AWP’s Fifteenth Tweet Chat: #ProposeAWP17
April 13, 2016 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

Putting together an #AWP17 event proposal? Chat with us today at 3 pm ET using #ProposeAWP17 and ask your questions!

Welcome to our #ProposeAWP17 tweet chat. Today we'll discuss the #AWP17 proposal system & share some tips for a successful event proposal.

With us today is @inhannahland, Hannah Landsberger, Conference Events Coordinator. #ProposeAWP17
Also here is @ChristianTeresi, Director of Conferences. #ProposeAWP17

Ask a question about event proposals any time using #ProposeAWP17

Not sure what category your event should be in? Read about categories here: https://goo.gl/UBLNmz #ProposeAWP17 @awpwriter

@awpwriter Given the sameness of so many panels in L.A., the template for success seems clear. Light on teaching, heavy on group identities.

@MPCWriting But if you think something was missing from #AWP16 in LA we encourage you to make a #AWP17 proposal. @awpwriter #proposeawp17
Is there a particular "hot button" panel you are looking for OR will refuse to take?

#proposeAWP17

@Jlynndanger Proposals are adjudicated by the 2017 Subcommittee. They are looking for diverse events. #proposeAWP17
https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee ...

@Jlynndanger The subcommittee is a diverse group of lit professionals. Their tastes are as varied as the field.

Is there a particular format for proposals? #proposeAWP17

@Jlynndanger The best proposals always follow the guidelines in the handbook for proposals. #proposeawp17
https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/proposal_submissions_acceptances ...
@ChristianTeresi fair enough! Thanks.

#ProposeAWP17 Panel of environmental writers: eco fiction, cli-fi, etc. Barbara Kingsolver, Carolyn O'Neal, Margaret Atwood, etc.

@Raving_Sanity Sounds like a good proposal. You may want to take a look at the eco-literary events we've hosted previously. #proposeawp17

@Raving_Sanity The previous conference schedules going back several years are on the website. #proposeawp17
https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/archive_overview ...

@ChristianTeresi thank you so much!
It's surprising how often a good proposal will fail because it does not follow the handbook guidelines #proposeawp17
https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/proposal_submissions_acceptances ...

@awpwriter #AWP consider recognizing categories to ensure inclusion of overlooked demographics ex disabilities/mental illness? #ProposeAWP17

@awpwriter yes! I would love to see a panel on illness narratives and not from and by and about doctors but writers w/illness

Diversity is a major factor in evaluation. For subjects you feel are absent please propose. #proposeawp17 @awpwriter

We've hosted disability/mental illness events previously, we did again at #AWP16, & will again in the future #ProposeAWP17
@ChristianTeresi The crit was that all disabilities panels were rejected, some felt excluded, others didn't know... #ProposeAWP17

@xjoshuamusican There were disabled presenters on events not specific to disabilities, & those events are great too #ProposeAWP17

@xjoshuamusican There are always more good proposals than we have room to accept. Out of 1780 #awp16 proposals we accepted 560.

#proposeawp17 @Icess @thepoetmendez @awplatino Are there any WOC, AOC or POC in general that are on the panel selection committee??

@jasminnemendez @Icess @thepoetmendez @awplatino Absolutely. Here is the 2017 Subcommittee. #proposeawp17
https://www.awpwriter.org/about/governance_committee ...
And there have been for several years. #proposeawp17

thanks for the reply just trying to better understand how it all works

You don’t need to be a member of AWP to propose an event or to link yourself to a proposal. #ProposeAWP17

(All you need is an http://awpwriter.org user account, which you can create for free here: https://goo.gl/qwbRPQ ) #ProposeAWP17

@AndreaLamber #ProposeAWP17 ask your Q's w/ that hash tag now! :)

#ProposeAWP17. Writing group "speed dating" fun/interactive event where writers meet other writers with goal of finding support groups.
@Raving_Sanity You'll be able to submit offsite events for listing online later in the year #ProposeAWP17

@awpwriter, #AWP needs more panels for & about mentally ill writers #ProposeAWP17

@AndreaLamer @xjoshuamusican Will do. Love what you guys are doing and I want to be more involved! #ProposeAWP17

@awpwriter please have those yoga classes you had at #AWP16 at future AWPs, they really helped with my stress level #ProposeAWP17
That's the plan @AndreaLamber. We're hoping to have @sbasw & Melissa Caroll back to host. #ProposeAWP17 @awpwriter

Susan Somers-Willett @sbasw

@ChristianTeresi @AndreaLamber @awpwriter I am so thrilled that #YogaforWriters was a success at #AWP16! Sign me up for more!

@singing_regret I know space is tight, but a dedicated quiet / de-stress room would be a wonderful addition for future conferences. #ProposeAWP17

AWP @awpwriter

@singing_regret We understand and have had a dedicated quiet space at the conference since 2013.

Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland

@singing_regret This is a feature we have every year! Look for the Emily Dickinson Quiet Space in the program #ProposeAWP17

@singing_regret well I'm embarrassed & delighted. Don't know how I missed it. Many thanks.
Andrea Lambert @AndreaLamber

More specifically on the mental illness panels we need, a panel on living the writers life on SSDI/SSI would be so great. #ProposeAWP17

AWP @awpwriter

@AndreaLamber All of our event programming is created by our attendees or literary partners. We encourage you to submit! #ProposeAWP17

Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland

@AndreaLamber This sounds like it would be a strong proposal, please consider submitting it! #ProposeAWP17

Carolyn O'Neal @Raving_Sanity

#ProposeAWP17 One disease one word - Cancer. Panel with writers/cancer survivors discussing works of great authors who died from disease

Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi

@awpwriter staff doesn't evaluate proposals. Consider how a proposal will appeal to the diverse interests of the subcommittee #proposeawp17
Do you have a rough estimate, based on conv cntr & hotel space, of how many panels will be accepted for next year? #ProposeAWP17

@singing_regret We're not exactly sure yet, but we should be able to accept between 520 and 560 again for #AWP17. #ProposeAWP17

@awpwriter #ProposeAWP17 Do you recommend using the full 500 word limit for proposals, or is brevity encouraged?

@levicitodd Conveying the purpose/content of your event is most important! Length less so, as long as it's in the limit #ProposeAWP17

#proposeawp17 oh and why put ALL the caucuses on the same day & time? If I was a gay disabled Afro-Latina I'd have to choose. @Icess
@jasminnemendez @Icess This actually helps cut down on conflicts. During the day there are as many as 30+ concurrent events. #proposeawp17

@christianteresi @jasminnemendez Could there be half one day and half another day? Or could they start at different times?

@jasminnemendez @Icess If caucuses had to compete with 30+ events & the bookfair, a lot fewer people would be able to attend. #proposeawp17

Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley

Agreed, @jasminnemendez @Icess ...it'd be great to avoid cross-scheduling caucuses, to avoid intersectionality conflicts. #ProposeAWP17

@jasminnemendez @Icess Plus we don't want caucuses at the same time as the many LGBT, Latina/o, etc. focused events during the day.
I see your point I also noticed that many of the "diversity" panels happening at the same time instead of spread out.

We try to spread similar events out when possible. We host many events that touch on similar subjects. #proposeawp17

Also, counseling space for the #AWP experience. There was #AlcoholicsAnonymous but no therapy place for those AWP overwhelmed #ProposeAWP17

We do have the Emily Dickinson quiet space, for people who need a break from the crowds #ProposeAWP17

With attention to #Agoraphobia, 1st time attendees, people w/ need to talk, integrate/assimilate to the experience #ProposeAWP17
Event organizers are responsible for submitting all paperwork. They can be a panelist/moderator, but they don’t have to be! 

@inhannahland #ProposeAWP17

@cahnmann #ProposeAWP17 has there been a big read nea panel? interest? would this be stewardship?

@inhannahland @cahnmann We've never had one before, but propose! But maybe check or collaborate w/ NEA first for a stronger proposal #ProposeAWP17

@cahnmann It could be stewardship or based on genre of the read (ie Fiction Reading/Craft&Criticism) depending on the proposal #ProposeAWP17

@SandraBeasley Another panel idea: craft discussion on how to tell if a full-length nonfiction work should be memoir or an essay collection. #ProposeAWP17
#proposeawp17 What if your panels deals with a regional literature but has a national interest? How best to structure that proposal?

@Icess Categorize based on the type of lit discussed. Make clear the interplay between nat'l and local issues in your proposal #proposeAWP17

@Icess Hard to say without seeing the actual proposal. The subcommittee is mostly people from the region on purpose though. #proposeawp17

@Icess The subcommittee favors events w/ diversity in backgrounds/regions, so this may help your proposal succeed! #ProposeAWP17

@Icess This helps the schedule highlight more lit events with a regional focus. #proposeawp17
@Icess Is the proposal a reading, panel discussion? Start there, and then see which category works best. #proposeawp17

@Raving_Sanity #proposeawp17. Would you consider a panel of dystopian fiction writers? "Gloom and Doom can be fun" ??

@Raving_Sanity of course! All previous programs are online, search & see what we've had in the past: https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/archive_overview ... #ProposeAWP17

@Raving_Sanity And #AWP16 is still live too: https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/schedule_overview ... #ProposeAWP17

Sandra Beasley @SandraBeasley

Need a panel idea? I'd love an appreciation of Harlem Renaissance / Black Arts Movement's footprint in DC literary community. #ProposeAWP17
Jasminne Mendez @jasminnemendez

#proposeawp17 truthfully speaking do you prefer panelists to be published authors? Where's the love for spoken word?

Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi

@jasminnemendez There are spoken word & unpublished writers who present every year. We hosted 2200+ presenters at #AWP17. #proposeawp17.

Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi

@jasminnemendez That is 2200+ presenters at #AWP16 in LA. We hope to have as many at #AWP17 in DC. #proposeawp17

Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi

@jasminnemendez Look at the bios of the presenters though, having published obviously helps, but it is not a requirement. #proposeawp17

Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland

@jasminnemendez We also have some slam/spoken word events each year, would welcome proposals for more. #ProposeAWP17
Donald Garrett @DonaldGarrett

Is the Panel Subcommittee seeking events that put a special emphasis on @awpwriter's 50th Anniversary? #ProposeAWP17

Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland

@DonaldGarrett @awpwriter Not specifically, but we'd welcome them! Help us celebrate! #ProposeAWP17

jbs @singing_regret

Is there an advantage to proposing a panel over a reading? Do you try to have even numbers, or is one preferred? #proposeAWP17

Christian Teresi @ChristianTeresi

@singing_regret There isn't one that is preferred. Poetry readings is one of the most competitive categories. #proposeawp17

jbs @singing_regret

@ChristianTeresi this is useful information. Thank you.
We try to accept a number relative to the number proposed, but there are more panel categories. #proposeawp17

Don't be afraid of provocation. Many of the best panels I've attended have showcased genuine disagreement over a thesis. #ProposeAWP17

Panel ideas galore: Differences in the traditional MFA vs. low-residency teaching experience--the challenges, rewards, ethics. #ProposeAWP17

@awpwriter other panel items I would love to see for #ProposeAWP17 are the Schizophrenic imagination & bipolar mania's impact on the writer.

We'd need to get the right intersection of writers / musicians, but a DC AWP panel that incorporates bluegrass would kick ass. #ProposeAWP17
Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusican
t
AWPK12? I asked NCTE why they're not at AWP, need more YA, K-12, High School Writing Programs and teachers represented! #ProposeAWP17

Hannah Landsberger @inhannahland

@xjoshuamusican This is a group we'd like to see better represented as well. Ask them to propose! #ProposeAWP17

Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusican

@inhannahland I intend to! :) #ProposeAWP17

bs @singing_regret

@xjoshuamusican this is an interesting point-I wonder how many such programs there are, though

Joshua Musicant @xjoshuamusican

@singing_regret We'll never know w/o getting them involved... involving such programs may influence more programs to establish #ProposeAWP17

bs @singing_regret

@xjoshuamusican no doubt. Just wondering out loud. There have to be a few interested programs at least
@singing_regret I'll find them. #ProposeAWP17

@xjoshuamusican @singing_regret We didn't used to have a K-12 caucus, or a partnership with @witshouston. So things are changing.

@xjoshuamusican The number of YA & childrens lit events have been growing steadily too. #proposeawp17.

@singing_regret (@xjoshuamusican) (& how eager their teachers are to have them come breathe in our hangovers at the book fair)

@singing_regret Simultaneity doesn't have to mean closely involved. YA authors are present. Writers are parents. Family fun! #ProposeAWP17
When inviting panelists, really consider their energy. I'll sooner go hear a pro improvisor or someone funny over a big name. #ProposeAWP17

Considering panel ideas on invisible pain, disability, how to write about the body. Or how to move between poetry & fiction #proposeawp17

Panelists: If you're first / second on board for a proposal, it's on you to seek equity in rest of those voices represented. #ProposeAWP17

#proposeawp17 @ChristianTeresi @inhannahland Have you considered events w great D.C. lit communities like Busboys & Poets & @SplitThisRock?

@Mchertock @inhannahland @SplitThisRock We have, and we're working on those, and many others. #proposeawp17
If you organize a panel, make sure your panelists have updated and submitted their bios. There are a lot that fail to do this. #proposeawp17

Thanks for joining us for #ProposeAWP17. Our May tweet chat will be #AWP17BF about exhibiting at #AWP17.

@awpwriter Thanks for having this chat! Great info and fosters community! Big things happening for #AWP! #ProposeAWP17