Event Title
Money, Money, Money: How to Make a Living and be a Writer

Event Description
In an increasingly competitive academic job market, many writers are seeking alternative career pathways where they know their creative and critical thinking skills will make an impact—and they’ll be able to pay their bills. Four writers will discuss how they arrived in industries outside academia, offering tips on pursuing a meaningful career and sustaining a vibrant professional life as a writer.

Event Category
Artistic and Professional Stewardship

Event Organizer
Writers in the Schools (WITS) Alliance

Event Moderator
Harriet Riley is a New Orleans-based freelance writer focusing on creative nonfiction. She taught creative writing for 11 years with Writers in the Schools Houston. Harriet also taught journalism, worked as a non-profit director, a hospital marketing director, an advertising agency account executive and as a newspaper reporter. She has her MA in journalism from UT Austin.

Event Participants & short bios
Long Chu oversees grantmaking for Houston Endowment's arts and culture portfolio. Prior to joining the foundation in 2015, he was associate director of Writers in the Schools. His poems have been published in several anthologies, including From Both Sides Now: The Poetry of the Vietnam War.

Keith S. Wilson is an Affrilachian Poet, Cave Canem fellow, graduate of the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, and recipient of three Bread Loaf scholarships. He holds an MFA in poetry from Chicago State University. Keith works as a writer and game designer in Chicago.

Megan Peak received her M.F.A. in Poetry from The Ohio State University Her first book of poetry, Girldom, won the 2018 Perugia Press Prize from Perugia Press and 2019 The John A. Robertson Award for Best First Book of Poetry from the Texas Institute of Letters.

Moderator Questions
1. a) What do you do and how did you get there? Why did you choose this work?
   b) Are you ever made to feel like you’re not as legitimate a writer because you are not in academia or the product of an MFA program?
2. How do you find the work affects your writing? Does this directly or indirectly affect your writing?
3. How do you balance or protect your writing time?
4. What tips do you have for people who want to use their writing abilities to find jobs outside of academia? Do you have any resources to share?