Poetry’s First and Last Stop: Libraries as Partners in the Publishing Process

Description
Libraries serve a unique role in the writing and publishing process; they are the birthplace of inspiration and the final home for poetic works. Panelists from Central Texas universities, public libraries, and independent publishers will discuss the ways poetry and libraries have intersected in their creative work and careers. Panelists will also share how poets can work with librarians and library workers to promote their books, so that writers are prepared to utilize the library market post-publication.

Statement of Merit:
Libraries are vital participants in writing communities, but how often do poets think of libraries as both a market for their work and as a partner in their creative process? This panel aims to encourage poets to seek collaborations with libraries. It brings together writing teachers, librarians, library workers, and publishers – all of whom are poets themselves – from Central Texas, to share how their writing is informed, disseminated, and enriched through their experiences in libraries.

Outline:
1. Introductions, including reading 1 short poem each
2. Moderated questions:
   - Briefly describe your experiences in libraries, both as writers and as library workers.
   - How can libraries support writers and poets? And vice versa?
   - What role do libraries play in the publishing process? Do you think of libraries as a market for your books?
   - For those of you who work with library collections, how do you decide which books of poetry to purchase? How do you hear about new works of poetry?
   - What can poets do to promote their work with libraries?
3. Questions from the audience

Participants:
- Gina Bastone, University of Texas Libraries (organizer)
- Tomás Morín, Writer-in-Residence, Texas Tech University (moderator)
- Annar Veröld, Host Publications
- Sam Treviño, Austin Public Library
- Dave Lucas, Poet Laureate of Ohio, Case Western Reserve University