

## 2020 AWP Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus Agenda

March 2020 San Antonio

Margo Tamez Chair, Jake Skeets Panelist, Crisosto Apache Panelist, Oscar Hokeah Panelist, and Carolyn Dunn Panelist – Shauna Osborn Organizer

1. Margo Tamez, author of *Naked Wanting* (2003) and *Raven Eye* (2007). Her work has appeared in *Indigenous Message on Water*, *Red Ink*, [...]. Associate Prof., Indigenous Studies & MFA (poetry), UBCO | Unceded Syilx Territory (Canada). Work in progress: *Father | Genocide: New & Selected Work*, 2009-2019.
2. Jake Skeets is Black Streak Wood, born for Water's Edge. He is Diné from the Navajo Nation. A graduate of the Low-Rez IAIA MFA program, he currently resides in the Navajo Nation and works at Diné College. He is one of the winners of the 2018 "Discovery"/Boston Review Poetry Prize.
3. Crisosto Apache is an enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe with descent from Mescalero, Chiricahua Apache & Diné (Salt Clan born for Towering House Clan). He has an MFA from IAIA. He teaches and pursues the advocacy of Native American / Indigenous LGBTQ social injustice.
4. Oscar Hokeah is a regionalist Native American writer of literary fiction, interested in capturing intertribal, multicultural, and transnational aspects within a contemporary Native landscape. He is half Native American (Kiowa/Cherokee) and half Hispanic.
5. Carolyn M. Dunn, PhD., is an indigenous poet, playwright, editor and publisher, and the author/editor of seven books, including three books of poetry. Her first collection, *Outfoxing Coyote*, was recognized as Book of the Year by the Native Writers Circle of the Americas in 2002.
6. Shauna Osborn is Executive Director of Puha Hubiya, a nonprofit literary arts organization, and author of *Arachnid Verve* (a poetry collection) which was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Awards. They have won awards from the New York Public Library, AROHO, TSWC, and a Crescendo Literary Fellowship.

### AGENDA

Call to Order

Introductions

New, Old, & Recurring Business

1. Nominations for Native writers to be featured at AWP 2020. Suggested list will be sent to AWP 2021 conference committee/sponsoring organizations for consideration. Featured writers come from the line up from sponsoring organizations (PEN, Universities, Presses, etc). Verbal nominations will be limited to the first 5 suggestions. Please email additional suggestions to [nativeawp@gmail.com](mailto:nativeawp@gmail.com).
2. Suggestions for Tributes. Tributes can be created for any influential Indigenous- Aboriginal author. Our most recent tributes celebrated the work of Diane Glancy, Adrian C. Louis, and LeAnne Howe. Verbal nominations will be limited to the first 5 suggestions. Please email additional suggestions.
3. Caucus of Caucuses Report from our present representatives
4. Reports on negative job/employee treatment issues for Indigenous writers: Issues can be brought to caucus attention via verbal reporting or through email.

5. Recommendations/models of Indigenous faculty and student support: Issues and ideas can be brought to caucus attention via verbal reporting or through email.

6. Topics of interest to this year's caucus: A) Indigenous writers' contributions to activism, especially involving our ecosystem; B) Inter-tribal appropriation or use of other tribes' stories and ceremonies, relationality, acknowledgement/recognition, and the role of unity-building in decolonization; C) Matrilineal/matrilocal value systems and MMIW; & D) How do non cisgendered heterosexuals feel within our Native Lit community? Are institutional proposals needed to create better protections and/or support?

7. Old Business: Handling microaggressions at work and writer environments [update] While the changes in AWP staff and board have made a significant improvement in regards to our interactions and the reception of our requests, there are still ways our communications could be better. This year our interactions with representatives of AWP have included instances of microaggressions such as the use of disrespectful language in event titles/descriptions and insensitive/offensive requests of tribal representatives. How should the caucus respond as a group?

8. Any other requested items that time permits