Pine Press, and others. In 2022, his literary archives were purchased by University of Rochester’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and the Peter Connors Literary Archives were established. His website is: www.peterconnors.com.

Ruth Dickey is the Executive Director of the National Book Foundation and has spent over 25 years working at the intersection of community building, writing, and art. A builder and believer in big dreams, Ruth has had the pleasure of leading organizations in Washington, DC; New Orleans, LA; Cincinnati, OH; and Seattle, WA to dramatically expand their community

impact and achieve wide recognition, including the Washington Post Award for Nonprofit Excellence and coverage in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. She was a 2017 fellow with the National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program and served as a judge in Fiction for the 2019 National Book Awards. The recipient of a Mayor's Arts Award from Washington DC, Ruth's first book, *Mud Blooms* (Harbor Mountain Press, 2019), was a finalist for the National Poetry Series and received a 2019 Silver Nautilus, and her second book, *Our hollowness sings*, is forthcoming from Unicorn Press in 2024. Ruth holds an MFA in Poetry from UNC-Greensboro, and an MA in Latin American Studies and BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Chris Fanning is a public relations professional and community builder. In addition to his role as Writers & Books' Deputy Director, he holds the position of President of the Neighborhood of the Arts Business Association. Chris worked as a Promotions Coordinator at Entercom Rochester for eight years and was Associate Producer of the Rochester Fringe Festival for five years. He currently serves as a board member of the St. Peter's Community Arts Academy in Geneva and sits on the marketing committee for Cameron Community Ministries.

Mary Gannon is the Executive Director of the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses [CLMP], a nonprofit service organization that supports and advocates for independent literary publishers. A veteran nonprofit administrator with more than twenty years of experience in the literary field, she was the Associate Director/Director of Content for the Academy of American Poets for five years, where she led the relaunch and production of the organization's award-winning website, Poets.org, and its popular Poem-a-Day series. She also oversaw the Academy's Education Program, including Teach This Poem, a weekly offering that received the 2018 National Book Foundation's Innovations in Reading Prize. Prior to working at the Academy, she was the Editorial Director of Poets & Writers, Inc., the country's largest nonprofit organization serving poets and writers of literary prose, where she headed up Poets & Writers Magazine and pw.org. An award-winning poet whose poems have been published widely, Gannon has also published numerous articles about publishing and the literary field and has profiled such notable authors as Anne Carson, Major Jackson, Heidi Julavits, Jay McInerney, and David Remnick. She is co-author with her husband, Kevin Larimer, of the book *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer*, published by Avid Reader Press in 2020.

Ron Kavanaugh is a literary activist and founding director of the [Literary Freedom Project](https://LiteraryFreedomProject.org), a Bronx-based arts organization that believes cultural identity is a fundamental cornerstone in the development of smart, creative, and engaged communities. Born and raised in the Bronx, Kavanaugh has worked with numerous local arts organizations, including The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx Council on the Arts, and En Foco, Inc.

Jisu Kim is the deputy director of Triple Canopy, a magazine that works with artists and writers to address the critical issues that define contemporary life. Working across a multiplicity of forms, the publication is committed to cultivating unconventional, unassimilated forms of thought and expression, and to meaningfully supporting the people who produce them.

Formerly, she worked at the nonprofit publisher Feminist Press, where she oversaw marketing, sales and publicity, and distribution, as well as acquired and edited books. At FP, she led campaigns on books by notable authors such as Michelle Tea, Brontez Purnell, Cristina Rivera Garza, Julian Delgado Lopera, Megan Milks, Grace M. Cho, and many more, as well as edited books by writers such as Bishakh Som and Kyung-sook Shin.

Christine Leahy is a Program Director at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in charge of the Arts Education and Literature Programs. Initiatives started under her tenure include the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Orchestras and Classical Music (DinO) collaboration with the Music program, the New York State Creative Aging Leaders Network and the NYS Youth Media Symposium and the Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists' Retreat. In previous positions at NYSCA she served in the agency's Facilities, Visual Arts, Museum, Architecture + Design and Folk Arts programs. Christine formerly worked for the artist Jenny Holzer and in the Education department at the Williams College Museum of Art, and has written for The New York Times and National Public Radio.

Jeffrey Lependorf, a performer, composer, visual artist, and nonprofit arts professional, serves as the Executive Director of [The Flow Chart Foundation](#)—an organization that explores the interrelationships of poetry and various art forms as guided by the legacy of John Ashbery. He served formerly as Executive Director of Small Press Distribution and the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, Development Director of the Creative Capital Foundation and Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project, and has been a fundraising and strategic planning consultant to numerous nonprofits. He holds a doctorate from Columbia University, where he also taught music history for a number of years, and has received numerous grants, awards and honors, including an individual artist grant from NYSCA. He recently edited [Something Close to Music: Late Art Writing, Poems, and Playlists](#) by John Ashbery (Zwirner Books).

Veronica Santiago Liu is the founder and general coordinator of the collective that operates Word Up Community Bookshop/Librería Comunitaria, a 12-year-old bookshop and community arts space in Washington Heights, NYC. She also currently serves as editor at large at Seven Stories Press. Veronica was an inaugural member of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the American Booksellers Association (ABA), served on the board of New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association, and has been a Publishers Weekly Star Watch Honoree; an honorable mention for the ABA's Entrepreneurial Excellence Award; a judge for the Story Prize, Kirkus Prize for Fiction, and Firecracker Award for Fiction; and a literature division panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts.

Ricardo Alberto Maldonado was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He is the author of *The Life Assignment* (Four Way Books, 2020); the translator of *Dinapiera Di Donato's Colaterales/Collateral* (National Poetry Series / Akashic Books, 2013); and coeditor of *Puerto Rico en mi corazón* (Anomalous Press, 2019), a bilingual anthology that raised funds for grassroots recovery efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Maldonado serves as President and Executive Director of the Academy of American Poets and is part of *El proyecto de la literatura puertorriqueña / The Puerto Rican Literature Project*, a forthcoming

online database collecting the creative output of Puerto Rican poets in the diaspora and archipelago.

Kim Marie McKernan, MBA, MS, is an international marketing leader, facilitator, and presenter. She left a career as a marketing executive to found her business, [Inspired Outcomes Now](#), to help business owners bring their vision to life with a true brand that generates results. Over 130 organizations, from startups to 135-year-old nonprofits, have leveraged her A Nu Way™ Branding process to stand apart and build loyalty through authenticity. With an MBA from SUNY at Buffalo, an MS in Creative Problem Solving from the Center for Applied Imagination, and a facilitator certification in Appreciative Inquiry, Kim has both practical and academic credentials. Kim mentors literary organizations for the LitNYS Literary Advancement Program, conscious entrepreneurs at [Shift/Co](#), and executives at [Collective Brains](#). She meets you where you are and takes you where you want to go.

Alison Meyers is Executive Director of [Writers & Books](#), a literary arts center in Rochester, NY. A veteran nonprofit leader, she previously led [Cave Canem Foundation](#) (Brooklyn, NY) as Executive Director, 2006-2016; served at [Hill-Stead Museum](#) (Farmington, CT) as Poetry Director and Director of Marketing & Communications, 2000-2006; and was General Manager of the Oberlin (OH) Consumers Co-op, a \$2.9 million bookstore serving Oberlin College & Conservatory and surrounding communities (1995-1999). For many years she owned and managed an independent bookstore in Connecticut. She consults, sits on panels, and presents widely; serves as a LitNYS mentor for New York State-based literary arts nonprofits; and is Treasurer of the Board of [Kweli Journal](#). Alison is a Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, fiction writer, and essayist whose work may be found in journals and anthologies and at www.alisonmeyers.com.

Paul W. Morris is the Executive Director of House of SpeakEasy, a literary arts nonprofit based in New York City that connects writers with readers, students, educators, and booklovers. The former Director of Literary Programs at PEN America and Vice President of The Authors Guild, he has held editorial positions at Viking Penguin and Tricycle, as well as several publishers and magazines. From 2004 to 2011, he oversaw digital strategy, cultural partnerships, and marketing at BOMB Magazine, where he was General Manager. His writing has appeared in several anthologies, and his essay on Hermann Hesse was included as the introduction to a translation of Siddhartha. He sits on advisory committees for the National Book Foundation, the Brooklyn Book Festival, LitNet, and Lit Crawl NYC. He lives in New York City.

Bruce Morrow has 29 years of experience in fundraising and nonprofit leadership. He has worked with the Misty Copeland Foundation, The Trevor Project, GLAAD, Girl Scouts of the USA, Bank Street College of Education, and Teachers & Writers Collaborative. He is a former fiction editor at Callaloo and a co-editor of "Shade: An Anthology of Short Fiction by Gay Men of African Descent." His writing has been published in the New York Times, "Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream," and "Freedom in this Village: Twenty-Five Years of Black Gay Men's Writing." He holds a BS in Biology from RIT and an MFA in Creative

Writing from Columbia University, In 2023, his short film “In Dreams Begin...” won the Best LGBTQ Jury and Audience Awards at the Paris Short Film Festival.

Stephen Motika is the director and publisher of Nightboat Books. He previously held positions at Poets House, PEN America, The Graduate Center, CUNY, and Simon & Schuster. He is the author of the book of poems, *Western Practice*, and the chapbooks *Arrival* and *at Mono*, *In the Madrones*, and *Private Archive*. He is the editor of *Tiresias: The Collected Poems of Leland Hickman* and coeditor of *Dear Kathleen: On the Occasion of Kathleen Fraser’s 80th Birthday*. His articles and poems have appeared in *Another Chicago Magazine*, *At Length*, *BOMB*, the *Brooklyn Review*, the *Constant Critic*, *Eleven Eleven*, *Maggy*, the *Poetry Project Newsletter*, *Poets & Writers*, Poets.org and *Vanitas*, among other publications. He has held residencies at the Lannan Foundation, Marfa, TX; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s *Workspace*; *Millay Colony for the Arts*; and *ZK/U* in Berlin, and taught at the *Indiana University Writers Conference*, *Lehman College of the City University of New York*, *Naropa University*, and the *Stonecoast MFA Program* at the *University of Southern Maine*.

Lee Norton is a member of the Editorial Collective at *Ugly Duckling Presse*, a nonprofit publisher for poetry, translation, experimental nonfiction, performance texts, and books by artists. From 2017-2022, he served as the *Presse’s* Development Director, a role in which he helped design, fund, and launch the *UDP Apprenticeship Program*, now in its sixth year. He holds a PhD in English and Comparative Literature from *UNC-Chapel Hill* and teaches literature and writing at *Queens College-CUNY*. Since 2017, he has been the *QC Writing Fellow* to *Townsend Harris High School’s Bridge-Year program*, where he mentors *THHS* seniors in writing and research and facilitates the annual *THHS Humanities Symposium*.

Debora Ott is a cultural/creative consultant whose abiding passion is to build community through a shared appreciation of the creative process. Her consulting practice focuses on capacity building, program development, succession, and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations. The founder of *Just Buffalo Literary Center, Inc.*, where she served as *Artistic/Executive Director* for 23 years, she’s the author of the monograph *About Face – A Guide to Founder Transition*, commissioned by the *New York State Council on the Arts*. In 1997, she accepted the *New York State Governor’s Arts Award* at *Lincoln Center*. She served as *Arts Education and Literature Program Manager* at the *Georgia Council for the Arts*, and in 2001, founded *LitNYS*, formerly *LitTAP*, the *Literary Technical Assistance Program*, a coalition of *New York State literary arts organizations*. She’s crafted *LitNYS’* capacity-building *Advancement Regrant* and *Peer-Mentoring programs*, over the last 20+ years, and curates *Facing Pages*, an annual, statewide, literary arts convening.

Chad W. Post is the director of *Open Letter Books*, a press at the *University of Rochester* dedicated to publishing contemporary literature from around the world. In addition, he is the managing editor of *Three Percent*, a blog and review site that promotes literature in translation and is home to the *Translation Database*, the *Best Translated Book Awards*, and the *Three Percent and Two Month Review podcasts*. He is also the author of *The Three Percent Problem: Rants and Responses on Publishing, Translation, and the Future of Reading*. His articles and

book reviews have appeared in a range of publications including *The Believer*, *Publishing Perspectives*, the Wall Street Journal culture blog, *Bookforum*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Quarterly Conversation*, among others.

Martha Rhodes is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *The Thin Wall* (University of Pittsburgh Press's Pitt Poetry Series, 2017). She is a member of the faculty of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, teaches at conferences around the country, and meets with writing students and adult writers around the country, including the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the Colrain Manuscript Conference, the Michener Center, Syracuse MFA, Cave Canem, etc. She was the director of the Frost Place Conference on Poetry from 2008-2018. Rhodes is a founder of Four Way Books which is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023. She serves as the publisher and executive editor. Her authors include Tommye Blount, John Murillo, Gregory Pardlo, Allison Benis White, and Andrea Cohen, among many others. Rhodes lives and works in NYC.

Ira Silverberg is a consultant to writers, artists, and arts organizations. He's been Editor-in-Chief of Grove Press; Publisher and co-editorial director of High Risk Books/Serpent's Tail; and a senior editor at Simon & Schuster. He's also worked on the nonprofit side of the literary arts as Literature Director at the National Endowment for the Arts; as a senior consultant for Bloomberg Philanthropies Arts Innovation Management program; and an advisor and mentor for LitNYS. He has advised dozens of arts organizations in capacity development; board building and management; staffing; mission building; strategic planning; sales, marketing, and distribution; publicity; annual campaigns; and grant writing. These include the Academy of American Poets; the Paris Review; Nightboat Books; Herstory Writers Workshop; ArtPapers; the Mellon Foundation; BookForum; the Feminist Press; City Arts & Lectures; Beyond Baroque; Lighthouse Writers Workshop; Lambda Literary Foundation.; Distributed Art Publishers; the Brennan Center for Justice; Conjunctions; BOMB; and Split This Rock. His writing has been published in the Paris Review, *New York Magazine*; *Document Journal*; *PAPER*; and *Textual Practice*. He is a member of the adjunct faculty of the MFA Writing Program and Columbia University's Graduate School of the Arts; and is a certified Theta Healer and Reiki Master. He lives in Bellport, NY

Maria Ta is a cultural activist, actor, and nonprofit leader. She is dedicated to the establishment and protection of bravely creative spaces especially those dedicated to young people. A first-generation American, Maria proudly hails from a Vietnamese refugee family. She earned a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Political Science from Canisius College. Maria's work experiences include over 10 years in the nonprofit sector in Buffalo including time at the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns, Journey's End Refugee Services, and most recently Ujima Theatre Company. She currently serves as Interim Executive Director at Buffalo String Works. She is also a founding member of Frontline Arts Buffalo where she continues the advocacy work to achieve equity for frontline arts organizations and artists.

Annette Daniels Taylor's art practice explores storytelling. An award-winning theater artist, and filmmaker. Annette directs, acts, and develops stage productions. Her cinematic poems are screened and exhibited regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The author of the children's book series *The Marvelous Marvella J.Q.: Marvella Finds Her Magic* (west44books, 2022); *Marvella is a Model* (west44books, 2023), and *Marvella Takes Flight* (west44books, 2023). Annette's young adult novels in verse include *Shoot the Storm* (west44books, 2022) and the award-winning, *Dreams on Fire*, (west44books, 2018.) Her 2021, *Three Poems*, chapbook is the 15th of The Poetry Collection series of the University Libraries at Buffalo, New York. Annette is an Assistant Professor with D'youville University's Dramatic Theater Arts MFA program and teaches Writing for Broadcast at SUNY Buffalo State University. A 2023 NYSCA Support for Artists award recipient and Creatives Rebuild New York Program Fellow with Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.

Nathalie Costa Thill has been the Executive Director of the Adirondack Center for Writing, the literary organization serving the entire six-million-acre Adirondack Park, pretty much since its inception in 1999. ACW offers a variety of literary programs, from workshops, conferences, and readings to retreats for high school students, prison writing programs, and writing contests. Nathalie sits on the steering Committee of LITNET, a national group of literary organizations and presses whose mission is to raise the level of awareness of the literary arts throughout the United States. She has been asked to speak on several occasions on behalf of the National Endowment for the Arts about her exceptional prison writing program.

Laurie Torrell has had a 35+ year career in nonprofit organizations, previously with American Red Cross and Planned Parenthood, most recently serving as Just Buffalo Literary Center (www.justbuffalo.org) Executive Director from 2002-2023. Newly retired from that position, she now serves as LitNYS project consultant. During her tenure at Just Buffalo, Torrell worked to create a top caliber team, with staff and board implementing new curatorial, educational and advocacy initiatives. Under her leadership, the organization secured competitive grants to more than triple the budget and bring expanded literary programming to the community including the BABEL contemporary author series, and JB Writing Center for teens. Torrell pioneered an Administrative Collaboration honored with a National Certificate of Recognition from the Kellogg and Lodestar Foundations; spearheaded JB40, a successful \$1M Advancement Campaign; and secured national grant funding with Detroit colleagues for "Writing Across the Rust Belt," a collaborative capacity building initiative (2019-2024) designed to have field-wide impact. She co-chairs Greater Buffalo Cultural Alliance which advocates for arts & culture, and is currently creating a Cultural Plan for Buffalo & Erie County.

Lisa Willis is a passionate artistic administrator with 20 years of experience managing multi-disciplinary projects in the non-profit and commercial arts sectors. She has held various consulting and management roles in development, programming, and operations for New York Live Arts, home of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Contemporaneous, Thresh, Heidi Latsky Dance, Brian Sanders' JUNK, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the Mann, and JazzReach. In 2020 she co-founded The LynList, a curated listserv and grant writing support

service for NYC area individual artists and small non-profit arts groups. Prior to her shift into fundraising, she was the founding Operations Manager for CAMI Music, establishing and managing its daily administrative protocols in addition to overseeing the touring and managerial logistics for Lang Lang, Tan Dun, Savion Glover, American Ballet Theatre, Cirque Eloize, and the Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández. Lisa holds a B.A. in Music Composition and Theory from New York University and has a background of training in ballet and modern dance.

Jamia Wilson is an award-winning feminist activist, writer, speaker, and podcaster. She joined Random House as vice president and executive editor in 2021. As the former director of the Feminist Press at the City University of New York and the former VP of programs at the Women's Media Center, Jamia has been a leading voice on women's rights issues for over a decade. Her work has appeared in numerous outlets, including the New York Times, the Today Show, CNN, Elle, BBC, Rookie, Refinery 29, Glamour, Teen Vogue, and The Washington Post. She is the author of *This Book Is Feminist*, *Young, Gifted, and Black*, *Young, Gifted and Black Too*, the introduction and oral history in *Together We Rise: Behind the Scenes at the Protest Heard Around the World*, *Step Into Your Power: 23 Lessons on How to Live Your Best Life*, *Big Ideas for Young Thinkers*, *ABC's of AOC*, and the co-author of *Roadmap for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Advocacy, and Activism for All*. Jamia is passionate about mission-driven organizations and serves on the Omega Institute, [Feminist.com](https://www.feminist.com), and Center for Reproductive Rights boards. She is also the co-host of the second season of the Anthem Award-winning podcast, *Ordinary Equality*.