



**Augsburg University MFA Program in Creative Writing
Summer Residency Session
July 19 - July 26, 2026
Courtyard Marriott Downtown, Minneapolis, MN**

Overview:

Our **annual summer residency session** is the only time each year that all of the MFA program's students and faculty members come together for in-person events. It's a time to welcome our incoming students, celebrate our graduates, and strengthen the bonds between all of the members of our community.

Workshop sessions are the only residency events that are not open to the entire MFA Community. Your workshop leader is identified on your course registration and viewable via [Inside Augsburg](#) (after signing in, click on "Records Registration and Finance"). This year's workshop leaders include: Stephan Clark (fiction); Michael Kleber-Diggs (poetry); Anika Fajardo (creative nonfiction and fiction); Chavonn Williams Shen (poetry); Andrew Rosendorf (playwriting); and Carson Kreitzer (playwriting).

Residency Dates:

Though students are expected to attend the residency in-person from July 19-26, they can expect to start preparing for the residency on July 6, when the term in which the course is held begins. Typically, students are expected to complete several readings and share their residency work with their mentor and classmates. Each student should expect to receive instructions from their mentor by no later than July 6.

Your mentor may choose to build an online classroom using Moodle, where you'll be able to find your syllabus and share work with your mentor and classmates. Mentors may also use Zoom to meet with students prior to the residency or afterward. These tools are among a host of free [computing services](#) offered to Augsburg students. All can be accessed via Inside Augsburg. New students will be introduced to these platforms and others during a computing services overview with Shane Sletten, the MFA Program's Liaison For Computing (slettens@augsborg.edu).

Hotel Location:

Our residency will be held at the [Courtyard Marriott Downtown](#), located at 1500 Washington Avenue South. In addition to being within walking distance of Augsburg University, the hotel is surrounded by an abundance of amenities and points of interest, including numerous bars, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, and theaters (see appendix for more). The hotel offers complimentary Wi-Fi, a fitness center, swimming pool, and on-site dining.

For those traveling by car, on-site parking is available for an additional fee of \$32 per day. Additional, cheaper public parking garages can be found near the hotel. Residency students can also park on campus for the duration of the residency. See the FAQ section for more information.

Those wishing to explore the city will find two light rail stations within a half-mile of the hotel. [The West Bank Station](#) is serviced by the [Metro Green Line](#), which has 23 stops stretching between Target Field in the North Loop neighborhood of downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul. The [Cedar Riverside Station](#) connects to the [Metro Blue Line](#), which provides direct access to the [Mall of America](#) and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Minneapolis weather can vary depending on the season, so attendees are encouraged to check the forecast and pack accordingly. Typically, the week of the residency brings with it hot, muggy weather, with temperatures rising into the eighties or nineties, and night-time lows dropping into the sixties when not stalling in the low-seventies. Rain showers are common, but often short-lived.



An aerial view of the western edge of Augsburg University's campus, with the [Hagfors Center For Science, Business and Religion](#) seen center-right and the Courtyard Marriott above it.



The Residency Journal

In order to receive a passing grade in their Residency course work, **students are expected to attend all scheduled residency events**. To show your engagement with these events, students will complete a residency journal. [You can find a template here](#). (To use the template, choose “Make a copy” from the File drop-down menu.)

It is recommended that you maintain and add to your residency journal throughout the residency rather than attempt to complete it after the fact. Though some suggested questions for reflection have been added throughout the journal template, you may respond to each event in whatever way you see fit, so long as it shows your engagement with it. If you are unsure what to write about, consider what you are able to take away from each event that might make you a better writer or creative artist. What would you like to remember when you revisit this journal in five, ten, or twenty years? Be thorough, be honest, and use the journal as a comprehensive tool for improving your craft and engaging with a wide-ranging learning experience.

The residency journal must be turned in to your workshop leader following the residency, at a date of your mentor's choosing but no later than August 21st, the last day of Summer Session II, in which the residency is held. Final grades are due August 25th.

Schedule of Events

Single-page, At-a-Glance [Schedule](#)

Sunday, July 19

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Check-in at the Courtyard Marriott

Front Lobby

Check-in to your hotel room and collect your swag bag and your Augsburg fob. The latter provides access to buildings on Augsburg's campus.

4:00 - 4:20 p.m.

Group Walk to Campus (optional)

If you're interested in walking with others to campus, a group will depart from the hotel lobby at 4pm.

The walk from the hotel to campus takes approximately 13 minutes.

Update: the van won't be able to run this afternoon, but mentors present will be able to offer some rides. We recommend walking, carpooling, or driving and parking on campus in the metered spots (free on weekends) or in lots D or L (free all week, with the registration link found in the FAQ section).

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Workshop 1

Old Main, Augsburg University

Meet your fellow writers and your workshop leaders for your opening session.

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Dinner

Foss Atrium, Augsburg University

Join us for a welcome dinner in the Foss Atrium.

Pizza and salad will be served.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Meet the Mentors

Foss Theater, Augsburg University

Augsburg faculty members will introduce themselves and share a little of their work.

If time remains, an open mic will follow.

Augsburg van will depart from campus (outside of Foss Theater) and return to the hotel when the event ends at 8:30 p.m.

Monday, July 20

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Augsburg University, Old Main, 2nd Floor Lobby

Coffee, tea, fruit, bagels, and toppings.

9:00 a.m.

Augsburg van will depart from the hotel for campus.

9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop #2

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Talk: Stephan Clark in Conversation with Matt Goldman

Hagfors 150 B & C - Build-your-own sandwich buffet.

New York Times-Bestselling author and Emmy Award-winning television writer Matt Goldman sits in conversation with Fiction and Screenwriting Mentor Stephan Clark to discuss writing for film and television and the nature of mysteries.

Recommended reading: Goldman's *The Murder Show*.

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:14 - 4:45 p.m.

School of the Arts Director Christopher Houlberg: [Anatomy of Type](#)

Science 123

This presentation delves into the anatomy of typography, uncovering how alphabets, borders, and symbols become powerful tools for political resistance and national identity. Rather than treating text as a passive medium, it reveals how the art of typography creates a vivid visual language, shaping histories of control and defiance.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The Anthemic Impulse in Creative Writing

Hagfors 150 B & C

This workshop (facilitated by poet and activist Kyle Tran Myhre) will be an opportunity to reflect on how art can meaningfully engage with social and political issues, and how creative writers can offer not just critique, but vision, energy, and inspiration. The "anthem" is not a

specific poetic form; it is an impulse, an approach, a tool for any kind of writing that centers agency and possibility. We'll explore multiple examples of anthemic writing, try to identify some common threads, and share tools and tactics for creating our own.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner from Local Restaurants

Old Main, Second Floor Lobby

- *Tamu Grill (Kenyan) will be bringing: veggie samosas, house salad, jollof rice, chicken curry, seasoned mixed vegetables, coconut-curry kidney beans.*
- *Bole Ethiopian Cuisine will be bringing: mild chicken tibs, miser (red lentils), tiki gomen (cabbage, carrots, potatoes), dry tibs, lentil sambusas, and injera.*

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Poetry, Protest, and Possibility: What Writers Can Offer in Times of Crisis

Foss Theater, Augsburg University

Whether or not we believe that our writing can change the world, there are deep, powerful connections between artists and movement-builders, historically. This talk will highlight what powers these connections, as well as what specific tactics writers might use to most effectively advocate for our values. Especially in the context of our current era of crisis and uncertainty: what kind of work can writing do, and what can't it do? What are some favorite examples of writing that "meets the moment?" What makes those examples powerful? We'll explore those questions via examples/performance, a look at how artists showed up in Minnesota in early 2026, as well as some conversation.

8:30 p.m. (when event ends): Augsburg van will depart from campus (outside of Foss Theater) for the hotel.

Tuesday, July 21

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Courtyard Marriott, Gallery

Coffee, tea, fresh fruit, breakfast burritos.

9:45 a.m.

Augsburg van will depart from the hotel for campus.

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Workshop 3**

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Break / Lunch On Your Own

OR

Optional Intro to the Teaching Concentration With Jennifer Mollberg

Anderson Music 3

[Sign up here if you plan to attend.](#)

This concentration session, though optional, is required for students planning to register for the Teaching Concentration in the fall or spring terms. (The Teaching Concentration is an **optional** add-on to the degree.) We welcome and encourage all potentially interested MFA students to attend this introduction to teaching first-year composition and undergraduate creative writing. Lunch will be provided.

See Community Moodle for the required readings related to this session.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Meetings by Year

First-year students: Computing Services Overview with Shane Sletten

Old Main 102

[An overview of Moodle, Inside Augsburg, Zoom, and other e-resources important to your time as a student in the MFA Program.](#)

Second- and third-year students: Craft Talk and Thesis Q&A

Old Main 101

This session provides an opportunity for third-year students to share advice about the craft talk and thesis semesters and for second-year students to ask questions about the graduation requirements and process.

3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Perseverance in the Writing World

Anderson Music 3

Every writer needs to be resilient. Writing is a continual process of creation, critique, and redrafting. Playing this long game requires a healthy dose of perseverance. In this panel, screenwriting mentor Andy Froemke will be in conversation with screenwriter/author/documentary filmmaker Susan Marks and film & TV writer/producer Thomas G. Lemmer to discuss perseverance in their writing processes, particularly long-gestating projects, and their careers.

4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

Travel to Next Chapter Books (38 Snelling Avenue South) in St. Paul. Feel free to take your own car, catch a ride with others, or sign up for the Augsburg van.

5:15 p.m. - Augsburg van will depart from campus (in front of Foss Theater) to go to Next Chapter.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Thesis Readings at Next Chapter Books

A light dinner from Lu's Sandwiches will be provided at the bookstore.

- Matthew Brown, Poetry
- Jake Lane, Poetry
- Araya Smith, Poetry

7:10 - Augsburg van will depart from the bookstore to return to the hotel.

Wednesday, July 22

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Courtyard Marriott, Gallery

Coffee, tea, juice, assorted muffins and breakfast pastries, individual yogurts with assorted toppings, fresh cut seasonal fruit.

9:45 a.m.

Augsburg van departs from the hotel for campus.

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Workshop #4**

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Break / Lunch On Your Own

OR

12:30 - 1:15 : [The Anxiety of Art](#) (First-year attendance expected; other years optional)

Anderson Music 3

Ellie Olson, the director of the Center for Wellness and Counseling, discusses the stresses of the artistic life and provides an overview of the counseling services available to all Augsburg students through the Center for Wellness and Counseling. Lunch will be provided.

2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Howling Bird Prize Celebration

CNF writer and Howling Bird Prize Winner Jennifer Jussel will share work from her forthcoming book and talk about her writing, her road to publication, and her experience with Howling Bird. A celebratory cake will follow.

Sateren Auditorium

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Publishing 101

Sateren Auditorium

Learn about our student-run Howling Bird Press and the optional publishing concentration that students can enroll in to work on the press. Lindsay Starck and Sacha Idell, the current publisher of Howling Bird, will talk about the prize, the concentration, and what to consider when you send your own work out into the world.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Travel to the Playwrights' Center (710 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul)

Augsburg van leaves from campus (outside Sateren) at 4:10 to stop at the hotel. At 4:30, the van departs from the hotel to go to the Playwrights' Center.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Craft Talk with Andrew Rosendorf - The North Star: Artist Statements.

The Playwrights' Center

We tend to write artist statements as part of applications with an eye towards the opportunity. But have you written one for yourself? Do you have your North Stars for your writing? In this talk, we'll explore the artist statement, what having North Stars truly means, and look at some examples. You'll leave with reflections and thoughts that'll carry over when writing yours — whether for yourself or for an opportunity.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner at the Playwrights' Center (Lobby)

Catered by Brasa: masa corn chips, cabbage and apple slaw, yellow rice, coconut curry vegetables, fried sweet plantains, rotisserie chicken, Brasa green sauce, Brasa red chile sauce.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Thesis Readings

- Caroline Hull, Playwriting
- Caitlin Juvland, CNF
- Nicole Lawrence, Playwriting

The Augsburg van will return to the hotel after the readings.

Thursday, July 23

8:30- 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Augsburg University, Old Main (Second Floor Lobby)

Coffee and tea in the Old Main lobby.

Bagels and cream cheese from Asa's.

9:00 a.m.

Augsburg van departs from the hotel for campus.

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop #5

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch and Graduating Student Craft Talks

Hagfors 150 B&C

Picnic buffet: hamburgers, grilled chicken, veggie burgers, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, watermelon.

Matthew Brown - *The Institutional Review Board and Research*

An overview of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process, its history and ramifications for research.

Caroline Hull - *Saying More by Saying Less*

The Significance of Silence and Space in Across Playwriting and Other Genres

Caitlin Juvland - *I'm Not Psycho, I'm Cyclical: An Attempt At Understanding How The Menstrual Cycle Affects My Writing Habits*

There are four hormonal phases in a woman's monthly cycle. I will be describing the energy of each phase and corresponding archetypes that I use as inspiration during the writing process to work with my body and her energy, rather than against her.

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Craft Talk with Michael Kleber-Diggs: Why You Should Keep a Personal Archive (With Ideas On How You Might Do That)

Hagfors 150

During this craft talk, Michael Kleber-Diggs will explain what a personal archive is and present an appeal to all writers to be intentional about keeping a personal archive. He will also share ideas on how best to keep your scraps and drafts and finished works.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Craft Talk with Poet Juliet Patterson: Writing Long: Sequences, Structure and Possibilities

Hagfors 150

What happens when a poem needs more space—more movement, more contradiction, more room to think and unfold? In this session, we'll explore how long poems and sequences can hold complexity, narrative, memory, research, fragmentation, and emotional evolution in ways shorter poems sometimes cannot.

You will also be encouraged to think beyond poetry alone, drawing inspiration from forms such as music, comics, and film to imagine new approaches to sequencing and structure. Our session will include generative prompts designed to help you develop material, discover organizing principles, and deepen evolving projects.

5:10 p.m. - Augsburg van departs from Augsburg (outside Anderson Music) for the hotel.

FREE AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Events around town:

5-9 PM: Meet at MIA: Summer Series (Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis)

6 PM: Dan Israel (Steel Toe Brewery, St. Louis Park)

6 PM: Audrey Q plays Fiona Apple's Tidal (Crooner's Supper Club, Dunsmore Jazz Room, Minneapolis)

7:00 PM: Minnesota Orchestra, Legends of Cinema: John Williams' Greatest Scores (Orchestra Hall, Mpls)

7:07 PM: Saint Paul Saints vs. Columbus Clippers (CHS Field, St. Paul)

7:30 PM: Private Lives at the Guthrie (Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis)*

*We're going as a group to see *Come from Away* on Friday!

7:30 PM: Chris Kattan (House of Comedy - Mall of America, Bloomington)

8:50 PM: Movies in the Park: The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

You can find other live music events listed on Gig List.

Friday, July 24

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Breakfast

Courtyard Marriott, Gallery

Coffee, tea, juice, banana bread, cinnamon rolls, individual yogurts with assorted toppings, fresh cut seasonal fruit.

9:15 a.m.

Augsburg van departs from the hotel for campus.

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop #6

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Travel to Open Book (1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis)

Open Book is a 9-minute walk from the hotel.

12:45

Augsburg van leaves from Hagfors for Open Book.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch and Graduating Student Craft Talks

Open Book

Sandwiches catered from Baba's Hummus House

Jake Lane - *Poetry. Cooking. And the Creative Crossover.*

Poets are the chefs of the literary world.

Nicole Lawrence - *Making Chronic Illness Visible: Shining a Spotlight on the Invisible Disability Narrative Gap*

We will explore the harmful patterns that have fueled stigma around invisible disabilities and the hope that a new generation of writers can reshape stories about disability and human complexity.

Araya Smith - *Does Trauma Live Between the Pages?*

Trauma is a roller coaster that twists and turns at different points for different people. How does it twist in turn across genres?

5:00 - 7:15 p.m. **Dinner on your own**

The Guthrie is a thirteen-minute walk from the hotel or [a 6-minute bus ride](#).

There will be no van from the hotel to the Guthrie, but contact us if you need a ride or are concerned about getting there/back.

7:15 p.m. ***Come From Away* at the Guthrie Theater (818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis)**
Please meet in the lobby no later than 7:15 to pick up your ticket. The show begins
at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 25

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast (Courtyard Marriott, Gallery)

Coffee, tea, fresh fruit, breakfast sandwiches.

9:30 a.m. Augsburg van leaves from hotel to campus.

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshop #7

Augsburg University, Old Main)

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Break / Lunch on your own

2:00 - 3:15 p.m. Craft Talk with Gloria Munoz: Hybridity and Experiments Across Genres

Hagfors 150 B&C

Through introspection, dialogue, and an openness toward the field of experimentation, we will try out different modes of writing that move us closer towards our personal truths and questions as writers. This session will include craft tips and generative writing activities across genres.

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Panel: Motivation, Community, and Daily Strategies: Writing Post-Residency

Hagfors 150 B&C

It's one thing to be a writer this week, when we're all here together, immersing ourselves in the writing life all day every day. But how do we continue to function as writers beyond the residency, with the pressing demands of work, family, and other obligations? How do we read like writers or listen like writers or observe like writers? What do we pay attention to? How and where do we bestow our presence and our time? How do we establish and nurture literary communities? How do we manage more challenging emotions such as self-doubt or imposter syndrome? This discussion is intended to be open and expansive as we think about the many different ways to be a writer in the world.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Travel to Art House (4400 N. Lyndale Avenue, Minneapolis)**

5:30 p.m. *Augsburg van departs from campus for Art House.*

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. **Closing Dinner and Farewell to the Graduates**

Art House

Catered by Salsa a la Salsa: taco bar (chicken, beef, jackfruit) with toppings, salsa, and guacamole; grilled vegetables; enchiladas.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **Open Mic**

Art House

[Sign up here](#) if you'd like to perform. Readers are limited to three minutes, and preference will be given to first- and second-years. (But third-years, we would also love to hear from you if time/space allows!)

8:30 pm - Augsburg van departs from Art House for the hotel.

Sunday, July 26

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Augsburg University, Old Main (Second Floor Lobby)

Coffee and tea in the Old Main lobby.

Pastries delivered to the workshop classrooms.

9:00 a.m. - Augsburg van will depart from hotel

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Workshop #8

Augsburg University, Old Main

- Stephan Clark, Fiction and Screenwriting: Old Main 202
- Anika Fajardo, Prose: Old Main 107
- Michael Kleber Diggs, Poetry: Old Main 210
- Carson Kreitzer, Playwriting: Old Main 101
- Andrew Rosendorf, Playwriting: Old Main 105
- Chavonn Williams Shen, Poetry: Old Main 204

11:00 a.m.

End of Residency!

11:10 a.m. - Augsburg van will depart from campus for the hotel.

Before you leave, check with your mentor to make sure you know when the residency journal is due.

Frequently Asked Questions

Parking

The hotel offers parking in its adjacent parking ramp for \$32.00 per night. This includes unlimited in/out access. If you are not adding parking to your guest room (the charge must be covered by the student), you can still use the hotel's parking ramp on a pre-pay basis. You will need to scan a QR code in the parking ramp to sign up for the duration of your parking.

Parking is available in other lots across the street from the hotel. See your options [here](#).

You can also park on Augsburg's campus free of charge. To do so, you will have to request a parking permit online. You can do so [here](#). Park in lot D or L. See the parking map [here](#).

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is free throughout the hotel to all Marriott Bonvoy members. To join Marriott Bonvoy for free, go [here](#).

Water

Bottle-filling stations can be found throughout Augsburg's campus, including in Hagfors Center, where the great majority of you will have your daily workshop classes. Bring a reusable bottle.

Printing

Augsburg students can print free of charge on campus (up to 500 pages every six month period: 1/1 - 6/30 and 7/1 - 12/31). To set up your account for printing, you must first sign into Augsburg's Central Services print system with your Augsburg account.

You may print to any campus printing device from your computer and it will be charged to your student account. To install a new printer, first install the iPrint Client from [here](#): (in the upper-left), then click on the name of the printer you would like to install. We recommend installing the "AU-FollowMe-Printer" since it works for printing to all campus copiers. If you have any issues installing the iPrint client, you are also able to print using QuickPrint.

Covid Guidelines

If possible, please test yourself for Covid prior to your arrival to the residency, as one illness in our community can spread quickly, and could lead to our having to cancel certain residency sessions and/or move them online.

If you begin experiencing Covid symptoms during the residency (including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, loss of taste or smell, fatigue,

muscle/body aches, headaches, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea), please wear a mask and take a Covid test as soon as possible.

If you test positive for Covid, please isolate yourself in your hotel room and contact both your mentor and the Program Director. More information from the Minnesota Department of Health [can be found here](#).

Dietary Restrictions

All dietary restrictions have been conveyed to the hotel staff. If you don't see something you can eat, please alert one of the servers, and usually they can bring something else from the kitchen. Also let Ryan Borden (borden@augsborg.edu) or Lindsay Starck (starckl@augsborg.edu) know so that we can address any issues with the staff.

Fall Registration

You will receive instructions for fall registration during the second half of the residency, so please hold off on registering for fall classes until then.

Bios - Teaching Mentors



Stephan Eirik Clark is the author of the short story collection *Vladimir's Mustache*, a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award, and the novel *Sweetness #9*, which was named one of the twenty-five best books of 2014 by the editors of Amazon Canada, featured on NPR's "Fresh Air" and *The Colbert Report*, and reviewed by *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Huffington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Oprah*, and *The Toronto Star*, among others. A one-time member of USC Film School, Stephan worked on the film adaptation of *Sweetness #9* for Mar-Key Pictures. A former Fulbright Fellow to Ukraine, he holds a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California and a Master's Degree in Literature (creative writing emphasis) from the University of California, Davis. Born in West Germany, Stephan split much of his childhood between England and the United States. He

has lived in five states and five countries, and now resides in St. Paul. He is revising a new novel that he describes as a southern-fried *Great Expectations*. Informed by country music, in general, and the songs of George Jones, in particular, it's titled *A Picture of Me Without You*.

Anika Fajardo was born in Colombia and raised in Minnesota. Her debut novel is *The Many Mothers of Dolores Moore* (Gallery Books/S&S, 2025). She is also the author of *Magical Realism for Non-Believers: A Memoir of Finding Family* (University of Minnesota Press), which was awarded Best Book (Nonfiction) of 2020 from City Pages. Her books for young readers include *What If a Fish* (Simon & Schuster), which was awarded the 2021 Minnesota Book Award, *Meet Me Halfway* (Simon & Schuster), and *Encanto: A Tale of Three Sisters* (Disney). She has earned awards from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the Loft Literary Center. Her writing for adults and children has appeared in numerous publications including *Brief Encounters* (Norton), *We Are Meant to Rise* (U of Minnesota Press), and *Our Hidden Conversations* (Simon & Schuster). She lives with her family in Minneapolis, where she hosts the cross-genre author-interview podcast [Gobblefunking with Words](#).



Andy Froemke hails from the Deep South but began his storytelling career following Robert Redford around the rivers of Montana, co-producing/co-directing *Shadowcasting: The Making of A River Runs Through It*. The documentary garnered a Regional Emmy nomination and won a Gold Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival. After moving to Minnesota, he turned his focus from production to screenwriting. He has optioned several scripts and worked with a variety of indie production companies. Andy has been a four-time McKnight Screenwriting Fellowship Finalist and in 2016 won the Screenwriting Residency by Film North and the Knight Foundation. His most recent screenplay is in development at Amazon Studios with Academy Award-winner Charles Burnett attached as director. A short film he wrote and directed, *Song Without*



Words, was an award-winner at the 2019 LA Shorts International Film Festival. *Nighthawks*, a film he wrote for Rikshaw Films, won the Audience Award at MSPIFF39 Redefined.

Sacha Idell, publisher of Howling Bird Press, is coeditor and prose editor of *The Southern Review*. His original stories appear in *Ploughshares*, *Narrative*, and *Gulf Coast*. His translations from the Japanese include stories and essays by Kyūsaku Yumeno and Toshirō Sasaki. Writing he has acquired and edited has been selected for inclusion in the Pushcart Prize, *Best American Short Stories*, and *Best American Mystery and Suspense* anthologies, among others. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.



Michael Kleber-Diggs (KLEE-burr digs) is a poet, essayist, literary critic, and arts educator. He is the author of *My Weight in Water*, a memoir about his complicated relationship with lap swimming (forthcoming with Spiegel & Grau, 2026). Michael's debut poetry collection, *Worldly Things*, won the Max Ritvo Poetry Prize and was published by Milkweed Editions in 2021. His poems and essays often explore themes of intimacy, community, empathy, and grace, practices he believes are simultaneously distinct and interdependent. Michael is a 2023-2025 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow in Literature, and he teaches creative writing at Augsburg University and through the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop. Michael is married to Karen Kleber-Diggs, a tropical horticulturist and orchid specialist. Karen and Michael have a daughter, Elinor, who lives in New York City and works as a professional dancer. You can learn more about Michael and his work at michaelkleberdiggs.com

Carson Kreitzer is a playwright, lyricist, and librettist. Her musical *Lempicka*, co-written with Matt Gould and directed by Rachel Chavkin, ran last Spring at the Longacre Theater on Broadway. Other projects include *Capital Crime!*, a play with songs set in Gilded Age New York, and a trio of plays about the climate crisis: *green*, *TIMEBOMB*, and a new play inspired by her time in Svalbard, sailing with The Arctic Circle Artist and Scientist Residency Program. Her plays include *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (Rosenthal New Play Prize, Stavis Award), *The Slow Drag* (New York and London) and *Lasso of Truth* (NNPN Rolling World Premiere). She is an Affiliated Writer with The Playwrights' Center, an alumna of New Dramatists, and was the first Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellow at the Lark. A Guggenheim and MacDowell fellow, she has also received support from the NEA, TCG, the Jerome and McKnight Foundations, and the Jonathan Larson Award. Her collection *Self Defense and other plays* is available from No Passport Press. The Original Broadway Cast Recording of *Lempicka* is available on all streaming platforms. <https://lempicka.lnk.to/musical> More information at <https://www.carsonkreitzer.com/>



Andrew Rosendorf's work has been produced or developed at La Jolla, MCC, DCPA, KC Rep, Signature Theatre, Florida Stage, Unicorn Theatre, Actor's Express, Curious Theatre Company, Florida Rep and Local Theater Company. He is the recipient of an Edgerton Foundation

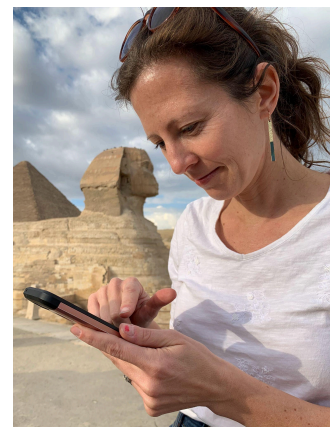


New Play Award, a Venturous Theater Fund Grant, a MAP Fund Grant, and a NNPN Rolling World Premiere for REFUGE, which he co-created with Satya Jnani Chávez. He is an alum of the Goodman's Playwrights Unit, NNPN's Playwright-in-Residence program, and has been a fellow of SPACE on Ryder Farm, Tofte Lake Center, VCCA and MacDowell. He was a previous McKnight and Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center as well as Core Writer and returning to the Playwrights' Center as a 2025-28 Core Writer. He is an associate artist with Local Theater Company and his play *One-Shot* will be receiving a

NNPN Rolling World Premiere in the 26-27 season. He's currently in development on a television pilot he sold with Amblin.

Chavonn Williams Shen (they/she) is from Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were a 2022 McKnight Writing fellow and a first runner-up for The Los Angeles Review Flash Fiction Contest. They were also a Best of the Net Award finalist, a Pushcart Prize nominee, a winner of the Loft Literary Center's Mentor Series, a fellow with the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, a fellow with Sweeter the Juice, a Peter Taylor fellow for the Kenyon Review Writing Workshop, and an instructor for the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop. A Bread Loaf, Tin House, VONA, and Hurston/Wright workshop alum, their writing has appeared in: Diode, Anomaly, Booth, AGNI, and others. Their debut book, *Still Life with Rope and River*, is out now.

Lindsay Starck earned her B.A. in Literature from Yale, her M.F.A in Fiction from Notre Dame, and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNC, she served as Fiction Editor and Editor-in-Chief of *The Carolina Quarterly*. Her short prose has recently appeared in *AGNI*, *Ploughshares*, and the *Southern Review*, among other places. Her story "Baikal," which appeared in the *New England Review*, won a Pushcart Prize in 2022. She is the author of the novels *Noah's Wife* and *Monsters We Have Made*, a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards.



Bios - Visitors

Gen Del Raye is half Japanese and was born and raised in Kyoto, Japan. His debut story collection, *Boundless Deep & Other Stories*, won the Raz-Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize and was longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. His writing has appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Best Small Fictions*, and *Best New Poets*, among others.

Matt Goldman is a *New York Times* Bestselling author and Emmy Award winning television writer. He has been nominated for the Shamus Award and Nero Award. Matt's television writing credits include *Seinfeld*, *Ellen*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, and *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*. Matt lives in Minneapolis with his wife, two dogs, and two cats.

Christopher Houlberg is a Minneapolis-based artist, designer and educator. Born in Salina, Kansas, Houlberg went to the West Coast for undergraduate studies and the East Coast for graduate school. His creative practice includes making, designing and teaching aesthetics and sits at the intersection of design and fine art. Shortly after moving to Minneapolis in 2005, he began working as a designer and art director for an international architecture firm. Drawing on this array of experiences, Houlberg employs an interdisciplinary perspective in his creative practice both in making and teaching. His artwork has been exhibited both locally and nationally and has been a recipient of a Jerome Fellowship (2012) and a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant (2020). He is director of [Design & Agency](#), a trans-disciplinary design studio where students, faculty and community members co-create: generating ideas and solving problems to create good in the world.

Jennifer Jussel is the author of *Mellitus: Essays on Up/Rooting* (forthcoming fall 2026) and the winner of the 2026 Howling Bird Press Nonfiction Prize. Her Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominated work has been supported by the Vermont Studio Center and McCormack Writing Center and has been published most recently in *Spectrum Literary Magazine*, *The Great Texas Poetry Project*, *Radar Poetry*, *Booth*, the *Santa Clara Review*, *Cleaver*, and more. She earned her MFA in creative writing from Eastern Washington University and is now pursuing a PhD in English and creative writing at Texas Tech University, where she also teaches undergraduate writing.

Halee Kirkwood's forthcoming debut poetry collection, *To Think of a Match*, will be published with Northwestern University Press in March 2027, and their debut travel memoir, *Heartsong Cartography*, is forthcoming in winter 2028. They were an inaugural and returning Indigenous Nations Poets (IN-NA-PO) fellow, a Tin House Summer Workshop alum, a 2023-2025 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, a Loft Literary Center Mentor Series Fellow, and a 2022 Minnesota State Arts Board grant recipient. Winner of the 2022 James Welch Poetry Prize, published with Poetry Northwest, Their poems can be found in literary magazines such as *Poetry Magazine*, *Poem-A-Day*, *Ecotone*, *Water~Stone Review*, and are forthcoming in two poetry anthologies, *Witness: Poems to Address the Past, Present, and Future of Policing* and *The Glittering Field: A Gathering of New Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Poetry*. They are a first generation direct descendant of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe.

Thomas G. Lemmer is an Emmy Award-winning producer and writer of film, docuseries, and unscripted TV. Credits include the Emmy-nominated "Hope in the Water" (PBS), "What's Eating America" (MSNBC),

“In an Instant” (ABC News), and the NAACP-nominated feature documentary “Desert Bayou”. Screenwriting credits include writing assignments for hip-hop mogul Percy “Master P” Miller, award-winning shorts and experimental films.

Susan Marks is a screenwriter, author and documentary filmmaker. She sold a screenplay to HBO and Academy Award Winner, Guillermo del Toro. Marks made the documentary film, *Of Dolls & Murder*, starring legendary filmmaker and provocateur John Waters. She also wrote a book and made a documentary film about Betty Crocker. She is a two-time recipient of the Jerome Foundation grant, a McKnight fellow, and Emmy award-winner.

Gloria Muñoz is a writer, translator, and advocate for multilingual literacy. She is the author of *This is the Year, Your Biome Has Found You*, and *Danzirly*, which won the Ambroggio Prize and the Gold Medal Florida Book Award. Her other honors include an Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellowship, Hedgebrook Fellowship, being a Macondista, Highlights Foundation’s Diverse Verse Fellowship, Lumina’s Multilingual Writing Award, and a part of Las Musas. She’s a proud alum of the Tin House YA writers workshop. Through Moonlit Música, the company she cofounded, Muñoz writes and composes music for bilingual children’s programming in audio, film, and curriculum. Her writing has appeared in *Puerto del Sol*, *VIDA Review*, *Acentos Review*, *Lumina*, *the Rumpus*, *Yes Poetry*, *Juke Joint*, *Best New Poets*, *Sweet*, *Burrow Press*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Entropy*, *Wildness*, *Cagibi*, and elsewhere. Muñoz is also the author of the chapbook *Your Biome Has Found You*. She holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and the University of South Florida. A proponent of cross-disciplinary collaboration, Gloria has worked alongside botanists, musicians, dancers, historians, classicists, visual artists, conservationists, and neuroscientists. Most days she writes, teaches, and works with environmental nonprofits.

Juliet Patterson is the author of *Sinkhole: A Legacy of Suicide* (Milkweed Editions, September 2022), finalist for the 2023 Minnesota Book Awards and named one of the best memoirs of 2022 by *Library Journal*. She has also published two full-length poetry collections, *Threnody*, (Nightboat Books 2016), a finalist for the 2017 Audre Lorde Poetry Award, and *The Truant Lover*, (Nightboat Books, 2006), winner of the Nightboat Poetry Prize and a finalist for the 2006 Lambda Literary Award. A recipient of the Arts & Letters Susan Atefat Prize in non-fiction, and a Lynda Hull Memorial Poetry Prize, she has also been awarded fellowships from the Jerome Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Minneapolis-based Creative Community Leadership Institute (formerly the Institute for Community and Creative Development). She lives in Minneapolis near the Mississippi River and the Great River Road.

Kyle Tran Myhre (aka **Guante**) is a poet and activist based in Minneapolis. He’s contributed to a Grammy-winning album, performed at the United Nations, been a member of two National Poetry Slam championship teams, and visited countless colleges, conferences, and festivals, using spoken word and storytelling as doorways into dialogue. Find his poems, music, zines, and more at www.guante.info.

Claire Wahmanholm received her BA from UW-Madison, her MFA from the Writing Seminars at the Johns Hopkins University, and her PhD from the University of Utah. Her chapbook, *Night Vision*, won the 2017 New Michigan Press/DIAGRAM chapbook contest. Her debut full-length collection, *Wilder* (Milkweed Editions), won the 2018 Lindquist & Vennum Prize for Poetry, the Society of Midland Authors Award for Poetry, and was a finalist for the 2019 Minnesota Book Award. Her second collection, *Redmouth*, was published with Tinderbox Editions in 2019. Her third collection, *Meltwater* (Milkweed Editions 2023) was a finalist for the 2024 Minnesota Book Award and the 2024 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and was a 2025

National Book Foundation Science + Literature selection. She was a 2020-2021 McKnight Writing Fellow, and the winner of the 2022 Montreal International Poetry Prize for her poem “Glacier.” Her work has most recently appeared in EPOCH, The Fairy Tale Review, High Country News, Sierra, The Hopkins Review, The Anarchist Review of Books, and TriQuarterly, and has been featured by the Academy of American Poets. She lives in the Twin Cities.

Bios - Graduating Students

Matthew Brown was born and raised in California and recently moved to Florida. He works at Eastern Florida State College and often writes about the natural and built worlds through everyday life.

When she isn't performing or writing, **Caroline Hull** can be found spending time with her loving rescue pup, Winston, and her sassy bearded dragon, Bumpy. She's a big fan of video games, television, and film.

Caitlin Juvland has had her work featured in Minnesota's Emerging Writers: An Anthology of Creative Nonfiction (2018) and America's Emerging Young Adult Writers: Midwest Region (2019). She currently resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, and spends an abnormal amount of time researching colon and gut health for her in-progress memoir, Long Colon: Long Journey.

Jake Lane is a poet whose work examines remembrance, time, loss, faith, dailiness, man's inhumanity to man, and, perhaps most importantly, self. His work appears in The Writing Disorder, Coalition Works, JMWW, As Surely as the Sun, Creative Colloquy, Eunoia Review and more.

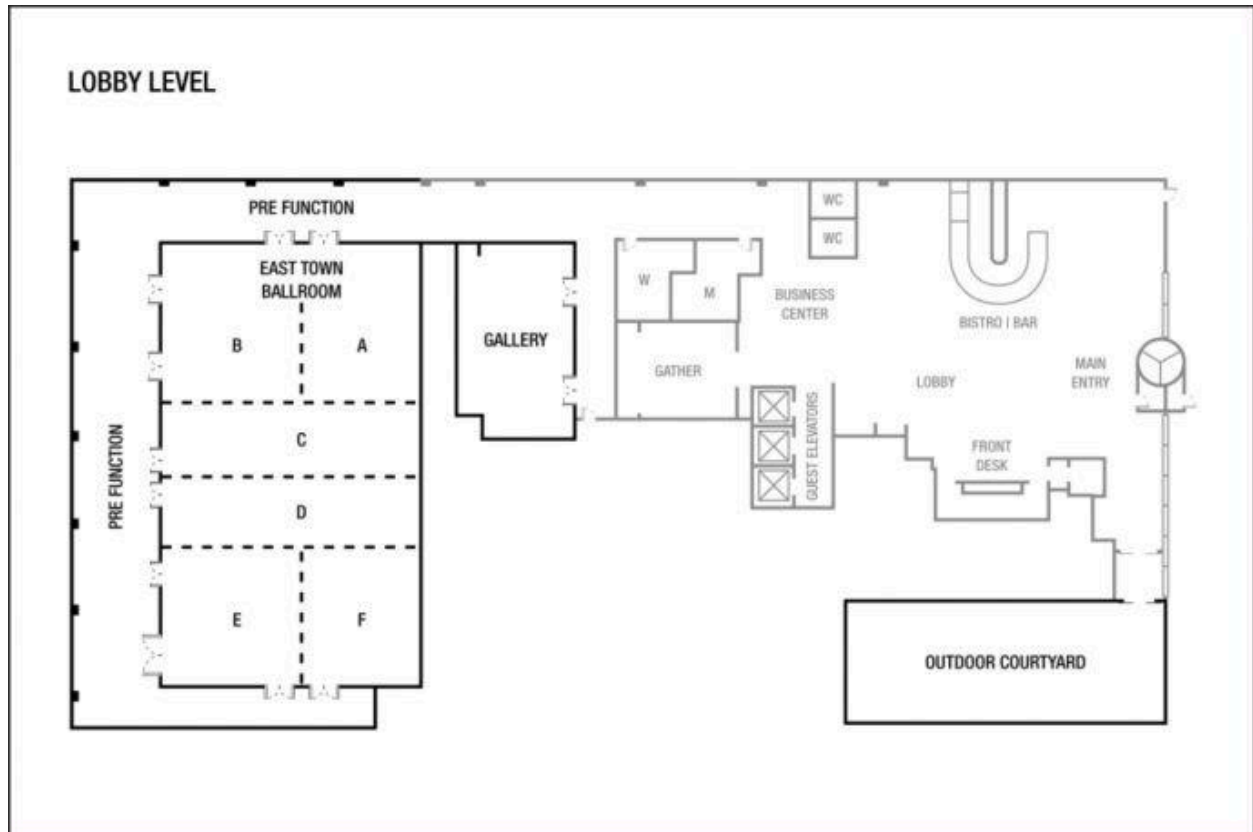
With humor, heart, and honesty, **Nicole Lawrence** is an actor and playwright who uses theater to celebrate resilience, challenge stigma, and spark change through empathy. Her spirited work amplifies women's voices and advocates for people with invisible illnesses.

Araya Smith was born and raised in St Paul, Minnesota in the Rondo community. Her love for writing poetry blossomed from tragedy and it has carried her through life. Her thesis Imposter Syndrome is a collection of poems about a girl floating through life as an imposter.

Notes:

Floor Plan - Courtyard Marriott Downtown

[Also available online.](#)



Campus Map - Augsburg University



HC= Hagfors Center.

- 4 of 5 workshops hold class sessions here; craft talks and group presentations will also be held here.

•

AM=Anderson Music Hall. Sateren Hall can be found here.

FC=Foss Center. The Black Box Theater and Green Room (where the playwriting workshop will be held) can be found here.

Lot D and Lot L: This is where you can park if you have obtained a free [permit](#).

LL = Lindell Library.

A PDF of the campus map, with key locations noted, can be found [here](#).