

Beyond the MFA Workshop

Writing Organizations:

CantoMundo

cantomundo.org

CantoMundo is dedicated to cultivating and nurturing Latinx poets through a yearly fellowship retreat, master workshops and mentorship, as well as supporting existing events and readings for alumni.

Kundiman

kundiman.org

Kundiman fosters and supports the growth of Asian American poets and prose writers through a yearly fellowship retreat, master workshops, mentorship and offers additional programs such as Kavad, which is a storytelling program.

Cave Canem

cavecanem.org

The inspiration for CantoMundo and Kundiman, this pioneering organization is "a home for Black Poetry," and in addition to its fellowship retreat, Cave Canem offers additional programs such as New Work Reading Series, Poets on Craft, ongoing Lectures & Masters Classes, Poets Tours and Legacy Conversations..

VONA

vonacommunity.org

Dedicated to Writers of Color in poetry, prose and playwriting, VONA offers a yearly retreat in which to build community, foster artistic growth and offer mentorship. There are additional events for alumni and an online forum in order to preserve ties with existing and new members.

American Asian Writers' Workshop

aaww.org

Dedicated to fostering and publishing the work of Asian American writers, the Asian American Writers' Workshop (AAWW) offers not only several online platforms such as *The Margins* and *Open City* which feature and highlight Asian American voices, but also has created *CultureStrike*, which focuses on immigration issues. Additionally, the AAWW hosts events and readings in New York City.

Winter Tangerine

wintertangerine.com

A new literary magazine which, according to their mission statement, seeks "to disrupt the status quo. To amplify the unheard. To account for the unaccounted," *Winter Tangerine* also offers one-week-long Flash Workshops in autumn, winter and spring in addition to three two-week-long summer workshops that focus on discussing and creating both poetry and prose.

Venues to Organize & Hold Readings, Workshops & Public Discussions:

Independent Bookstores

Cafes

Bars

Art galleries

Museums

Cultural centers

Public parks & gardens

Vintage shops & independently-owned businesses

Here are some tips on contacting venues in which to host your event. I send emails to Event Coordinators, who are usually listed on the venue's website; if you cannot find one, send to the main contact email listed.

In your cover letter, you should:

- Indicate your familiarity with the event space as a patron. Have you visited recently? Are you a regular? Have you seen another exhibit that inspired your particular event?
- Be specific about the what and why of the event. What is it *exactly* that you seek to do with this event? Why is it important and what did you choose this space? (For instance, proposing a Latinx reading in a public park during National Poetry Month to highlight how Latinx poetry has contributed to U.S. literature; choosing a space in the park keeps it free/low-cost and open to the public.)
- Give a brief biography of who you are and why this event is important to you, as well as those who are participating/speaking/facilitating in the reading, workshop or discussion.
- Thank them for taking the time to read your request, and make sure to proofread before sending!