

EVERYONE

HAS A *story* TO TELL.



Whistler
WRITERS
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 17-20, 2024





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DONATE TODAY

Your donation enables us to offer programming that is inclusive, diverse, and accessible.

We are proud to deliver extraordinary storytelling events and workshops through our programs, including the Whistler Writers Festival, Authors in the Schools Program, Writer in Residence Program, One Day Writing Retreats and more. A charitable receipt will be issued for your donation.

whistlerwritersfest.com/donate

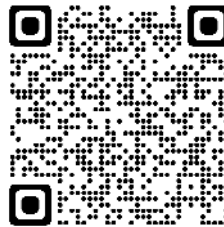
PLANNED GIFTS

Please contact rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com to arrange a planned gift.

THE LITERARY ARTS LEGACY FUND

A gift today is an investment that will provide a reliable, annual source of funds to help us continue to bring new ideas, voices, and change to the world. Your donation to the Literary Arts Legacy Fund is eligible for matching funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Thanks for Making a Difference.



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WELCOME

“One of the many lessons I hope I’ve learned is how much I underestimated people, their open-mindedness and their willingness to understand. I think, moreover, I underestimated the degree to which everyone has a story. So my advice, for whatever it’s worth, is to trust readers, trust the truth and trust the power of storytelling.” - **Jeannette Walls, author of *The Glass Castle***

Welcome to the 2024 Whistler Writers Festival. We are grateful to live, work and learn on the unceded territory of the Sḵwxwú7mesh Nation (Squamish) and Lil’wat7úl Nation (Lil’wat).

This year our festival theme is *Everyone Has a Story to Tell*.

If we take the time to listen, we soon discover that everyone has gone through something that has changed them or their life. And, as listeners, we bear witness to their struggle and honour the storyteller’s truth.

Through listening comes learning, understanding and empathy. This is the power of storytelling. Even though we may have had different lives and experiences, we can connect and care for each other by hearing individuals tell their stories. And with every story told, I believe the world becomes a better place.

The festival has gathered together an extraordinary group of storytellers, spoken word artists, authors, poets and musicians, who are local and from across Canada. We are so grateful that you’ve come to listen, ask questions, and have conversations with our guest speakers, volunteers and each other.

With open minds and open hearts, we are all here to give life to stories. Thank you for joining our community.



Rebecca Wood Barrett

Artistic Director

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

WORKSHOP 1: THE BUSINESS OF PUBLISHING

12 – 12:45 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

WORKSHOP 2: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF BOOK PRODUCTION

1 – 2:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

WORKSHOP 3: WORKSHOP YOUR CONCEPT

3 – 4:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

READING EVENT 1: CANADA'S BEST INDIES 2024 WHISTLER INDEPENDENT BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

5 – 6:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

READING EVENT 2: THE SOUND OF STORY: ORAL STORYTELLING & SPOKEN WORD

7 – 8:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

WORKSHOP 4: INSIGHTS FROM INSIDERS: RIDING THE WAVES OF CANADA'S TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING LANDSCAPE

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. PDT | Online

READING EVENT 3: WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE HERE: PICTURE BOOK READING

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. | Whistler Public Library

WORKSHOP 5: TIME TO PITCH! GET YOUR 15 MINUTES WITH A PUBLISHING PRO

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. PDT | Online

READING EVENT 4: THE LUPINE REVIEW: SECOND EDITION LAUNCH PARTY

6 – 7:15 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

READING EVENT 5: THE LITERARY CABARET

8 – 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

COME WRITE WITH US! WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

WORKSHOP 6: THREE STEPS TO DEVELOPING A STRONG NARRATIVE THEME

9 – 10 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 6: COMPASSION AND HAPPINESS: A CONVERSATION WITH WRITERS OF FICTION

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

WORKSHOP 7: OUTSIDE THE DOCX: VISUAL DESIGN IN POETRY

11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 7: CHILLING TALES: THRILLING FICTION

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 8: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: NON-FICTION READING EVENT

3 – 4:15 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 9: THE ONE THING: POETRY READING AND DISCUSSION

4:30 – 5:45 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 10: BENEATH THE SURFACE: A CONVERSATION WITH WADE DAVIS

Doors Open 7:30 p.m. | 8 – 9:30 p.m.
Fairmont Chateau Whistler + Online

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

COME WRITE WITH US! WRITING, COFFEE & NETWORKING SUITE

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 11: FIREBRANDS, RUNAWAYS & TIME WARPS: CHILDREN & YA AUTHORS' READING EVENT

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

READING EVENT 12: SUNDAY BOOKTALK AND BREAKFAST

10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

WORKSHOP 8: CHEAT CODE FOR CONFLICT: A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH!

2 – 3 p.m. | FREE (RSVP) for youth 18 and under
Whistler Public Library

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

PUBLISH LIKE A PRO: WORKSHOP SERIES

Presented by Vivalogue Publishing

WORKSHOP 1:

The Business of Publishing

Lynn Duncan

12 – 12:45 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person \$32

Today's authors have multiple options when it comes to publishing. How do you find a publisher? Should you consider self-publishing? What is hybrid publishing? What about e-books and audiobooks? Do you need an agent? How do royalties and advances work? This session provides comprehensive information, including a checklist, that will help authors make the choice that best suits their needs.



WORKSHOP 2:

The Nuts and Bolts of Book Production

Lynn Duncan

1 – 2:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person \$32

This session provides practical advice on how to avoid rookie mistakes, regardless of the publishing path you choose. Do you need an editor? If so, how do you find one and what does it cost? What about proofreading? What are the trends in cover design? How do I promote my book? Where and how can I sell it? Includes a resource list of do-it-yourself options.



WORKSHOP 3:

Workshop Your Concept

Lynn Duncan

3 – 4:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person \$32

Looking for impartial feedback from your peers? Not sure how to tackle your chosen topic? Want to do some market research? Stuck on a plot point? Whether you are trying to refine your concept, decide on a title, or polish a sales pitch, this session is an opportunity to hear the opinions of the facilitators and other authors in an informal and supportive environment.



READING EVENT 1:

Canada's Best Indies 2024

Whistler Independent Book Award Finalists

5 – 6:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person FREE (RSVP)

Accomplished writers are increasingly turning to independent publishing as a creatively and financially rewarding alternative to the traditional model. Meet some of the best independent authors in the country as finalists for the Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBA) read from books nominated in children's literature, fiction, and non-fiction categories. Winners will be announced at Friday night's Literary Cabaret.

Moderator: Lynn Duncan

READING EVENT 2:

The Sound of Story:

Oral Storytelling & Spoken Word

Bradley Peters, Nisha Patel, Holly Bikadi,

Tsawaysia Spukwus Dominique Nahanee

7 – 8:30 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person \$27

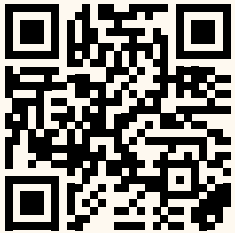
Experience the melody and magic of oral storytelling with Lil'wat author and oral storyteller, **Holly Bikadi** and Squamish storyteller **Tsawaysia Spukwus Dominique Nahanee**, alongside spoken word artist and slam poetry champ, **Nisha Patel** (*A Fate Worse than Death*) and award-winning poet **Bradley Peters** (*Sonnets from a Cell*).

Moderator and Lil'wat storyteller **Yvonne Wallace** will lead these four talented artists in conversation about the diverse and ancient art forms of oral storytelling and performing. This event is presented in collaboration with the **BC and Yukon Book Prizes**.

Moderator: Yvonne Wallace

2024 WHISTLER WRITERS FEST RAFFLE

Support the fest! Get your Festival Raffle tickets for a chance to win one of two fantastic prize packages! Edge Card, Sea 2 Sky Gondola, Fairmont Chateau, gift baskets, snowshoes and books!



WHISTLER'S FIRST NATIONS MUSEUM

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WHISTLER

We welcome festival guests, speakers and supporters to our thriving Cultural Centre to tour, shop and dine authentic Indigenous in Whistler's Upper Village.



Visit us in the Upper Village,
4584 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

WORKSHOP 4:

Insights from Insiders: Riding the Waves of Canada's Traditional Publishing Landscape

With Catharine Chen (Arsenal Pulp Press), Anna Comfort O'Keeffe (Douglas & McIntyre), Vici Johnstone (Caitlin Press), Janice Zawerbny (HarperCollins), Julia Kim (The Rights Factory)

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. PDT | Online \$35

For writers new or established, it can be quite a wild ride in the world of Canadian publishing. Join industry experts—publishers, editors, and agents, for tips and tricks on what they're looking for in a manuscript, how to best position your book for a successful acquisition, and how to make the most of your industry and writer networks. One of our most popular sessions!

Moderator: Katherine Fawcett

Sponsored by: SFU Continuing Studies - Creative Writing



READING EVENT 3:

We're Happy You're Here: Picture Book Reading Julie Wilkins

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person FREE (RSVP)

Calling all kids and families! Come and hear debut Squamish-based author (and bookseller) **Julie Wilkins** read from her picture book, *We're Happy You're Here*. Gather round and learn about the different journeys families can take to welcome kids into their lives. Illustrations by Brady Sato will delight participants of all ages.

WORKSHOP 5:

Time to Pitch! Get Your 15 Minutes with a Publishing Pro

JC Cham (Arsenal Pulp Press), Anna Comfort O'Keeffe (Douglas & McIntyre), Vici Johnstone (Caitlin Press), Janice Zawerbny (HarperCollins), Julia Kim (The Rights Factory)

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. PDT | Online \$45 per pitch | Limited space available

Book fifteen-minutes of facetime with an industry pro. Outside of festivals, getting one-on-one time with some of Canada's most respected publishing decision-makers is next to impossible! Use this time to pitch your book, story idea, or poetry collection. Come prepared with a five-minute pitch and/or questions for these publishers, editors, and agents.

This session fee includes one 15-minute pitch on a first-come, first-choice basis. Choose up to four pitches total. **Pro tip:** Research these publishers before booking to ensure a good fit for your work (read the bios and Google the kinds of books they publish).

READING EVENT 4:

The Lupine Review: Second Edition Launch Party

6 - 7:15 p.m. | Whistler Public Library | In-person FREE (RSVP)

Join us in celebrating the second edition of Whistler's arts and literary magazine, *The Lupine Review*. Co-founded and produced by Abby Deveney and Colleen MacDonald, in partnership with the festival, the literary magazine is available in print and online, and showcases the Sea to Sky region's talents. Come and hear readings from writers featured in the 2024 edition and be a part of developing and sustaining *The Lupine Review* for years to come.

MCs: Abby Deveney & Colleen MacDonald

Sponsored by: Real Estate Association of Whistler



READING EVENT 5:

The Literary Cabaret

8 - 10 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$35

The Literary Cabaret is back with a night of literary riffs and live music. Host band West Coast Front will jam with guest authors **Dallas Hunt** (*Teeth*), **Laura Sharp** (*Places You Catch Yourself*), **Bob McDonald** (*Just Say Yes*), **Michael V. Smith** (*Queers Like Me*), **Natalie Sue** (*I Hope This Finds You Well*) and **Alli Vail** (*Brooklyn Thomas Isn't Here*) as they read from their latest works.

West Coast Front features music director **Geeta Das** (trumpet, saxophone, and percussion), **Rajan Das** (upright bass), **Jason Overy** (percussion), and **Rosalind Steel** (electric keyboard). During the evening, the winners of the Whistler Independent Book Awards will be announced for the Fiction, Non-fiction, and Children's categories. Be sure to get your tickets now before this popular event sells out!

MC: **Stephen Vogler**

Sponsored by: **Canadian Authors Association**

canadian
authors

NON-FICTION CONTEST

TOTAL CASH PRIZES:

\$3,000

CONTEST JUDGE:

Michelle Cyca

DEADLINE:

October 15



eventmagazine.ca

READING PASS

In-person \$215 (save \$50)

The festival reading pass is back! Treat yourself to a literary cornucopia of 11 festival reading events. There is a limited quantity of this incredible pass offer.



WORKSHOP PASS

In-person \$145 (save \$50)

The festival workshop pass returns! Elevate your writing practice by attending up to 6 festival workshop events all for one pass price. There is a limited quantity of this incredible pass offer. Note: The pass does not include Time to Pitch! Your 15 Minutes with a Publishing Pro, which must be purchased separately.

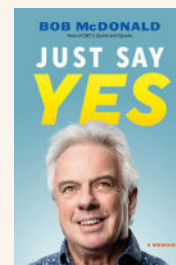
CATCH OUR AUTHORS *at the* WHISTLER WRITERS FESTIVAL



TEETH
Dallas Hunt
NIGHTWOOD




OLD GODS
Conor Kerr
NIGHTWOOD



JUST SAY YES
Bob McDonald
D&M

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Come Write with Us!

Writing, Coffee & Networking Suite

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

The Federation of BC Writers welcomes festival presenters and workshop participants to stop by for a chat about all things writing! We hope you'll feel inspired by the festival and take advantage of this quiet space to write, meet fellow writers, and connect with our team. Coffee, tea, and treats are on hand to fuel your writing.

9 - 10 a.m. Writers Talking: Bryan Mortensen, Executive Director of the Federation of BC Writers, welcomes all writers to join him in conversations about writing, publishing, and to connect with other writers

10 - 11 a.m. Writing Sprint: join other writers for a writing sprint, accompanied by pianist Andrew Sims

1 - 3 p.m. Micro Writing Retreat: join other writers for quiet, focused writing time

Sponsored by: Federation of BC Writers

WORKSHOP 6:

Three Steps to Developing a Strong Narrative Theme

Jennifer Manuel

9 - 10 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$32

A story dramatizes an argument about life. Discover three steps to refining your argument and distilling it into a compelling theme. Explore how your theme can guide your decisions about narrative structure and scene development. Learn powerful tricks and techniques for bringing your theme to life on the page, leaving readers deeply moved and with a renewed perspective on the human experience. Whether you're working on a novel, memoir, or short story, you'll come away with practical tools to infuse your writing with purpose and resonance. Join us to unlock the full potential of your narrative and create stories that linger in readers' minds long after the final page.



READING EVENT 6:

Compassion and Happiness:

A Conversation with Writers of Fiction

Caroline Adderson, Jowita Bydlowska, and WIBA Winner

10:15 - 11:30 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$27

How does the heart learn to find what it needs? Join us in a dialogue with three masterful storytellers, **Caroline Adderson** (*A Way to Be Happy*), **Jowita Bydlowska** (*Monster*), and the winner of the Whistler Independent Book Award for fiction, in an exploration of this question, and the interlacing themes of loneliness, connection, duty, and happiness.

Moderated by: **Rebecca Wood Barrett**

Sponsored by: **The Whistler Grocery Store**



WORKSHOP 7:

Outside the Docx: Visual Design in Poetry

Nisha Patel

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$32

In this workshop, poet and artist Nisha Patel will guide participants on how the visual design of a poem can deepen and amplify beyond the meaning and arrangement of the words alone. Participants will have the opportunity to play with form, learn how to use online tools in new ways, and—through the hands-on use of multimedia art supplies (provided)—create their own concrete and/or visual poems.

READING EVENT 7:

Chilling Tales: Thrilling Fiction

Amber Cowie, S.C. Lalli, and Hannah Mary McKinnon

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$27

Join moderator Tara Jean Stevens, Vancouver radio host and creator of the podcast, *Heaven Bent* in conversation with some of today's most exciting writers of suspense. Tara will delve into the wild world of investigation, research, crime and thriller writing with guest authors, **Amber Cowie** (*The Off Season*), **S.C. Lalli** (*The Plus One*), and **Hannah Mary McKinnon** (*Only One Survives*). These spine-tingling novels explore our jealousy of those who achieve fame and fortune, and what happens when you don't iron out expectations before a marriage. All that, plus you'll be second guessing who you invite on your next vacation... Reserve your spot soon, this session is killer.

Moderator: Tara Jean Stevens

Sponsored by: Sea to Sky Welding & Fabrication



READING EVENT 8:

Setting the Record Straight: Non-Fiction Reading Event

Carly Butler, Valerie Jerome, and WIBA Winner

3 - 4:15 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$27

Come hear true stories of resilience, courage and conviction, as we welcome **Carly Butler** (*Apocalypse Child*), **Valerie Jerome** (*Races: The Trials & Triumphs of Canada's Fastest Family*), and the winner of the Whistler Independent Book Award for Non-fiction. Join us in a conversation where Jerome tells the story of her heroic family history at the intersection of race and sport in Canada, and Butler reveals her journey of how she learned to connect as an adult when her education consisted of conspiracy theories, survivalist measures, and religious doctrine.

Moderator: Leslie Anthony

Sponsored by: Pasta Lupino & Burnt Stew Consulting Services



READING EVENT 9:

The One Thing: Poetry Reading and Discussion

Ali Blythe, Conor Kerr and Rhea Tregobov

4:30 – 5:45 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | In-person \$27

It may be that the poet can only write *the one thing* that demands to be written. Poet Billy Collins said, "There may be no deals you can make with poetry to entice it out of the lair. A poem, actually any writing, is always a private thing, and that is how I must begin." The power of the poem is in the poet's courage to confront the personal in a public way.

The Whistler Writers Festival presents three poets - **Conor Kerr** (*Old Gods*), **Ali Blythe** (*Stedfast*), and **Rhea Tregobov** (*Talking to Strangers*) - each bringing their unique *One Thing*.

Moderator: Mary MacDonald

READING EVENT 10:

Beneath the Surface:

A Conversation with Wade Davis

Doors Open 7:30 p.m. | Event 8 – 9:30 p.m. PDT

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Online \$25 | In-person \$42 - includes a glass of wine or beer

Join longtime friend of the festival, author and biologist, Leslie Anthony in a captivating conversation with National Geographic Explorer and Canadian anthropology legend, **Wade Davis**. Wade's latest book, *Beneath the Surface of Things: New and Selected Essays* brings his unique anthropological perspective on various topics. Overall, the collection encourages us to see, and to seek, the wisdom of the middle way—a perspective of promise and hope. And since you can't know where you're going until you know where you've been, get ready for a deep dive and riveting discussion about Wade's previous books, the evolving nature of anthropology and the effects of history, culture and politics on modern existence. Arrive early at 7:30 p.m. to hear themed classical music by the **Sea to Sky String Orchestra** and enjoy a glass of wine or beer from the bar.

Moderator: Leslie Anthony

Sponsored by: RGF - Integrated Wealth Management



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Come Write with Us!

Writing, Coffee & Networking Suite

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

The Federation of BC Writers welcomes festival presenters and workshop participants to stop by for a chat about all things writing! We hope you'll feel inspired by the festival and take advantage of this quiet space to write, meet fellow writers, and connect with our team. Coffee, tea, and treats are on hand to fuel your writing.

9 - 10 a.m. Writers Talking: Bryan Mortensen, Executive Director of the Federation of BC Writers, welcomes all writers to join him in conversations about writing, publishing, and to connect with other writers

10 - 11 a.m. Writing Sprint: join other writers for a writing sprint, accompanied by pianist Andrew Sims

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Micro Writing Retreat: join other writers for quiet, focused writing time

Sponsored by: Federation of BC Writers

READING EVENT 11:

Firebrands, Runaways & Time Warps: Children & YA Authors' Reading Event

Marty Chan, Adam de Souza, Sarah Suk, and WIBA Winner

10 - 11 a.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

In-person \$27 | FREE for Youth

Moderator Sara Leach explores books with inquisitive, bold characters, seeking to find the truth and unravel mysteries. Join us for an in-depth conversation with children's and YA authors, **Marty Chan** (*Izzy Wong's Nose for News*), **Adam de Souza** (*The Gulf*), **Sarah Suk** (*The Space Between Here & Now*) and the 2024 Whistler Independent Book Awards winner for children's fiction. Find out how these authors effortlessly weave modern day issues and themes into their work to help youth engage in discussions on big issues in a way that all ages can absorb and understand.

Moderator: Sara Leach



READING EVENT 12:

Sunday BookTalk and Breakfast

Conor Kerr, Bob McDonald, and
Leanne Toshiko Simpson

Doors Open 10:45 a.m. | Breakfast at 11 a.m.

Event 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fairmont Chateau Whistler

In-person \$60 (includes breakfast)

Spend Sunday morning chatting with other booklovers over the delicious Whiskey Jack Continental buffet breakfast before taking in this year's BookTalk reading event. Moderator and author Caroline Adderson will engage three award-winning authors — **Conor Kerr** (*Prairie Edge*), **Bob McDonald** (*Just Say Yes*), and **Leanne Toshiko Simpson** (*Never Been Better*) — in conversation about their new releases. Each of these authors tackle pressing contemporary concerns: de-colonization, loss of culture, mental health, privacy and security, fake news and more.

Moderator: Caroline Adderson

Sponsored by: Penguin Random House



Penguin
Random House
Canada

WORKSHOP 8:

Cheat Code for Conflict: A Creative Writing Workshop for Youth!

2 - 3 p.m. | Whistler Public Library

FREE (RSVP) for youth 18 and under

Inject drama into your stories with **Marty Chan's** cheat code. In this workshop, students will learn the three essential steps for creating conflict out of any situation. Marty will show kids how to raise the stakes to create an incredible climax as well as identify the seven different types of conflict a protagonist can face. After this session, kids will be able to turn even the flattest first draft into an engaging story that hooks readers from the start to the end. Bring your paper and pencils along with your imagination. Get ready to write!

Sponsored by: Vision Pacific Contracting Ltd.



OUR PROGRAMS

AUTHORS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

This year we are thrilled to welcome authors **Marty Chang** (*Izzy Wong's Nose for News*), **Adam de Souza** (*The Gulf*), and **Sarah Suk** (*The Space between Here & Now*). 420 copies of their books will be delivered to classrooms in Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, and Mount Currie, and the authors will give presentations to students throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor. Over 1500 students, from Grade 4 to Grade 12, participate in the program each year. We are grateful for the generous support of:



WHISTLER WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM WITH JENNIFER MANUEL

We are thrilled to welcome award-winning writer **Jennifer Manuel** (*The Morning Bell Brings the Broken Hearted*) as the mentor author for the Whistler Writer in Residence program. Jennifer will work one-on-one with local writers to develop their writing projects, and hold group writing craft lectures at the Artists' Cabin on Alta Lake during the fall.

Funded by:



WHISTLER INDEPENDENT BOOK AWARDS

The Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBA) are the only juried competition open exclusively to self-published Canadian authors, honouring the best in indie publishing. The WIBAs are a partnership between Vivalogue Publishing and the Whistler Writers Festival.

AMPLIFYING VOICES SCHOLARSHIP

The Amplifying Voices Scholarship is for writers or storytellers, and supports underrepresented voices in Canadian publishing, particularly those who are Indigenous, Black, racialized, Deaf or hard of hearing, living with a disability, and/or LGBTQ2SI+. The scholarship offers participation in the Whistler Writer in Residence program and a Whistler Writers Festival pass.

ONE DAY WRITING RETREATS

Writers meet in the spring at The Point Artist-run Centre for inspiration, support, a potluck lunch, a creative writing workshop, and a day of writing on the peaceful shores of Alta Lake.

SPRING READING EVENTS

Spring is our time for open mic readings featuring local authors, music, and gathering together for enthralling literary events that renew the spirit.

NEW! FESTIVAL SAFE SPACE

We recognize that difficult subjects may be discussed at the festival, and content may be triggering for some. We offer a safe, quiet space for respite for any person attending. Located across from the Empress Ballroom, please ask a volunteer to direct you to the space and support you if desired.

GET INVOLVED WITH US

If you are interested in being a voting member of The Whistler Writing Society, volunteering, or becoming a director of the board, please reach out at writers@whistlerwritersfest.com

WHISTLER INDEPENDENT BOOK AWARDS

SPONSORED BY



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AWARD PARTNERS

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For over 100 years, Canadian Authors Association has been providing professional development and networking opportunities for writers at all stages of their writing careers: aspiring, emerging, and professional. Canadian Authors Association is proud to partner with Vivalogue to administer the Whistler Independent Book Awards. Association members provide thoughtful peer reviews for all entries and judge shortlisted books as part of the finalist selection process. Join us and increase your participation in the vibrant Canadian literary scene. canadianauthors.org

VIVALOGUE

Vivalogue was founded in 2010 to provide professional publishing support to authors interested in self-publishing. The company has been administering the WIBAs since 2016. vivalogue.com

THE JUDGES

Fiction

AMBER COWIE was a Whistler Book Awards nominee. Her first book hit number one overall on Amazon and was a top-100 bestselling Kindle book of 2018. Her latest book, *The Off Season*, was released by Simon and Schuster Canada in May 2024. ambercowie.com

DARCIE FRIESEN HOSSACK's short story collection, *Mennonites Don't Dance*, was a runner-up for the 2011 Danuta Gleed Award, shortlisted for the 2011 Commonwealth Writers Prize and the 2012 OLA Forest of Reading Evergreen Award for Adult Fiction. Her new novel, *Stillwater*, was published in Spring 2023 by Tidewater Press. [Darcie's website.](#)

Non-fiction

JJ LEE's debut book, *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, the Hubert Evans Prize and the Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize. He is the editor of *Better Next Year: An Anthology of Christmas Epiphanies* and the forthcoming *Upon a Midnight Clear: More Christmas Epiphanies*. jj-lee.com

SONJA LARSEN's work has appeared in literary publications in the US, Canada and the UK. Her memoir *Red Star Tattoo: My Life As a Girl Revolutionary* (Random House Canada) won the 2017 Edna Staebler Non Fiction award and was shortlisted for the Writers Trust Non Fiction Award. She is currently working on her second book about her experiences running a computer lab in an inner-city community centre. sonjalarsen.com

Children's

ANDREAS OERTEL's middle-grade fiction is critically acclaimed and has been nominated for many awards (Silver Birch Award, Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award, and Charlotte Award). He spends much of his free time visiting schools and talking to young people about the magic of reading and books. andreasoertel.com

SARA LEACH is a teacher-librarian and the award-winning author of nine books for children, including the acclaimed *Slug Days* trilogy. Her middle grade novel *Count Me In* has been translated into four languages, and won the Red Cedar Book Award. saraleach.com

FINALISTS 2024



Karen Barrow (Fiction)

Palmyra

Karen was born in Trinidad. Her studies took her to Canada, while marriage to a geologist took her across the country and beyond. While working as an audiologist, Karen succumbed to her love of storytelling and used her passion for travel to inspire her historical fiction novels. She lives in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.



Douglas Cochran (Children's)

Captain Festus & the Close Shave

Douglas is a semi-retired adjudicator who has published textbooks and more recently, children's picture books and this middle-grade novel. He lives in Vancouver, Canada and particularly enjoys artistic pursuits, spending time with his grandchildren and periodic blood curdling pirate adventures.



Angie Counios (Non-fiction)

My List, My Rules

Angie is an award-winning author whose passions include writing fiction, creative non-fiction and film scripts, and teaching high school. An accomplished artist and vagabond, when not teaching or writing, she's packing her bags for another adventure, checking off another goal, taking photos, practising yoga, or climbing the next hill.



Bruce Hanson (Children's)

Double Cross

Bruce is a multi-genre, multi-award-winning author of short fiction for adults and children. He has travelled quite a distance from his Electrical Engineering roots, having trained with Second City Improv and having worked as an extra for TV and film. Bruce enjoys skiing, dancing, and sitting on the dock.



Adam Harris (Non-fiction)

A Canadian Jew in Uncle Sam's Army

Adam has been a mapmaker, cannon crewman and chimney sweep. With degrees in dietetics, nutrition, food science and culinary arts, he sees the world through food-coloured glasses. Having spent most of his life working abroad, he is now happy to be home in northeast Ontario where his closest neighbour is a chipmunk.



Barbara Leimsner (Non-fiction)

Quitting the Master Race

Barbara Leimsner is a writer and activist based in Ottawa, Ontario. Her professional career includes more than 30 years as a senior communications professional, award-winning magazine writer and managing editor, executive speechwriter and public speaker on creativity in communications.



Judith Silverthorne (Children's)

The Treasure Box

Judith is a multiple-award winner of several children's and YA novels, adult non-fiction books, and co-author of an all-ages picture book, *Honouring the Buffalo*, translated into several languages. A former Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and Writer-in-Residence at the Regina Public Library, she also produces TV documentaries.



Hannah State (Fiction)

Journey to the Dark Galaxy

Hannah is an award-winning Canadian author of science fiction and fantasy. She has a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Queen's University. She enjoys writing about imaginative worlds and pushing her characters outside their comfort zones. *Journey to the Dark Galaxy* is her second novel.



Daphne Wright (Fiction)

On Love and Death and Belonging

A lover of everything books, Daphne fulfilled a lifetime dream indie-publishing her debut novel, *On Love and Death and Belonging*. A believer in the human spirit, a friend, a wife, a writer and a long-time Vancouverite, Daphne is proud to be a finalist in fiction for the 2024 Whistler Independent Book Awards.



Submit Your Book

The Whistler Independent Book Awards (WIBAs) are open to Canadian authors who have self-published a fiction, non-fiction or children's book in the last five years. They are the only juried awards of this kind. Submissions for the 2025 awards will be accepted March 1–April 30, 2025.

GUEST Speakers



As well as her many books for young readers, **CAROLINE ADDERSON** is the author of five novels and three collections of short stories, the most recent being *A Way to be Happy* (Biblioasis 2024). Her work has received numerous award

nominations including the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers' Prizes, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers' Trust Fiction Prize, and the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist. Winner of three BC Book Prizes and three CBC Literary Awards, Caroline is also the recipient of the Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement.

READING EVENTS 6 + 12



LESLIE ANTHONY is an award-winning Whistler-based writer, editor, biologist, and occasional filmmaker. Author of a number of celebrated works of non-fiction and a former editor at several renowned outdoor publications, he channels years spent

in laboratories, deserts, jungles, swamps and mountains into his writings on adventure travel, the environment and science topics ranging from fossil-smuggling to climate change to monsters both real and imagined in publications like *Canadian Geographic*, *British Columbia*, *Mountain Life* and *Pique*.

READING EVENTS 8 + 10



HOLLY BIKADI has been harvesting food and medicine plants since she was a child. She learned these skills from her mother, and passes them on to people who want to learn. Well-versed in the picking, preparation and preservation of these vital

plants, Holly makes a variety of syrups, salves and botanical extractions. *The N'takmen Calendar* is Holly's first book, which explores harvesting food and medicine plants. Holly lives in Mount Currie, BC with her husband, Edwin Bikadi, and their daughters.

READING EVENT 2



ALI BLYTHE is the author of three critically acclaimed poetry collections exploring trans-poetics: *Hymnswitch*, *Twoism*, and *Stedfast*. About Blythe, Stewart Cole writes, "It's exciting to see a writer so conscious of building a body of work within and across

collections, pursuing not just a set of ideas and concerns but an artistic vision."

READING EVENT 9



CARLY BUTLER is a bisexual woman with ancestral Indigenous roots in Mexico. She was born in California, spent the first ten years of her life in the US, and was brought to Canada illegally in 1998. She has been a babysitter, a house cleaner, a barista

and a birth doula, and now she is a stay-at-home-disability-mom and author. Her writing has appeared in *Loose Lips Magazine*. She lives with her husband and two children in Langley, BC. *Apocalypse Child* is her first book.

READING EVENT 8



JOWITA BYDŁOWSKA is the author of *Possessed*, the memoir *Drunk Mom*, and the novel *Guy*. She's also a prolific short-story writer, journalist and a professor. *Monster* is her third novel. She is currently working on a non-fiction book about

the topic of shame and a novel about menopause.

READING EVENT 6



JC CHAM is assistant editor at Arsenal Pulp Press. A graduate of SFU's Master of Publishing program, they have worked as the project manager and production editor at the hybrid book publisher, Wonderwell, as well as copy edited

and proofread for various BC publishers including Douglas & McIntyre and Harbour Publishing. JC and Arsenal Pulp Press look for literary fiction and non-fiction, particularly by BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ authors (including YA and children's), poetry, and regional non-fiction. JC lives in Vancouver, BC.

WORKSHOP 5



MARTY CHAN is an award-winning author of dozens of books for kids, including *Cosplay Crime*, *Kung Fu Master* and *Haunted Hospital* in the Orca Currents line, *Dragon on the Loose* and the award-winning Marty Chan Mystery series. He tours

schools and libraries across Canada, using storytelling, stage magic and improv to ignite a passion for reading in kids. He lives in Edmonton. His latest book, *Izzy Wong's Nose* for News is out in September 2024.

READING EVENT 11 | WORKSHOP 8 | AITS



CATHARINE CHEN is the Editor of Arsenal Pulp Press, a Vancouver publisher of literary fiction, non-fiction, and poetry; social issues and gender studies; and LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC voices. She has a Creative Writing MFA from UBC and has done

support/freelance work for Playwrights Theatre Centre, the Vancouver Writers Fest, HarperCollins Canada, Dundurn Press, Inhabit Media, and Wattpad Books.

WORKSHOP 4



ANNA COMFORT O'KEEFFE has nearly twenty years' experience in the publishing industry. She holds a diploma in Publishing Techniques and Technologies, and studied publishing at Simon Fraser University's Summer Fiction Intensive and Master of

Publishing programs. Anna is the Publisher of Douglas & McIntyre, directing the development of their national publishing program. Even though she works on books all day, and sometimes all night, she still wishes she had more time to read.

WORKSHOPS 4 + 5



AMBER COWIE is a novelist living in Squamish, BC. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Salon*, and *The Globe and Mail*. She holds a history degree from the University of Victoria and is a mother of two. She likes skiing, running, and inventing stories that

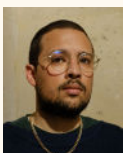
make for a questionable internet search history. Author of five novels, Amber's latest thriller *The Off Season* was released by Simon & Schuster Canada in May 2024.

READING EVENT 7



WADE DAVIS is currently Professor of Anthropology at UBC and was Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society (2000-2013). His 23 books, published in 22 languages, include *One River* and *Into the Silence*, winner of the Samuel Johnson prize, the top nonfiction prize in the English language. His newest title, *Beneath the Surface of Things* is out in 2024.

READING EVENT 10



ADAM DE SOUZA is a Canadian cartoonist and illustrator. He has been drawing comics for as long as he can remember and self-publishing his work for the better part of a decade. His ongoing comic strip *Blind Alley* was 2022's recipient of the

Cartoonist Studio Prize for web comics. Outside of comics, he has illustrated children's books and worked for publications such as the Globe and Mail. His recent YA graphic novel, *The Gulf*, is out in 2024.

READING EVENT 11 | AITS



ABBY DEVENEY is co-founder of *The Lupine Review*. Her creative writing has been recognized by *Writers in Kyoto* and *Event* magazine. A reporter, writer and editor who has lived and worked globally, Abby was editor-in-chief of *The Guardian Weekly*. Abby, a

Canadian, divides her time between the UK and Whistler.

READING EVENT 4



In 2010, **LYNN DUNCAN** founded Vivalogue Publishing to help self-published authors achieve creative and financial success. Vivalogue founded and continues to administer The Whistler Independent Book Awards,

sponsored by The Writers' Union of Canada. Lynn and Kilmeny Denny established their own trade-publishing company, Tidewater Press, in 2017.

READING EVENT 1 | WORKSHOPS 1 - 3



KATHERINE FAWCETT is a Squamish-based author/playwright/teacher/musician whose book, *The Swan Suit* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2020) was a finalist for the ReLit award, as was *The Little Washer of Sorrows*, her first fiction release (ThistleDown, 2015). Her writing has been published in literary magazines across Canada, including *Geist*, *Prairie Fire*, *Wordworks*, *Freefall*, *subTerrain*, and more. Fawcett has taught creative writing at SFU's The Writers' Studio, and hosts the Tap In Creativity Retreat for Writers.

WORKSHOP 4



DALLAS HUNT is Cree and a member of Wapsewipi (Swan River First Nation) in Treaty 8 territory in northern Alberta. His creative work is published in *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Prairie Fire*, *PRISM international*, and *Arc Poetry*. His first collection of

poetry, *Creeland*, was published by Nightwood Editions in 2021. His newest poetry collection, *Teeth*, published by Nightwood, is out now. Hunt is an assistant professor of Indigenous literatures at UBC.

READING EVENT 5



VALERIE JEROME is a Vancouver-based activist and speaker, teacher, politician, and athlete. A former track and field star, Jerome competed for Canada at the Rome Olympics, as well as the Commonwealth and Pan American Games. *Races: The Trials and Triumphs of Canada's Fastest Family* is her first book.

READING EVENT 8



VICI JOHNSTONE of Caitlin Press, publishes work to reflect the diverse cultures, histories and concerns of BC while bridging the gap between the urban and the rural. Caitlin Press is committed to its feminist origins, publishing bold works by and about

BC women. After winning the 2015 Jim Douglas Award, Caitlin Press launched Dagger Editions, publishing literary fiction, non-fiction, and poetry by and about people identifying as queer women. Caitlin Press publishes culturally significant fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and on occasion children's or young adult titles. Vici is always looking for non-fiction relevant to Caitlin Press and Dagger Editions' mandate, as well as new and evocative poetry and fiction.

WORKSHOPS 4 + 5



CONOR KERR is a Métis/Ukrainian writer living in Edmonton. A member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, he is descended from the Lac Ste. Anne Metis and the Papaschase Cree Nation. His Ukrainian family are settlers in Treaty 4 and 6 territories in Saskatchewan. In 2022, he was named one of CBC's Writers to Watch. He is the author of the poetry collections *An Explosion of Feathers* and *Old Gods*, as well as the novel *Avenue of Champions*, which was shortlisted for the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for the 2022 Giller Prize, and won the 2022 ReLit award. His second novel, *Prairie Edge* is out now.

READING EVENTS 9 + 12



JULIA KIM works as an Assistant Agent with The Rights Factory. She holds an MA in English Literature from Western University and has worked as a freelance editor, and an Assistant Editor at Dundurn Press. Currently she is looking for literary,

upmarket, and commercial fiction, and a range of non-fiction topics including history, politics, current affairs, social justice, women's issues, biography and memoir, food and lifestyle, art and culture, film and TV, and pop culture. She is keen to support BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and historically underrepresented writers. As a second-generation Korean Canadian living in Toronto, she has a particular interest in diverse stories from diasporic communities.

WORKSHOPS 4 + 5



S.C. LALLI is the author of *Are You Sara?*, a national bestseller and one of NPR and Apple's Best Books of 2022. An author of Punjabi and Bengali heritage, she also writes romance and women's fiction under her full name Sonya Lalli. She studied law in

her hometown of Saskatoon, and at Columbia University in New York. Sonya has worked in law, legal journalism and book publishing. She lives in Vancouver with her husband and their mini goldendoodle, Joey. Her newest book, *The Plus One*, is out now.

READING EVENT 7



SARA LEACH is the author of nine books for children, including *Duck Days* which concludes the acclaimed *Slug Days* trilogy. Her middle grade novel, *Count Me In*, has been translated into four languages, and won the Red Cedar Book Award. Sara

is a frequent presenter at elementary schools and public libraries across North America. She lives in Whistler, BC, where she works as a teacher-librarian and plays on the trails.

READING EVENT 11



COLLEEN MACDONALD is the author of the website *Let's Go Biking*, as well as three cycling guidebooks: *Let's Go Biking Around Vancouver*, *Let's Go Biking Okanagan & Beyond*, and *Let's Go Biking Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands and Sunshine Coast*. She

is co-founder of *The Lupine Review*, Whistler's own literary magazine showcasing local artistic talents. The second edition is out in fall 2024.

READING EVENT 4



MARY MACDONALD has written poetry for ballet, public art, and libretto. Her work has appeared in *Room Magazine* and *Pique Newsmagazine*. Her chapbook, *Going In Now*, was published in 2014 by NIB Publishing and her short story

collection, *The Crooked Thing* was released in fall 2020 by Caitlin Press. She is a member of the Whistler writers' The Vicious Circle and serves as curator and moderator for the poetry division of the Whistler Writers Festival.

READING EVENT 9



JENNIFER MANUEL has achieved acclaim for her short fiction, including the Storyteller's Award at the Surrey International Writers Conference in 2013. Her short fiction is published in *PRISM International*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Room Magazine* and

Little Fiction. A long-time activist in Aboriginal issues, Manuel taught at schools in the lands of the Tahltan and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples. She lives on Vancouver Island, BC. She is the 2024 Whistler Writer in Residence, and her latest novel is *The Morning Bell Brings the Broken Hearted*.

WORKSHOP 6 | WR



BOB MCDONALD has been the host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks* since 1992. He is a regular science commentator on CBC News Network and science correspondent for CBC TV's *The National*. He has received the Michael Smith Award

for science promotion, Sandford Fleming Medal, McNeil Medal for the public awareness of science, and in 2011 became an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is the recipient of thirteen honorary doctorates. In 2014, asteroid 332324 was officially named BOBMCDONALD in his honour. He lives in Victoria, BC. His memoir, *Just Say Yes*, is out now.

READING EVENTS 5 + 12



HANNAH MARY MCKINNON was born in the UK, grew up in Switzerland and moved to Canada in 2010. Her seven suspense novels include, *Never Coming Home*, *The Revenge List*, and *Only One Survives*, and her work has been optioned for

the screen. She also writes holiday romantic comedies as Holly Cassidy. Hannah Mary lives in Oakville, Ontario with her husband and three sons. You'll find her on social media as @hannahmarymckinnon, or visit www.hannahmarymckinnon.com for more.

READING EVENT 7



BRYAN MORTENSEN is a writer, traveller, and administrator who calls the Comox Valley home. He is the Executive Director of the Federation of British Columbia Writers and has a degree in English from the University of Alberta with a minor in Philosophy.

At his core, Bryan believes in advocating for, and with, people who have been traditionally marginalized. Nine out of ten of Bryan's friends describe him as fun and or exhausting.

WRITERS NETWORKING SUITE



NISHA PATEL is a Poet Laureate Emeritus of the City of Edmonton and a Canadian Poetry Slam Champion. A queer and disabled artist, Nisha is a recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund

Award. Her sophomore collection of poetry, *A Fate Worse Than Death*, engages in the necropolitics surrounding disability, and is out now with Arsenal Pulp Press.

READING EVENT 2 | WORKSHOP 7



BRADLEY PETERS is a poet, actor, and carpenter from Mission, BC. His poetry has been published in numerous literary magazines, has been shortlisted for *The Fiddlehead's* Ralph Gustafson Award, has twice been the runner-up for *Subterrain's*

Lush Triumphant Award, and in 2019 placed first in *Grain Magazine's* Short Grain contest. *Sonnets from a Cell* is his first book.

READING EVENT 2



LAURA SHARP is a Scottish poet whose work seeks the delicate balance between sass and soul. Her poetry has been featured in *The Lupine Review* and the BBC. *Places You Catch Yourself* is her first collection, compiling the chaos of the never-end-

ing search for home in new places and strangers' faces.

READING EVENT 5



LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. She was named Scarborough's Emerging Writer in 2016 and was nominated for the Journey Prize in 2019. She co-founded a reflective writing

program at Canada's largest mental health hospital and teaches at the University of Toronto. Since her hospitalization, Simpson has connected with students, cultural centres, companies and media outlets about the power of storytelling in shaping recovery. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.

READING EVENT 12



ANDREW SIMS completed the Bachelor of Music in piano from Baylor University and Master of Music in piano from the University of Alberta. He maintains a busy teaching studio of students ranging from beginners to advanced. Andrew is an

examiner for the Canadian National Conservatory of Music and is in demand as an accompanist in the Comox Valley; he specializes in creative, holistic, and positive teaching, particularly with music learning theory and developing music audition and literacy. www.andrewsimspiano.com

WRITERS NETWORKING SUITE



MICHAEL V. SMITH is a writer, performer, filmmaker, and full professor at UBCO in Kelowna. Smith's most recent project is *The Floating Man*, a feature documentary memoir examining a lifetime of untrue stories about his body. His

latest book, *Queers Like Me*, is a poetry collection about growing up as a small town queer, released in Fall 2023 with Book*hug.

READING EVENT 5



TSAWAYSIA SPUKWUS (DOMINIQUE NAHANEÉ) is of the Squamish Nation and graduated from the IYA program in 2019.

Tsawaysia (Dominique) was born in North Vancouver and moved to Squamish when she was 3. Inspired

by her mom, Tsawaysia is working on becoming a language speaker so she can teach others. Her ancestral name was passed down from her mom in 2013. She has been involved with the culture ever since she was young and taught to sing and dance by her mom. She is a Cultural Ambassador and is part of the Spo7ez Cultural Sharing team.

READING EVENT 2



TARA JEAN STEVENS is the host and creator of *Heaven Bent*, a chart-topping true-crime podcast that spotlights the Pentecostal and Charismatic church. Tara Jean has also been a fan-favourite on

Vancouver radio and TV, for nearly 25 years. Today, you can hear her Smooth Jazz morning show on WAVE 98.3 - Vancouver's Coolest Vibe.

READING EVENT 7



NATALIE SUE is a Canadian author of Iranian and British descent. She spent her formative years moving around western Canada with a brief stint in Scotland, where she discovered her passion for

storytelling as a means of connection and reading as a means of comfort. She lives in Calgary with her husband, daughter, and dog. *I Hope This Finds You Well* is her debut novel.

READING EVENT 5



SARAH SUK (pronounced like *soup* with a K) lives in Vancouver, where she writes stories and admires mountain ranges. She is the author of young adult novels *The Space between Here & Now* and *Made in Korea*, and co-writer of John Cho's

middle grade novel *Troublemaker*. When she's not writing, you can find her hanging out by the water, taking film photos, or eating a bowl of bingsu. You can visit Sarah online at sarahsuk.com.

READING EVENT 11 | AITS



THE SEA TO SKY STRING

ORCHESTRA features classical musicians from Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton. They are devoted

to sharing the joy and beauty of string music on violin, viola, cello and upright bass.

READING EVENT 10



RHEA TREGEBOV is the celebrated author of poetry, novels and children's picture books. Her eighth collection of poetry is *Talking to Strangers*, from Véhicule Press. Born in Saskatoon and raised in Winnipeg, she lives in Vancouver, where she is

Associate Professor Emerita at the School of Creative Writing at UBC.

READING EVENT 9



ALLI VAIL is a former journalist for national and provincial award-winning community newspapers. She is a content writer and marketer for literary festivals and nonprofits, and has worked in tech, video games, and politics. She studied creative writing

at Simon Fraser University and lives in Vancouver. Her first novel, *Brooklyn Thomas Isn't Here*, came out in spring 2024 with PostHill Press.

READING EVENT 5



STEPHEN VOGLER is an author, playwright, and musician. He has published three books including *Only in Whistler: Tales of a Mountain Town* (2009), and has written and presented for CBC Radio's Ideas. Stephen's most recent play, *Aye Aye AI*, premiered at

the 2024 Flag Stop Theatre & Arts Festival and played at the Heritage Playhouse in Gibsons, BC.

READING EVENT 5



YVONNE WALLACE (Ucwalmicw) is from the Lil'wat Nation, is a graduate of Humber College's Theatre Acting program and holds a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from Capilano University. She has written three plays: *Smothered Sweetly*, *The Last Dance*, and *útszan*, a

play dealing with language reclamation and her own progress in language fluency. She teaches *ucwalmicwts* to other adult learners at the Ts'zil Learning Centre. She's currently writing *7 Misconceptions of a Half-Breed Mother*, a tragicomedy about the public-school system.

READING EVENT 2



WEST COAST FRONT band features Musical Director Geeta Das (winds and percussion), Rajan Das (upright and electric bass), Jason Overy (percussion), and Rosalind Steel (keyboard).

READING EVENT 5



JULIE WILKINS is a storyteller and entrepreneur. The owner of Gather Bookshop, an independent bookstore where her passion for inclusive and diverse literature comes alive on the shelves, Julie is excited to be finding her own voice as an

author. *We're Happy You're Here* is her first book. Julie lives in Squamish, British Columbia.

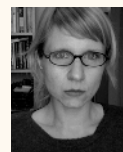
READING EVENT 3



REBECCA WOOD BARRETT is an award-winning writer and filmmaker living in Whistler, BC. Her chapter book *My Best Friend Is Extinct* was a finalist for the Red Cedar Award and won the Chocolate Lily Award. Her short fiction has been published in

Room and *The Antigonish Review*. Rebecca's next chapter book *My Summer Camp has Mega Sloths* will be published May 2025 by Orca Book Publishers.

READING EVENT 6



JANICE ZAWERBY has been an editor in Canadian publishing for more than twenty years. She is currently Executive Editor at HarperCollins Canada. She has edited many award-winning and bestselling books. She is also co-founder of The

Carol Shields Prize for Fiction, a bi-national award for fiction by women writers in Canada and the US.

WORKSHOPS 4 + 5

THANK YOU

The Whistler Writing Society would like to thank its sponsors for their generosity. Without their continued enthusiasm and support, this festival would not be possible.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Province of British Columbia, Resort Municipality of Whistler and Canada Council through the Writers' Union of Canada.