

# 2026 AMERICAN *writers* FESTIVAL

## DESCRIPTION AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**The American Writers Festival**, co-presented by the **American Writers Museum** and the **Chicago Public Library**, will take place at the iconic **Harold Washington Library** in downtown Chicago on **Sunday, June 7, 2026**.



The Festival will feature in-depth conversations with diverse writers of fiction, history, biography, children's books and more. Programs will take place in the Pritzker Auditorium, Reception Hall, and other spaces throughout the Library. **Because of our sponsors, the festival is free and open to the public.** The 2026 Festival promises to build on the success of the 2024 festival, a premier day-long literary event that featured 70 renowned authors on five stages and attracted thousands of people from the Chicago metro area.

### IMPACT

The goal of the American Writers Festival is to present **a literary festival in Chicago that is a reflection of America through its writers.** Popular and award-winning authors in all genres will engage audiences on a variety of topics as presented through their writing. Festival-goers will have the opportunity to purchase the authors' books on site. Festival attendees are encouraged to explore their own creativity through writing workshops, literary activities, and more.



[Please click here for a brief video overview of the 2024 American Writers Festival.](#)





CHICAGO  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## VENUE

Harold Washington Library  
400 South State Street  
Chicago, IL 60605

Multiple stages at the Library will accommodate audiences of 30 to 370, with livestreaming and recording at each stage.



## ABOUT THE AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

The American Writers Museum is **the first and only museum to celebrate American writers of all genres**, through exhibits, programs with contemporary authors, and the Write In youth education program. Since the museum opened in 2017, we have presented programs with established and emerging writers in all genres from around the country.

Since 2020, we have presented these programs online also, and have a strong track record of bringing interesting and influential writers to the public. The museum has hosted renowned writers such as **Walter Isaacson, Billy Collins, Tim O'Brien, Susan Orlean, Colson Whitehead, Tayari Jones, Brit Bennett, Walter Mosley, Rebecca Roanhorse, Nikki Giovanni, Maureen Corrigan**, and many more.

The AWM opened its newest exhibit *American Prophets: Writers, Religion, and Culture* in November 2025. Programming related to this exhibit will be presented at the American Writers Festival, including the release of the anthology *A Nation Wrestles With God: American Prophets, Philosophers, and Firebrands*.

Published by Restless Books and edited by Ilan Stavans (International Latino Book Award winner and Guggenheim Fellow), this is a landmark collection of the philosophers and firebrands who sparked a country's journey through divinity—praising, challenging, and redefining the sacred. Other programming related to this exhibit is currently being planned.



*American Prophets* launch event "Making New Gods", Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at Harold Washington Library Center featuring acclaimed fiction writers N.K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor, Nghi Vo, and Matthew Kirby



*American Prophets* opening night reception, November 19, 2025



## PROMOTION AND AUDIENCE

The Festival is expected to attract approximately 4,000 visitors from the Chicago area and beyond. We will market the event broadly through digital channels, radio, street pole banners, and in digital and print ads through partners such as the Illinois Department of Tourism, the City of Chicago/Choose Chicago, the Chicago Loop Alliance, and others. The Chicago Public Library promoted the event through their newsletter, on their website event calendar, and on signage at Harold Washington Library and library branches.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

Promotion of the 2024 American Writers Festival by the AWM and CPL, combined with coverage from the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Reader*, WBBM radio and other media outlets **exceeding 250 million impressions**, resulted in strong attendance at the event and a boost in tourist activity in the Loop area. Past festival partners combined to have a **social following of over 1.6 million**, helping us to reach literature lovers from across the city and beyond.

## PARTNER TESTIMONIALS



**PETER SAGAL** | Author and host of NPR's *Wait Wait, Don't Tell Me!*

"This was a premier event that will continue to make Chicago the center of American literary life; the place from where American voices come and to where they return."



**MICHELLE BOONE** | President, Poetry Foundation

"A FABULOUS festival...and an impressive turnout...I enjoyed my time there, sitting in on sessions, seeing cool writers, and being in person with fellow colleagues."



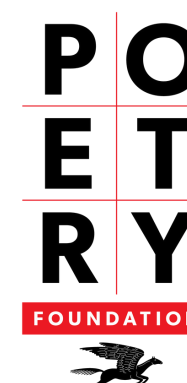
**CHRIS BROWN** | Commissioner, Chicago Public Library

"An awesome day and a big success! Incredible..."

## FESTIVAL PARTNERS



Chicago  
Humanities





## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsors of the 2026 American Writers Festival provide the financial support needed to host a premier literary event with the country's most influential writers from around the country.

**Sponsors will be prominently recognized in association with the Festival, reaching our engaged, well-read audience.**

### Sponsor Levels and Recognition

At the American Writers Museum, we strive to create beneficial sponsorship agreements with our funding partners. We recognize that all potential sponsors have different interests and priorities. **We welcome conversations with all interested supporters at all levels to find creative ways to use this opportunity to help you reach your goals.** All sponsors receive:

- Festival passes that provide reserved front-row seats to all programs and early access for book signings
- Opportunity to distribute marketing materials and promotional items at the Festival
- Customized company promotional offer on the Festival Deals page of the website
- Recognition in YouTube videos of Festival programs
- Name and logo on signage at the festival

Sponsorship benefits are customizable.  
Options include, but are not limited to:

✦ **Presenting Sponsor: \$50,000**

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✦ **Lead Sponsor: \$25,000**

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✦ **Partner Sponsor: \$10,000**

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✦ **Guild Sponsor: \$5,000**

### Connect With Us

To discuss these sponsorship opportunities or to make your commitment, please contact:

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