



2023

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE



JULY 30 - AUGUST 6, 2023

PRESENTED BY LATINO ARTS NETWORK + PLAZA DE LA RAZA
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UCLA Extension
Writers' Program



2023

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE

Welcome to the Latina Writers Conference, 2023!

The Latina Writers Conference (LWC) is a program that gathers Latina creatives from the Southern California region to discuss topics central to their work as writers, performers, agents, editors, publishers, producers, and booksellers. LWC supports the wider representation of Latina voices in publishing, production, and performance, and celebrates all that Latina writers have accomplished, continue to accomplish, and will accomplish into the future.

LWC maintains the need to honor and serve a specific group of creatives and is open to those who identify as Latina including woman-identifying, trans, and nonbinary people. LWC also welcomes engagement from those who may not identify as Latina, but are inspired by the Latina experience.

We are so excited to have you join us! This year's conference brings together writers and literary creatives that represent the diversity of our many communities. We have a wide range of panels, workshops, and readings planned, and we know you will find something to inspire you.

We are also committed to providing a space where Latina creatives can connect with each other, share their work, and build community. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to network with other writers and learn from industry experts.

We are grateful for your support of the Latina Writers Conference. We believe that this conference is an important step in the fight for greater representation of Latina voices in writing, publishing, and literary excellence. We hope you will join us in making this year's conference a success.

In Gratitude,
The Latina Writers Conference Committee

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo
Luivette Resto
Jessica Ceballos y Campbell
Rebecca Nevarez
Tomas Benitez

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



JULY 30, 2023 – AUGUST 6, 2023



SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
READ OUR REBELLION: RIOT OF ROSES PUBLISHING HOUSE AUTHOR READING & LITCRAWL



SUNDAY, JULY 30, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
LATINA WRITERS IN ANIMATION: FROM STARTING OUT TO SHOWRUNNING



MONDAY, JULY 31, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
MUJER PELIGROSA: POETRY AND LIFE OF TATIANA DE LA TIERRA



TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
WHEN WHERE YOU ARE FROM HAS A BAD REPUTATION



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 6:30 PM – 9:30
MAKE YOURSELF UNFORGETTABLE: BRANDING YOUR AUTHENTIC STORY



THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 6:00 PM
CUENTOS DE MI GENTE: TELLING YOUR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY STORIES



FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
CELEBRATING WOMEN OF RESILIENCE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO THE ACTIVISTS



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
CURRENT & FUTURE LATINA WRITERS: RISE UP!



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
GOTHIC LATINAS/MUJERES DE HORROR: A READING



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 3:00 PM
REGISTRATION



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 4:00 PM
PR AND BUSINESS FOR LATINA WRITERS: HOW TO GET YOUR WORK NOTICED



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 4:00 PM
EMPOWERING JOURNEYS: WRITING AS A CATALYST FOR HEALING, INSPIRATION, AND PERSONAL GROWTH



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 4:00 PM
NAVIGATING THE PUBLISHING JOURNEY: FROM SUBMISSION TO SUCCESS



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 5:00 PM
PRESENTING THE CHULITA VINYL CLUB



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 6:00 PM
MAESTRA AWARD PRESENTATION TO SARAH RAFAEL GARCIA



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 6:30 PM
DINNER



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 7:20 PM
DANCE PARTY! WITH CHULITA VINYL CLUB



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 8:00 PM
GOODNIGHT

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LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



DAY 1 READ OUR REBELLION: RIOT OF ROSES PUBLISHING HOUSE AUTHOR READING & LITCRAWL

Sunday, July 30, 2pm-4pm

5 Latinx/Chicanx authors will share their work at two different brown owned businesses in Sejatnga, Unceded Tongva Territory otherwise known as Whittier. These 5 authors will read from their collections and explore the liberating practice of storytelling.

Starting at Midnight Books LA , 7201 Greenleaf Ave. Suite D, Whittier CA 90602
Culminating at Uptown Plants at Casa Verde LA, 12909 Philadelphia St., Whittier 90601



BRENDA VACA

Brenda Vaca is a Xicana author, and independent publisher from South Whittier, CA. *Riot of Roses* is her debut collection of poetry. Riot of Roses Publishing House is the independent press she founded in 2021. She is currently working on a children's book, *Buttonz Finds His Mojo*. linktr.ee/brendavaca



DIOSA XOCHIQUETZALCÓATL

Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl is a multilingual and multidimensional, 3x slam/spoken word champion and international poetiza and workshop presenter. She is the author of *A Church of My Own* (2021), *Hechizera: Sus Sultry Spells* (Editorial Raices, 2022), and *West of the Santa Ana and Other Sacred Places* (Riot of Roses Publishing House, 2023). linktr.ee/diosax



ANASTASIA HELENA FENALD

Anastasia Helena Fenald is a second-generation Ukrainian- Hispanic-American poet from Los Angeles and the Mojave Desert. Her collections include *Help Me, I'm Here: Poems to Myself* (World Stage Press, 2022) and *The Art of Job Hunting* (ROR Publishing House, 2023). linktr.ee/anastasiafenald



PAOLA GUTIERREZ

Paola Gutierrez is the author of the self-published Children's book, *No me gusta el brócoli/I Don't Like Broccoli*. She is the creative genius behind *El Libro Feliz y Yo & La Piedrita Feliz*. She is currently finalizing the manuscript for her first full length poetry collection. <https://linktr.ee/ellibrofelizyyo>



ANNALICIA AGUILAR

Annalicia Aguilar is a Mexican American/mixed-race indigenous poet, screenwriter, playwright, and producer from South Texas who relocated to Los Angeles. She will publish her full length collection of poetry, *Broken, But Holding* with Riot of Roses Publishing House in 2023. linkpop.com/annalicia-com

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



RIOT OF ROSES PUBLISHING HOUSE

Riot of Roses Publishing House was established in the autumn of 2021 when author and founder, Brenda Vaca, decided to publish her first poetry collection. It became not just important to publish her own work, but to also create space for other storytellers to create their books. It was founded specifically to amplify the stories of historically silenced voices. Xicana owned. Mujerista focused. For the people. We publish books to heal and liberate others. www.riotofrorespublishinghouse.com



MIDNIGHT BOOKS & UPTOWN PLANTS AT CASA VERDE LA

Uptown Plants at Casa Verde LA is a local plant shop and community collective that hosts with over 60 artists and artisans in its space first established in 2021. <https://casa-verde-la.business.site/>

Midnight Books is a revolutionary bookstore/community space in Uptown Whittier, CA. first established in 2022. <https://linktr.ee/midnightbooks>

DAY 1 LATINA WRITERS IN ANIMATION: FROM STARTING OUT TO SHOWRUNNING

Sunday, July 30, 5pm-7pm

Featuring 3 Latina animation writers, this panel will showcase the different career stages of writing for animation from staff writer (Jeannette Lara) to story editor (Norma P. Sepulveda) to showrunner (Natasha Kline). The discussion will also dig into how each writer navigates and draws inspiration from their respective identities and histories.

Avenue 50 Studio, 131 North Avenue 50, Los Angeles (Highland Park) CA 90042

ANGELA M. SÁNCHEZ



Staff Writer on PRIMOS at Disney Branded Television.

A member of LatinX in Animation and Finalist in ScreenCraft's Animation Competition (2020, 2022), Angela writes for Disney Branded Television's upcoming PRIMOS. They've also written on AppleTV+'s acclaimed series STILLWATER, the CoComelon Story Time podcast, and Moonbug's GECKO'S GARAGE. Angela also wrote the picture book series SCRUFFY AND THE EGG. angelamsanchez.com

NATASHA KLINE



Creator, Showrunner & Executive Producer on PRIMOS at Disney Television Animation. Emmy-Nominated Natasha Kline is the Creator, Showrunner, and Executive Producer of Disney Channel's PRIMOS. A storyboard artist, director, designer, and writer, Kline's credits on both the big and small screen include BIG CITY GREENS, SOUTH PARK, BOJACK HORSEMAN, THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE, HEY ARNOLD: THE JUNGLE MOVIE, and HOME: ADVENTURES WITH TIP & OH. @osoamelie

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NORMA P. SEPULVEDA

Story Editor on DISNEY JUNIOR'S ARIEL at Wild Canary.

Norma P. Sepulveda is a Story Editor on DISNEY JUNIOR'S ARIEL. Norma has written on Disney Junior's FIREBUDS, MICKEY MOUSE FUNHOUSE, and ELENA OF AVALOR, and Netflix's SPIRIT RANGERS. In 2020, she sold and developed an original series at Netflix and is currently in development with a new project at Disney Junior.

www.normapsepulveda.com



JEANNETTE LARA

Freelance Writer.

Jeannette credits her love for storytelling to comics, anime, and playing with Barbie dolls and figures. A finalist for ScreenCraft's 2019 Animation Competition and Quarter Finalist for the 2016 Nicholls Fellowship in Screenwriting, she has written on ALMAS WAY, RAINBOW HIGH, SANTIAGO OF THE SEAS, and other upcoming projects.

@jeannettelara.pro



AVENUE 50 STUDIO

Avenue 50 Studio is an arts presentation organization grounded in Latina/o culture, visual arts, and the Northeast Los Angeles area that seeks to bridge cultures through artistic expressions, using content-driven art to educate and to stimulate intercultural understanding. avenue50studio.org

DAY 2

MUJER PELIGROSA: POETRY AND LIFE OF TATIANA DE LA TIERRA

Monday, July 31, 6pm-8pm

tatiana de la tierra (1961-2012) was a Latina lesbian writer and literary trailblazer. In the 1990s, amidst all the possible isms imaginable in publishing, tatiana co-founded and co-edited the magazines *Esto No Tiene Nombre*, *Conomoción*, and *La Telaraña*. These magazines featured poetry, prose, photography, spells and musings from Latina Lesbians in both the U.S. and Latin America. These herstorical publications were groundbreaking, offering bilingual and Spanglish literary lifelines to Latina lesbians across borders. tatiana went on to produce several of her own works, among them her iconic *For the Hard Ones: A Lesbian Phenomenology* (published in 2002 by Calaca Press and in 2018 by Sinister Wisdom). Although largely invisibilized in the "mainstream," tatiana de la tierra remains beloved and vibrant in Latina lesbian and feminist literary circles. In fact, it is queer and feminist women who have assured her legacy be kept alive. In Oct 2023, *Redonda y Radical: Antología poética de tatiana de la tierra* was published by Sincronía Casa Editorial in Bogotá, Colombia.

This panel brings together tatiana's literary executors, the women of Sincronía (via Zoom), and local writer friends of tatiana's to discuss the author's work, her literary activism, and her most amazing sapphic life. Join us for tatiana de la tierra poetry, Colombian music by Langosta, and refreshments.

Altadena Library, 600 Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001



OLGA GARCÍA ECHEVERRÍA

Olga García Echeverría. Ultra Libra in love with the ocean/clouds/birds and trees. Profesora of Literature at CSULA. Creator and destroyer of language. Author of *Falling Angels: Cuentos y Poemas*. Her work appears in *The Sun Magazine*, *Imaninan: Poets Writing on the Anzalduan Borderlands*, *The Latino Book Review*, and others.



CARRIBEAN FRAGOZA

Carribean Fragoza is a fiction and nonfiction writer from South El Monte, CA. Her collection of stories *Eat the Mouth That Feeds You* was published in 2021 by City Lights and was a finalist for a 2022 PEN Award. She is the Prose Editor at *Huizache Magazine* and 2023 Whiting Literary Award recipient. carribeanfragoza.com



MYRIAM GURBA

Myriam Gurba is the author of the true-crime memoir *Mean*, a New York Times editors' choice. *O*, the Oprah Magazine, ranked *Mean* one of the best LGBTQ books of all time. Her collection of essays, *Creep*, will be released in September 2023. PEN American West & Lambda Literary Award finalist. www.myriamgurba.com



ROCIO CELY HERRERA

Rocio Cely Herrera (Bogota, 1995). Graduate in Literary Studies from the Javeriana University and Master in Editorial Studies from the Caro y Cuervo Institute. She is the founder and director of Sincronía Casa Editorial since 2019, a Colombian feminist press focused on publishing poetry books written and illustrated by women. [@sincroniacasaeditorial](https://twitter.com/sincroniacasaeditorial)



LAURA ARENAS

Laura Arenas (MA in Literary Studies) is a public education English teacher. She co-founded the Bogotá-based performance group Burdel Poético and her poems are featured in several anthologies. Laura has worked as an editor and most recently served as an anthologist for *Redonda y radical: antología poética de tatiana de la tierra*. [@esabeapapel](https://twitter.com/esabeapapel)



MAYLEI BLACKWELL

Maylei Blackwell is a two-spirit writer/activist who has accompanied feminist, indigenous, and queer organizing in Mexico, the U.S. and across Abiyala for three decades. She is the author of *Scales of Resistance: Indigenous Women's Transborder Organizing* (2023) and *Chicana Power! Contested Histories of Feminism in the Chicano Movement* (2011). [@maylei7directions](https://twitter.com/maylei7directions)



ALTADENA LIBRARY

Hosting venue mission: The Altadena Library District brings people and ideas together. History From a single bookshelf, the Altadena Library grew to include an adult collection in 1913, through the efforts of the Women's Circle of Altadena, adding a second location at the then Andrew Jackson School in 1918. The Altadena Library District became an independent special district in December 1926 under the provision of Sections 19600-19734 of the California Education Code. It now encompasses the approximate 8 square miles of Altadena, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Currently, the Altadena Library District provides library services to a population of approximately 51,737 people according to the May 2011 estimate for cities and counties from the Demographic Research Unit, State Department of Finance. www.altadenalibrary.org @altadenalibrary

DAY 3 WHEN WHERE YOU ARE FROM HAS A BAD REPUTATION

Tuesday, August 1, 6pm-8pm

Washington Heights, The Bronx, Compton, and San Bernardino are often depicted in the media as crime ridden, impoverished, and undesirable. This misrepresentation has become the dominant narrative about these places and the residents. Four Latinas share how they counter the misconceptions of their communities, past and present, and in their writing.

Virtual Meeting ID: 832 9435 3052 Passcode: 959221



LUCY RODRIGUEZ-HANLEY

Lucy Rodriguez-Hanley is a nonfiction writer, filmmaker and mother of two. A Dominicana via Washington Heights residing in Long Beach, California. She is the Chapters Liaison at Women Who Submit, a Tin House, Macondo and VONA alum. She advocates for representation of BIPOC women and non-binary writers in creative spaces. www.lucyrodriguezhanley.com @lucyrodriguezhanley



LUIVETTE RESTO

Luivette Resto is an award-winning poet, a mother of 3 revolutionary humans, a Wonder Woman fan, and a middle school English teacher. She was born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico but proudly raised in the Bronx. She is a CantoMundo and Macondo Fellow and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her two books of poetry *Unfinished Portrait* and *Ascension* have been published by Tía Chucha Press. Her third poetry collection *Living on Islands Not Found on Maps*, published by FlowerSong Press, won silver for the 2022 Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book Award at the International Latino Book Awards. She lives in the San Gabriel Valley. @lulubell.96

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



JENISE MILLER

Jenise Miller is a Black Panamanian writer and urban planner from Compton, CA, whose work explores art, archives, memory, and place. She is the author of the poetry chapbook, *The Blvd.* Her writing can be found in the *Acentos Review*, *High Country News*, *Boom California*, *KCET Artbound*, the *L.A. Review of Books*, and the *L.A. Times*. www.jenisemiller.com @jenisepalante



liz gonzález

liz gonzález is the author of *The Original OLG: San Bernardino's First Our Lady of Guadalupe Church*, forthcoming, and *Dancing in the Santa Ana Winds: Poems y Cuentos New and Selected*, both from Los Nietos Press. Her work recently appeared in *HTI Open Plaza*, *Air/Light*, and *Poets & Writers Magazine*. lizgonzalez.com @lizgonzalezwriter



THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING

Virtual Meeting ID: 832 9435 3052 Passcode: 959221

DAY 4 MAKE YOURSELF UNFORGETTABLE: BRANDING YOUR AUTHENTIC STORY

Wednesday, August 2
6:30pm-9:30pm

This workshop will give Latina writers insight on how to overcome our limiting beliefs from our ancestors so that we can be successful writers who have absolute clarity about our themes, messages, and purpose for sharing our stories and inspiring our community. Participants will leave this workshop knowing how best to execute their stories, the genre that best suits their stories and insights as to how their unconscious mind works and how to overcome writer's block. Having over 35 years of experience being a professional writer, I want to help other Latinas just starting out to gain the courage to write their stories and not sabotage themselves.

Casa 0101, 2102 E. 1st., Los Angeles., CA 90033



JOSEFINA LOPEZ

Josefina López is best known for authoring the play and co-authoring the 2002 SUNDANCE AWARD WINNING film *Real Women Have Curves*. She is the Founding Artistic Director of CASA 0101 Theater and her play is now a musical headed to Broadway. josefinalopez.biz casa0101.org @josefinalopez @JosefinaLopezRWHC



CASA 0101

CASA 0101 is dedicated to providing inspiring, theater performances, art exhibits and educational programs in Boyle Heights, thereby nurturing the future storytellers of Los Angeles who will someday transform the world. casa0101.org

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



DAY 5 A SPECIAL EVENT IN SUPPORT OF: CUENTOS DE MI GENTE: TELLING YOUR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY STORIES

Thursday, August 3, 6pm

This is a bilingual workshop for 20 Mexican immigrant women in the Palo Verde Valley who will be asked to tell their stories to each other. Using writing prompts, model texts, and specific revision strategies, writers will turn their verbally expressed thoughts into cuentos de nuestra cultura.

This is a private event proudly supported by the Latina Writers Conference and facilitated by Tisha Marie Reichle-Aguilera & Carmela Garnica.



ESCUELA DE LA RAZA UNIDA

Escuela De La Raza Unida was established in 1972 when a real need to provide non-traditional holistic education to create a climate of belonging and family engagement was identified. Learn more at www.escueladelarazaunida.org

DAY 6 CELEBRATING WOMEN OF RESILIENCE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO THE ACTIVISTS

Friday, August 4, 7pm - 8pm

Celebrating Women of Resilience: A Photographic Tribute to the Activists. Women, Mujeres, Ixq: Revolutionary Visions showcases the creativity of women artists committed to social justice. Through photos, videos, and oral histories, this project aims to inspire and transform communities. The book highlights the resilience of women and encourages young minds to become role models, emphasizing the importance of nurturing respectful men. It reminds us that every woman has a revolutionary story.

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

CLAUDIA D. HERNÁNDEZ



Claudia D. Hernández is the author of *Knitting the Fog*, the recipient of the 2018 Louise Meriwether First Book Prize. She is an award winning editor for her anthology photography book titled *Women, Mujeres, IXQ: Revolutionary Visions*, which received the International Latino Book Award in 2019. She is the founder of the ongoing project: Today's Revolutionary Women of Color. Claudia holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University Los Angeles. @claudia.d.hernandez www.Todaysrevolutionarywomenofcolor.com www.claudiahernandez.com

FELICIA MONTES



Felicia 'Fe' Montes (M.A./M.F.A.) is a Xicana Indigenous holistic activist, femcee, poet and professor from East Los Angeles. She is the co-founder and coordinator of Mujeres de Maiz. and is known throughout the Southwest as an established Xicana cultural worker of a new generation. @feevaone mujrmyz@yahoo.com



JOSIE MÉNDEZ-NEGRETE

Josie Méndez-Negrete, PhD, an esteemed Professor Emerita in Mexican American Studies at UTSA, is an accomplished author and editor. Her publications include *"Las hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed"* (Duke University), *"A Life on Hold: Living with Schizophrenia"* (University of New Mexico Press), and *"Activist Leaders of San José, California: En sus propias voces"* (University of Arizona). She is also a publisher and editor at Conocimientos Press, known for unearthing hidden stories of Raza. Her latest work, *"Rooted in Clay: El arte de Verónica Castillo,"* was published in 2023. www.conocimientospressllc.com/



LETICIA HERNÁNDEZ-LINARES

Leticia Hernández-Linares is an award-winning, interdisciplinary, bilingual writer, artist, and racial justice educator. She is the author of *Mucha Muchacha, Too Much Girl & Alejandria Fights Back! ¡La lucha de Alejandria!* Widely published, she has presented her work internationally, and teaches Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. @muchamuchacha15 joinleticia.com



MARGARET GARCIA

Margaret Garcia. Identified as one of 24 women artists who have had an impact on L.A. Art. Currently on display at The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture of the Riverside Art Museum and The Universal City Metro Station. Margaretgarciastudio.com @Margaretgarciastudio @Margaretgarciaart

BEYOND BAROQUE LITERARY ARTS CENTER

Beyond Baroque's mission is to advance the public awareness of and involvement in the literary arts; to provide a challenging program of events which promotes new work and diversity; to foster a place in the community for the exchange of challenging ideas and the nurturing of new work; to support writers through readings, workshops, books sales, publication, access to archived material and performance space; to encourage collaboration and cross-fertilization between writers and artists in multiple disciplines with the goal of producing mixed media art; to use the literary arts as a foundation for increasing education and literacy in our community. www.beyondbaroque.org @Bblitarts



DAY 7 CURRENT & FUTURE LATINA WRITERS: RISE UP!

Saturday, August 5, 2pm

This panel gives a voice to Latina High School Writers studying film at the LACHSA. The students and Latina writer Claudia Forestieri will talk about their journey as writers and hopefully inspire future Latina writers. We want to highlight more diversity for our future generations, especially in the writing area, whether that's writing scripts for movies or writing books.

LACHSA's Caroline's Loft - Circle Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90032



ESMERALDA XOCHITL FLORES

Esmeralda Xochitl Flores is the Equity Coordinator at LACHSA and a part of the Office of Community Engagement. A born and raised San Fernando Valley native that also loves performing! She was engaged in several university and community theatre productions including a play that she wrote and produced for her master's degree.



JIMENA MENDEZ

Jimena Mendez is an 11th grader at L.A County High School for the Arts, studying film. There she is passionate about writing and directing. She has directed/written/produced 2 films that have gone to the Sundown Film Festival at LACHSA. She hopes to continue to create more films and bring more diversity into the area of film/writing.



CLAUDIA FORESTIERI

Claudia Forestieri is the Creator of GORDITA CHRONICLES, a family comedy inspired by her childhood. She's also written for Freeform's GOOD TROUBLE and Netflix's SELENA THE SERIES. She began her storytelling career as a news reporter and producer for Telemundo, is of Dominican descent, and currently lives in Los Angeles.



ANGELA ALVARADO

Angela Alvarado is a proud Latina and LACHSA Student who is very passionate about film making. She began filming in middle school and won 2nd place in the State of California for a short film at the PTA National Reflections contest. She loves Writing, producing, editing and directing. She also enjoys making animation and hopes to bring a positive impact. vimeo.com/822576841 @_yellowhoodieman_



ANDREA RAMIREZ ROMO

Andrea Ramirez Romo is a Cinematic Arts Department senior at LACHSA. A Young Arts 2023 winner, Andrea is a writer, director, editor and producer who loves taking unconventional methods towards filmmaking. Whether it be experimental, or toying with story structure, Andrea always works outside of the box while creating complex, yet genuine characters. [@4ndrea.mp4](https://vimeo.com/user107586367)



JULIANA DIAZ

I'm Juliana Diaz. My family originates from Mexico. I'm a rising sophomore LACHSA student. I'm pursuing producing and directing. My family and I are obsessed with sitcoms. I like vlogging hangouts with my friends. Thrifting and upcycling clothes is a minor hobby of mine. I'm outgoing and goal-oriented. @julianuhh5



CAROLINE'S L.O.F.T. (BLACK BOX THEATRE) AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

LACHSA (Los Angeles County High School for the Arts) – The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) is a specialized, tuition-free public school open to aspiring young artists throughout Los Angeles County. LACHSA was founded in 1985 under the direction of the LA County Office of Education, and is located on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles. Combining college-preparatory academic instruction with conservatory-style training in the visual and performing arts, LACHSA provides a unique high school experience for those who know they were born to create. www.lachsa.net @lachsa_official

DAY 7 GOTHIC LATINAS/MUJERES DE HORROR: A READING

Saturday, August 5, 7pm

Join Latinx in Publishing for a reading of horror and Gothic stories by 5 Latina authors who explore themes of family, love, grief, violence, brujaería, patriarchy, capitalism, and colonialism. These critically acclaimed authors are innovating the genre and moving beyond it to show how we deal with death, as Latinas.

Matilija Lending Library, 3571 Lexington Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731



CAMILLE CORBETT

Camille Corbett is a Fulbright Scholar, TV writer, and actress. She wrote, directed, and starred in the short horror film *The Island*.



TONI MARGARITA PLUMMER

Toni Margarita Plummer is the author of *The Bolero of Andi Rowe* and a winner of Somos En Escrito's Extra Fiction Contest. She has work in *Aster(ix)* and *A Night of Screams: Latino Horror Stories*. Toni serves on the board of Latinx in Publishing and hails from South El Monte. tonimargaritaplummer.wordpress.com @toni_m_plummer



MARY CASTILLO

Mary Castillo is the author of *Lost in the Light*, winner of the 2018 ABR Listener's Choice Award in Mystery, and a finalist for a Daphne du Maurier Award. Through her creative practice, Reina Omnimedia, Mary narrates and produces audiobooks from her studio in So Cal wine country. www.marycastillo.com @marycastillovoiceover

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



CARRIBEAN FRAGOZA

Carribean Fragoza is a winner of a Whiting Award in Fiction. Her debut collection *Eat the Mouth That Feeds You* was a finalist for a PEN Award. Editor at *Huizache Magazine* and *Boom California* and founder of South El Monte Arts Posse, she lives in the San Gabriel Valley. www.carribeanfragoza.com @fragozacarribean
photo credit: Willy Somma



LILLIAM RIVERA

Lilliam Rivera is the author of YA novels *The Education of Margot Sanchez* and *Never Look Back*. Her latest novels *We Light Up the Sky* and *Unearthed* were named "Best Books of 2021" by Kirkus Reviews and School Library Journal. A Bronx native, she lives in Los Angeles. www.lilliamrivera.com @lilliamr
photo credit: JJ Geiger



MARYTZA K. RUBIO

Marytza K. Rubio's debut story collection *Maria, Maria* was longlisted for the National Book Award. She lives in Santa Ana and is the Vice President of Community & Culture at Segerstrom Center for the Arts. www.marytzakrubio.com @marytza_k
photo credit: Julie Leopo



@MatilijaBooks

MATILIJALENDING LIBRARY

Matilija Lending Library's mission is to celebrate the diversity of our El Monte and San Gabriel Valley community by uplifting stories by Black, Indigenous, People of Color. We aim to create a space to reflect our people of color communities in the San Gabriel Valley, and build multi-racial solidarity together.
www.matilijabooks.weebly.com @matilijabooks



LATINX IN PUBLISHING

Latinx in Publishing is a network of book professionals committed to supporting and increasing the number of Latine/x in the publishing industry, as well as promoting literature by, for, and about Latine/x people. www.latinxinpublishing.com
@latinxpublishing





2023 MAESTRA AWARD PRESENTED BY THE LATINO ARTS NETWORK

Congratulations

The Latino Arts Network (LAN) partners with the California Arts Council to identify and honor artists, advocates, and cultural workers who have demonstrated a commitment to community-based work.

We are proud to recognize Sarah Rafael Garcia as the 2023 Maestra Awardee, who's nomination was put forth by our Latina Writers Conference community based on her advocacy and work in creating accessibility and resources for Latinx writers and artists. Her efforts in establishing creative writing programs for teens with Barrio Writers, her collaborative CuentosMobile and literary arts co-op LibroMobile, as well as the establishment of the community art space Crear Studio are outstanding! Expressed best by one of her colleagues, "In times when books are being banned all over the nation, Sarah Rafael Garcia is a Brava!"



Congratulations, Sarah, and thank you for all you do for our community of writers!



Sarah Rafael García is an award-winning author and literary arts advocate raised in Santa Ana, California. As a child of immigrants and a first-generation university graduate, she knows first-hand what it means to fail and triumph in life. Her first book *Las Niñas* (2008) speaks to her loss and upbringing, and her second book, *SanTana's Fairy Tales* (2017), is part of an oral history multimedia exhibition awarded by the Andy Warhol Foundation, and most recently a required Ethnic Studies text in the Santa Ana Unified School District. She has co-edited various anthologies, including *pariahs: writing from outside the margins* (2016) and *Speculative Fiction for Dreamers* (2021), among other publications. García is the founder of Barrio Writers (2009), LibroMobile (2016) and Crear Studio (2017). In 2023, she was honored as a Woman of Distinction by State Senator Tom J. Umberg and a Kickass Woman by Orange Coast Magazine.

As a Chicana multimedia artist, García addresses what it means to be a child Spanish speaker, a teen trauma survivor, a nontraditional M.F.A graduate in the American School System — and now an arts leader who aspires to build equity and visibility for her BIPOC community in Orange County via the LibroMobile Arts Cooperative. Currently, she splits her time establishing collaborative arts programming through the digital humanities, which includes community-based partnerships, with UCI Libraries & Special Collections and the Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium at CSUF. Most recently, Sarah Rafael García was announced as the CSUF Chicana/o Studies Department & Latinx Lab Visiting Professor of Creative Writing for the 2023–2024 academic year.



DAY 8 PR AND BUSINESS FOR LATINA WRITERS: HOW TO GET YOUR WORK NOTICED

Sunday, August 6, 4pm

This engaging and informative 75-minute roundtable discussion aims to equip writers with practical insights and strategies to effectively navigate the realms of promotion, branding, and entrepreneurship in the literary world.

Author, educator, and advocate Li Yun Alvarado, Ph.D., and digital strategist and community builder, Ena Coleman will delve into various aspects of PR and business tailored specifically to the needs and experiences of Latina writers. Participants will gain valuable knowledge on crafting an author brand, creating and maintaining a writer's CV and your first author website, setting intentions for a successful writing practice, leveraging social media platforms, securing speaking engagements, and fostering relationships with agents, editors, and/or publishers. Additionally, the roundtable will explore effective marketing strategies, self-promotion techniques, and the importance of community-building for long-term success.

This roundtable will be available remotely on Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85137924287> or Meeting ID: 851 3792 4287

LI YUN ALVARADO



Li Yun Alvarado is the author of the poetry collection *Words or Water*, and her work has appeared in *The Acentos Review*; *VIDA Review*; *Raising Mothers*; *Aster(ix)*; and *Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education*; among others. She has served as the Senior Poetry Editor for *Kweli Journal* and is an alumna of VONA/Voices Writing Workshop and AROHO. Her online courses for writers include: *Writer, You Need a Website: 5 Days to Your First Author Website*; *Write Your Year: Reflect, Set Intentions, & Chart a Course for Your Writing Life*; and *Writer CV Hacks: Create, Maintain, & Quickly Adapt Your Writer CV*. www.liyunalvarado.com to learn more about her writing or to register for her courses.

ENA COLEMAN



Meet digital strategist and community builder, Ena Coleman, an everyday woman who dared to make significant changes in her life, just like many of us. At the age of 40, after a 20-year-long career, she decided to take a leap of faith and bid farewell to corporate America. Ena seized an opportunity into the world of online community management & social media marketing, working on major political campaigns and social justice nonprofits centering on women of color. As Ena delved into her new chapter, she couldn't help but notice the numerous women around her striving to take control of their lives too. They yearned for someone to guide them, to be their mentor, and to inspire them along the way. Having experienced her own challenges and growth, Ena felt a genuine calling to support and uplift these women. She became a mentor, sharing her journey and empowering others to embrace their own strengths and potential. Born, raised, and currently residing in Long Beach, CA with her two daughters, Ena's story is one of courage and transformation, proving that anyone can make a difference in the lives of others. Through her mentorship and inspirational journey, she has become a beacon of hope, guiding countless women toward finding their true selves and achieving their dreams. www.theenergyexchange.co & @energyxchange



DAY 8 EMPOWERING JOURNEYS: WRITING AS A CATALYST FOR HEALING, INSPIRATION, AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Sunday, August 6, 4pm

In this transformative 75-minute roundtable discussion, writers will explore the power of writing to heal, inspire, and empower, aiming to provide a nurturing space for Latina writers to explore their unique journeys while acknowledging the systemic challenges they may face.

For this interactive session, life coach, writer, speaker Linda González MSW, MFA, and writer, cultivator, DEI consultant, *sahumadora*, Marisa Urrutia Gedney, will guide participants through a journey of self-discovery, providing practical strategies to tap into their creative potential and overcome obstacles. Through engaging discussions and writing exercises, attendees will explore the role of writing in fostering healing, personal growth, and resilience. Linda and Marisa will help writers explore ways to harness their own experiences, voice, and imagination to tell stories that matter and inspire positive change.

LINDA GONZÁLEZ



Linda González is the author of two books and has published many essays. *Breaking Through Your Own Glass Ceiling* is based on living a full-hearted life with healing at the core, despite daily inequities. Her award-winning memoir *The Cost of Our Lives* is a family story of unearthing secrets in search of family and redemption. She has served as a judge for the Latino Books awards, and is a contributing editor for *aaduna*, an online literary magazine. Linda firmly believes in the “danger of a single story” about any group of people. She works tirelessly to write and support writing that enriches the current canon of literature. She constantly challenges the narrative that she cannot include Spanish in her work without explaining or italicizing it. You can learn more about her writing and her thriving practice as a life coach at www.lindagonzalez.net. Linda has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for over thirty years. She is currently living in San Rafael, the unceded land of the Coast Miwok nation. She is originally from Los Angeles, where her parents, a Colombiana and a Mexicano, met and raised her family. Her millennial twins inspire her daily to be her best self.

MARISA URRUTIA GEDNEY



Marisa Urrutia Gedney Marisa Urrutia Gedney (she/her) is a courageous cultivator out to witness people. She facilitates healing, justice, and growth through transformative leadership and most recently co-founded Your Truth at Work, a DEI consulting agency that helps individuals and organizations unlearn and dismantle oppressive workplace norms to create a more equitable future for the modern workplace. She was invited by former U.S. Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, to read at the Los Angeles Library series, ALOUD, and has received a Writers in Residence at Hedgebrook, studied at the Postgraduate Writers' Conference at Vermont College of Fine Arts, Voices of Our Nation, and Las Dos Brujas. As a *Sahumadora* in Danza Azteca, she practices fire as her spirit technology and transmutes grief and transgenerational trauma in her poetry. Her first poetry collection, *Altar of the Imagination*, is available from Finishing Line Press. <https://tinyurl.com/mry7dwzy>



DAY 8 NAVIGATING THE PUBLISHING JOURNEY: FROM SUBMISSION TO SUCCESS

Sunday, August 6, 4pm

In this enriching 75-minute roundtable discussion, writers will discuss the intricacies of publishing their work: from understanding the importance of submitting their work to organizing their writing for submission and crafting compelling proposals, attendees will gain practical insights on how to present their work effectively to publications.

During this interactive session, writers and Women Who Submit coordinator Cybele Garcia Kohel, MLIS; writer and managing editor at Kaya Press, Neelanjana Banerjee; and story-diviner, singer, and creative nonfiction editor at Exposition Review, Ramona Pilar, will share their expertise and guide participants through the entire publishing process. The discussion will cover a wide range of topics, including researching literary markets, identifying the right publications for your writing, polishing your submissions, and navigating the editorial process. You'll leave this discussion empowered with the knowledge and strategies to navigate the publishing world with confidence.

This roundtable will be available remotely on Zoom at:

<https://antioch.zoom.us/j/97905767127> or Meeting ID: 979 0576 7127

CYBELE GARCIA KOHEL



Cybele Garcia Kohel is a Boricua writer living and working on unceded Tongva land. She writes poetry, short stories and essays. Cybele is a mom, dog lover, and school librarian. She has a BS in Anthropology and an MS in Peace Studies. She is currently studying for an MLIS degree at San Jose State University. You can read her individual poems the *Altadena Poetry Review* (2017, 2018), *New American Legends* (2019), *Screaming from the Silence Anthology* (Vociferous Press, 2020), the Women Who Submit anthology, *Accolades* (2020), and the *Altadena Literary Review* (2020, 2022). She shares her essays on Medium, here: [@cybelegk](https://cgkohel.medium.com) www.linkedin.com/in/cybelegarciakohel/

NEELANJANA BANERJEE



Neelanjana Banerjee is the Managing Editor of Kaya Press, an independent press dedicated to Asian Pacific American and Asian Diasporic literature. She teaches Asian American literature, creative writing, and publishing at UCLA and Loyola Marymount University. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in the Texas Observer, Harper's Bazaar, Teen Vogue, The Rumpus, Prairie Schooner and many other places. She lives in El Sereno with her family, where she is working on a novel. NeelanjanaBanerjee.com [@neelanjanab](http://www.Kaya.com)

RAMONA PILAR



California-born & L.A.-raised, Ramona Pilar is a story-diviner who produces prose, plays, songs, and amalgamations. She is the current Creative Nonfiction Editor at Exposition Review, lead singer of The Raveens, and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University, LA. Her favorite word is, "why?" expositionreview.com



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XOCHITL-JULISA BERMEJO

Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo is the author of *Posada: Offerings of Witness and Refuge* (Sundress Publications) and *Incantation: Love Poems for Battle Sites*, forthcoming this fall from Mouthfeel Press. A former Steinbeck Fellow and Poets & Writers California Writers Exchange winner, she's received residencies from Hedgebrook, Ragdale, Yefe Nof, and National Parks Arts Foundation in partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park and Poetry Foundation. Her poem "Battlegrounds" was featured at Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day, On Being's Poetry Unbound, and Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World (W.W. Norton). She teaches with Antioch University, MFA and UCLA Extension and is the director of WWS.



LUIVETTE RESTO

Luivette Resto is an award-winning poet, a mother of 3 revolutionary humans, a Wonder Woman fan, and a middle school English teacher. She was born in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico but proudly raised in the Bronx. She is a CantoMundo and Macondo Fellow and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her two books of poetry *Unfinished Portrait* and *Ascension* have been published by Tía Chucha Press. Her third poetry collection *Living on Islands Not Found on Maps*, published by FlowerSong Press, won silver for the 2022 Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book Award at the International Latino Book Awards. She lives in the San Gabriel Valley.



JESSICA CEBALLOS Y CAMPBELL

Jessica Ceballos y Campbell (she/they) is a content strategist, writer, publisher, arts administrator, community advocate, partner, and a co-parent of a hilarious five year old and a sweet cat. Her work has been published in numerous anthologies and journals and three chapbooks: *Gent/Re De Place Ing* (2016), *End of the Road* (2017), and *Facilitating Spaces 101* (2018). She's currently working on *Happiest Place on Earth*, a hybrid collection of poetry and imagery inspired by a 1980s trip to Disneyland with her mother while also living in foster care. Jessica currently lives in her hometown, Highland Park where she's also founding director of the poetry library and press, Alternative Field. More at: jessicaceballos.com | alternativefield.com



REBECCA NEVAREZ

Rebecca Nevarez (she/her/hers) is a cultural producer and community arts advocate. Long-time Grants Administrator at Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center and Executive Director of the Latino Arts Network of California, Rebecca is a seasoned arts administrator with decades of experience in nonprofit management unique to the needs of small and midsize organizations. She has produced events, hosted professional development, overseen capital improvement projects, and conducted



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research specific to funding inequities in California. Programs she has stewarded throughout her career include the landmark Hecho en Califas statewide exhibition, the award-winning Youth Mariachi Program at Plaza de la Raza, the Latina Writers Conference as well as the Maestro Awards and Community Catalyst Programs of the Latino Arts Network.

Rebecca began her career as a development professional at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the California Institute for the Arts, and Latino Theatre Company. She earned her undergraduate degree in History and Art History from UCLA and her graduate studies include Public Art Studies at USC.

Outside of her work, she is a devoted daughter, partner, mom and stepmom who enjoys bike trails, ski slopes, swim lanes and reading Latina literature.

Special note: I have also been a hand-on caregiver for my disabled mother for over 12 years. In that time, I have gained keen insight into the special needs of older adults and their healthcare challenges, specifically relating to Latinas and the lack of culturally relevant health research, barriers to access and resources, and creative aging program opportunities.

TOMAS J. BENITEZ



Tomas J. Benitez has been an arts advocate and cultural worker for nearly 50 years. He has served as a consultant to the Smithsonian Institute, the President's Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the University of Notre Dame, USC, UCLA, the Mexican Fine Art Center Museum in Chicago, and the California Arts Council. He has lectured on Chicano art and culture in Berlin, Mexico City, London, Israel, Glasgow, and Pretoria South Africa, as well as throughout the United States. Tomas is the former Executive Director of Self Help Graphics & Art in East Los Angeles, and remains a consultant for several non-profit arts organizations in the greater Los Angeles area. Tomas has also been a cultural arts planning consultant for the City of Downey, the City of Pasadena, The City of Moorpark, the City of Santa Ana, and the City of Los Angeles.

LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



DAY 8 PRESENTING THE CHULITA VINYL CLUB

Sunday, August 6, 5pm

Chulita Vinyl Club is made up of women, gender-non-conforming, non-binary, people of color, who utilize music and vinyl as a form of resistance against the erasure of culture. Each DJ has their own personality and specialty, however you can expect a dance floor driven focus on Latin, Cumbia, Reggaeton, 90's and 2000's R&B, Funk, New Wave, Soul, Post-Punk, and House.

<https://www.chulitavinylclub.com/>



CHULITA
VINYL
CLUB

DAY 8 SPECIAL GUEST: MARIA DE LA GHETTO

Sunday, August 6, 7pm

Native Angeleno, Half Filipina and half Mexican, Maria uses comedy as a way to narrate her unique cultural identity as well as navigate through social norms she's never quite fit into. She shares her experiences about being ethnically ambiguous and plus sized in a world where everyone wants to put you in a box that's "one size fits all". She's performed all over Southern California including Mad House Comedy Club, Mic Drop Comedy Club, and The Comedy Store in San Diego. Flapper's Comedy Club, Haha Comedy Club, and Laugh Factory in Los Angeles. She's also featured for headlining comedian Rex Navarrete at Brea Improv and Queen Bee's San Diego. @mariadelaghetto



LATINA WRITERS CONFERENCE 2023



Wine for the evening of August 6th has been generously provided by:



Latinx-owned Ulloa Cellars, specializes in unique white wines. Based in Paso Robles, the heart of the California wine region.

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