



Conference & Bookfair
March 4 – 7, 2020

Attendee Guide



North America's
Largest Literary
Conference

Henry B. González
Convention Center



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

awpwriter.org
#AWP20

#AWP20 Coming March 4-7!



The AWP Conference & Bookfair is an essential annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers. Each year more than 12,000 attendees join our community for four days of insightful dialogue, networking, and unrivaled access to the organizations and opinion-makers that matter most in contemporary literature.

Why choose #AWP20?

- Choose from over 550 literary readings, panel discussions, and bookfair stage events focusing on fiction, nonfiction, poetry and prose, social and regional issues, craft, teaching, publishing, marketing, and so much more.
- Access to the largest literary marketplace in North America. The AWP Bookfair features over 800 small presses, literary magazines, e-journals, trade publishers, writers' centers, retreats, residencies, and writing programs from universities around the world.
- Hear readings, discussions, and attend book signings from your favorite writers, reviewers, publishers, and peers. Some of our most recent featured presenters have included Colson Whitehead, Ching-In Chen, Edwidge Danticat, Mark Doty, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ishion Hutchinson, Nikky Finney, Jennifer Foerster, Mitchell S. Jackson, Tyehimba Jess, Joy Ladin, Sandra Gail Lambert, Min Jin Lee, Tayari Jones, Layli Long Soldier, Rebecca Makkai, Sigrid Nunez, Mary Ruefle, Carmen Maria Machado, Claire Messud, Lorrie Moore, George Saunders, Cheryl Strayed and hundreds more.
- Network, collaborate, and have fun with your peers at hundreds of parties, receptions, and offsite events to really personalize your experience.



"I was thrilled to moderate an insightful, diverse, thoughtful, serious, funny, amazing event on the enduring legacy of William S. Burroughs. This event could have only come together at AWP."

—Ira Silverberg, *Strategic Advisor, Open Road Integrated Media, and Former Literature Director of the National Endowment for the Arts*

#AWP20 Keynote & other Featured Presenters



The keynote speaker is **Helena María Viramontes**, author of *The Moths* and *Other Stories*, the novels *Under the Feet of Jesus* and *Their Dogs Came With Them*, and the recipient of numerous awards and honors. The official conference schedule will be available online mid-October, 2019.

To view the most up-to-date list of featured presenters, visit the **Featured Presenters** page on our website. A complete list of conference events and presenters can be found on the **2020 Conference Schedule** on the AWP website.

Registration

All attendees must be registered to attend the conference and you can **register** on our website! Once you register, you will receive an email with your unique registration code that you will need to pick up your registration materials onsite at the conference, including your registration, your #AWP20 tote bag, and a full conference schedule.



#AWPTips

Arrive in San Antonio on Wednesday, March 4 and pick up your registration materials before the Thursday rush! Registration is open from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4. Expect longer registration lines on Thursday morning.



MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**AVOID
THE RUSH!**
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12 noon- 7:00 p.m.



Restaurant & Dining Options in San Antonio



Attendees are welcome to take breaks at their leisure, and concessions will be available in the Convention Center and in the Bookfair. There are also many dining options around the Henry B. González Convention Center available to attendees. For coffee or breakfast, you can stop by **ShIPLEY Do-Nuts** (0.3 miles), **CommonWealth Coffeehouse & Bakery Hemisfair** (0.4 miles), **La Villita Cafe** (0.5 miles), **Revolucion Coffee + Juice** (0.5 miles), or **Estate Coffee Company** (0.6 miles).

#AWPTips

Eat breakfast! A good breakfast can carry you through most of your day.



Attendees may also enjoy the many restaurants and bars close to the Convention Center for lunch and dinner, including **The River's Edge Café + Patio Bar** (0.2 miles), **Casa Rio** (0.3 miles), **Schilo's** (0.3 miles), **Yard House** (0.3 miles), and the **Iron Cactus Mexican Grill** (0.5 miles).



If you'd like to get away from the Convention Center for the evening and explore other great restaurants in San Antonio, check out **La Fonda on Main**, **Feast**, **Smoke Shack BBQ**, **Battalion**, **Botika**, **B&D Ice House**, **Liberty Bar**, **The Cove** or the **Bottling Department Food Hall**. **Señor Veggie** and **La Botántica** are great vegan and gluten-free options.



While long noted for its Tex-Mex and BBQ, San Antonio features a thriving culinary scene, and was even named a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in 2017, recognizing the city's commitment to authentic and creative cuisine. For some of San Antonio's most exciting culinary offerings, check out the **Pearl District**: a vibrant micro-district offering chef-owned restaurants, independent shops, and trendy cocktail bars, all situated around the Culinary Institute of America's San Antonio campus.

Even with all the attention on the city's up-and-coming food scene, no trip to San Antonio would be complete without trying one of the city's iconic Tex-Mex dishes. Puffy tacos, defined by a bubbly, fried shell, are a local legacy that can be found at **Ray's Drive Inn**, **Henry's Puffy Tacos**, and **Rolando's Super Tacos**. You can also find another must-try meal, the breakfast taco, all throughout the city, including at **Taco Haven** and **El Milagrito Cafe**.



In & Around San Antonio



Originally founded as a Spanish mission and colonial outpost, San Antonio is the second-largest city in Texas and commonly known as “the place where the sunshine spends the winter.” While most famously remembered as the home of the **Alamo**, San Antonio also boasts a thriving downtown situated around the River Walk, a robust and authentic food scene, and a community rich in Spanish and Old West heritage.

#AWPTips

While exploring San Antonio, the most affordable and convenient mode of transportation is **VIA Metropolitan Transit**, San Antonio’s public transportation system. **VIVA**, the system’s newest service line, allows visitors to explore landmarks, museums, shopping, and entertainment in the heart of San Antonio. For more information about routes, rates, and stops, visit VIA’s **How to Ride webpage**, **Accessible Transit Service Guide**, and **Riding the Bus Using a Wheelchair**. For more information on travel options, visit our **Hotel and Travel page**.



The first stop on any #AWP20 attendee’s list should be San Antonio’s world-renowned waterway, the **River Walk**. Tucked quietly below street level, the River Walk’s sightseeing, shopping, food, and fun can be accessed by river barge or walking path. Several sections of the River Walk are wheelchair accessible, and attendees can view maps of the accessible paths, ramps, and access points for each section. The three major sections of the River Walk are the **River Bend** section, which attendees can access at the Convention Center, the **North Path**, and the **Museum Reach** section. Just steps from the River Walk is the **Alamo**, a UNESCO World Heritage site which features interactive tours and exhibits and hosts reenactments of the Texas Revolution. Admission to this historic site is free. Not far from the River Walk is **Market Square**, the largest Mexican market in the United States. Come for the colorful sights, exotic curios, and handcrafted works of art, and stay for the gourmet Mexican cuisine, all at over one hundred locally owned shops and stalls.



Just off the River Walk is **La Villita**, one square block in the heart of downtown. This “little village” is home to historical buildings that house pop-up boutiques, local eateries, and lively artisan displays. Not far away is Hemisfair, where you can explore Yana-guana Gardens’ inviting playscapes, lush lawns, and splash pads or catch a sight of one of the best views of the city at the **Tower of the Americas** observation deck.



North of Downtown is San Antonio’s Cultural Corridor, which includes the River Walk’s **Museum Reach** and the **Pearl District**. Walk, hike, or bike the 1.3-mile Museum Reach to visit cultural favorites like the **San Antonio Museum of Art** and the **Witte Museum**. Don’t forget to stop by the Pearl District, a city brewery turned popular mixed-use space bursting with local eateries, unique boutiques, green space, free farmers markets on weekend mornings, and long-running bookseller **The Twig Book Shop**. Continue north to visit one of San Antonio’s most beautiful parks, **Brackenridge Park**, where you can explore the trails, picnic, or visit the **Japanese Tea Garden** and the **San Antonio Zoo**. Just outside Brackenridge Park, check out other local favorite bookstores, the **Antiquarian Book Mart** and **Cheever Books**.

#AWPTips for First Timers



#AWPTips

AWP is excited to welcome all those who will experience the Conference & Bookfair for the first time. We expect you will be inspired, encouraged, and invigorated in your writing life by all the AWP Conference & Bookfair has to offer. While the conference is chock-full of activities, resources, and writerly community, it can also be overwhelming due to the sheer size and scope of the conference.

Here are a few tips to help you get the most from your #AWP20 experience!

1. Planning is key

Take a look at our [online](#) or [mobile app](#) conference schedule beforehand and design a personal schedule. Leave yourself enough time to look over the 550 events, or search the schedule by keyword or author. Allow some flexibility in your schedule as well. Choose a few 'must-see' events and a few 'might-see' events each day.

#AWPTips

You don't want to overschedule yourself and burn out on the first day. Aim for three or four events a day and plenty of time at the Bookfair.

2. Feel free to come and go from events as you like

All conference events are open to registered attendees, so you can move freely from event to event. If an event isn't as advertised, feel free to take off early and head to a different event. Please be respectful of the presenters as you come and go.

#AWPTips

If you attend an event that doesn't adhere to the event's title, category, or description, let us know by rating the event on the [#AWP20 mobile app](#).

3. Check out our livestreamed conference events

Unable to attend #AWP20 or simply want to take a break in your hotel room? Participate in the conference from afar by watching the conference livestream on the AWP website. This year, a livestream of Helena María Viramontes' keynote and a small number of other events will be available on our website.





4. Visit the Bookfair again

As former featured presenter, Maud Casey, once described it, the Bookfair is “a wonderland: the surprise, the discovery. Book love and joy at every turn. And, of course, the incomparable swag.” The Bookfair is often ranked as the most popular part of the conference. With over 800 exhibitors, it’s tough to make it to all the booths in one trip. Come a few times, talk with the exhibitors, buy a book. Use your #AWP20 Tote Bag for your haul!

5. Bring business cards & build your literary community

Networking and community-building is one of the best parts of the conference. You will meet so many amazing students, writers, publishers, agents, teachers, and arts administrators in your time at the conference. The best advice is don’t be shy! Go up to people, introduce yourself, give out those business cards, and take someone else’s in return. The people you meet and the connections you make don’t have to end once the conference is over. Follow up post-conference, stay in touch, and build your literary community.

6. Submit to Writer Agent

Interested in meeting with literary agents at #AWP20? Submit a sample of your work to the #AWP20 Writer to Agent program for the chance to meet with agents from several different literary agencies at the conference in San Antonio! This opportunity is open to registered #AWP20 attendees only. The deadline to register for #AWP20 and submit to Writer to Agent is in January 2020. Check out our website for more detailed information.



#AWPTips

Outside of Writer to Agent, we advise that you prioritize meeting new contacts and building relationships, not necessarily selling your novel or signing with an agent. We recommend not bringing copies of your manuscript. If a publisher or agent is interested in connecting with you post-conference, they’ll follow up with you!

#AWPTips

- Leave room in your suitcase to bring home books & other swag from the Bookfair! If you’d like to ship anything home, check out the **UPS Store** in the lobby of the Convention Center.
- Follow #AWPTips & #AWP20 on Twitter & join the Facebook event group.
- It’s a great idea to bring a snack, bottle of water, and a cellphone charger.
- Don’t forget to check out offsite events! When making your schedule, factor in transportation time to and from the **offsite event**.
- Wear your most comfortable shoes!



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#AWP21 in Kansas City

Next year, AWP is heading to Kansas City, Missouri from March 3-6, 2021! If you're interested in becoming a presenter at #AWP21, consider submitting an event proposal. Submissions will open in March of 2020 and close on May 1, 2020.

#AWPTips

Start thinking of your #AWP21 proposals during #AWP20! Did you hear someone on a panel who shares your literary interest? Introduce yourself and ask them if they might be interested in joining your proposal.
