

CARNEGIE BOOKS-IN-PROGRESS CONFERENCE 2019

Preliminary agenda as of 3-15-19; subject to change

Thursday, May 30

***Pre-Conference Retreat (optional, extra fee required, limited slots available)**

10:00 am-noon

Writing & Yoga, Jennifer Mattox & Laura Whitaker

When you sit down to write, are you distracted by your day's to-do list or things happening in your life? We will use yoga techniques (movement, meditation, and breathwork) to help you clear your mind and stretch your creative thinking. Intermittent pauses will be filled with writing exercises to help you deepen your writing and gain inspiration for new ideas. Come prepared for yoga and bring your writing journal to this relaxing and invigorating session. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one; a limited number of mats will be available to borrow if needed. Beginners are welcome, and modifications using a chair for support will also be offered.

1:00-5:00 pm

Starting & Finishing Your Novel, Ian Stansel

A novel is a difficult beast to tame. We will talk about a number of different structures or shapes a novel might take and also look at where some novels find their "entry points" and connect with their readers from the first words. We'll engage in writing exercises that will urge you to consider and reconsider what your book might look like. And finally, we'll discuss common hurdles that tend to pop and keep a writer from finishing a novel project, and we'll come up with the strategies to overcome these obstacles that will work for you.

***Welcome Reception (FREE for conference participants)**

5:30 pm

Welcome Reception (pre-registration open)

6:30 pm

Carnegie Center Author Academy Class of 2019 Reading & Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 31

8:00 am

Breakfast & Registration

8:45 am

Welcome

9:15-10:30 am

Breakout sessions TBA*

10:45 am-12:15 pm

Keynote by Chris Offutt, followed by book signing

12:15-2:00 pm

Writing Time & Lunch on Your Own

2:00-3:30 pm

First Page Critique, session 1 – Literary Agent Justin Brouckaert, Literary Agent Joanna MacKenzie, and Editor Jessica Strawser

Panelists offer feedback to participants on first 250 words of manuscripts. Submission information will be emailed in advance of the conference.

3:45-5:15 pm

Breakout sessions TBA*

5:30-6:30 pm

First Page Critique, session 2

Same as session 1 description above.

(Continued on next page)

Saturday, June 1

8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00-10:30 am	Breakout sessions TBA*
10:45 am-12:00 pm	Breakout sessions TBA*
12:15-12:30 pm	Closing Session & Giveaways

***Post-Conference Writing Retreat (optional, extra fee required, limited slots available)**

1:00-4:00 pm **Writing Retreat, Marcia Thornton Jones**

Don't wait to put what you learned during the conference into practice! This post-conference retreat will begin with a short group-sharing of conference highlights and goal-setting to help you continue the momentum inspired by your conference experience. Writing prompts will be offered to help propel your writing into high-gear! Bring your lunch and wrap-up your conference experience with a refreshing and inspiring retreat.

**Breakout sessions are not yet confirmed. Breakout presenters and panelists will include [Hannah Pittard](#), [Jessica Strawser](#), [Marcia Thornton Jones](#), [Kristen Simmons](#), [Margaret Verble](#), [Gwenda Bond](#), [Tiffany Reisz](#), and more. We will continue to update the breakout sessions as the conference approaches.*