**CityLit Festival is supported by these partners and sponsors:**

CityLit Project would also like to thank - with deepest gratitude - our Festival volunteers, UB’s Marion Winik, Dean Chris Spence, Mike Zemarel, Monica Queen, Chris Hart, and Mark Weddell; with a very special thank you to friend of CityLit Project Anne West and to Insight180 Brand Consulting & Design’s Wendy Baird and Bethany Howell, and the all too fabulous CityLit Gladiators Elizabeth (Liz) Dunlap and Sylvia Fox.

Festival Videographer/Photographers: Ceylon Mitchell & Denys Symonette Mitchell of M3 Music Media Marketing, LLC.

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CityLit Fest 2019: A Literary Celebration for Readers and Writers

**City Lit Project**

2019 Festival Schedule

Founded in 2004, CityLit Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that nurtures the culture of literature in Baltimore, around the region, and across Maryland. CityLit creates enthusiasm for literary arts, connects a community of avid readers and writers, and opens opportunities for diverse audiences to embrace the literary arts.

www.citylitproject.org

#citylitfest2019  @citylitproject  @citylitproject  CityLitProject

CityLit Festival

Saturday, April 27, 2019
9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

William H. Thumel Sr. Business Center
University of Baltimore
11 W. Mount Royal Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

**Location**

- BC Atrium
- BC Auditorium
- BC 135
- BC 145
- BC 141, 139, 133, 131, 129
- Conference Rooms
- BC 205
- BC 207
- Literary Marketplace

**Highlights**

- Keynote Speaker: Dani Shapiro in conversation with Marion Winik (90)
- Angie Kim discusses Miracle Creek with Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein (F)
- History's Mysteries: Shaping the Past into a Literary Now (CNF, F, P)
- Your Classics Aren't My Classics: Decolonizing the Literary Canon for Asian Americans (CNF, F (90))
- Breaking Down Bars: Stories That Challenge Mass Incarceration (CNF)
- What We Are: Speck, Good Hair, Vanilla Bean, Cinnamon & Pearl: When Words Make You Real (CNF (90))
- You Can't Live Off Air: Money's in the Room (F (90))
- No One Leaves Home Unless Home Is the Mouth of a Shark: The Immigrant's Journey (P (90))
- Poet This! (P (90))
- We Need Diverse Books: Children's and Young Adult Literature (F (90))
- 30 Minute 1-on-1 Critique Sessions with Editors Kareen Houppert - 141, Brett McCabe - 139, Tafsha Edwards - 133, Lauren LaRocca - 131, Brian Price - 129
- Truth & Trauma: How We Write Authentic Stories of Pain (CNF)
- Identity in Artistry: Exploring the Queer Perspective (CNF, P)
- Novelists at Work: How to Structure a Novel and Walk Away Like a Boss (F (90))
- When It All Falls Down: Real Talk About Journalism in the Age of Trump (NF)
- Possible and Impossible Futures (F)
- Master Class with Kia Corthron: Diving into Stage Writing: Dialogue and Drama (PW, F (90))
- The Art of Telling Lies Skillfully: Writing Tips from an Award-Winning Screenwriter (SW)
- It Takes a Village: Supporting the Local Literary Scene (Volunteers)
- Green Room

**Program Details**

- All presenters are invited to attend a special literary gathering at:
  - The Motor House
  - 120 W. North Avenue
  - Showroom Café & Bar ($ Bar)
  - motorhousebaltimore.com
DANI SHAPIRO IN CONVERSATION WITH MARION WINK
Best-selling author of Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Patriline & Love & The Weekly Reader commentator and author of The Baltimore Book of the Dead engage in a meaningful conversation about family secrets, the consequences and ethics of DNA testing, the urgent quest to unlock a story, and the discovery of the stories who you think you are. A reading, conversation and booking sign.
4:00PM - 5:30PM - AUDITORIUM

FEATURED SESSIONS

Master Class with playwright/novelist KIA CORTHRON
Diving into Stage Writing: Dialogue & Drama. Prose writers and playwrights may feel confined in their narrative skills but intimidated by the use of dialogue. How does “natural” dialogue in real life differ from that in literature? What are the ethical concerns in writing dialect? Writers sometimes avoid the dramatic – building tension – out of fear from that in literature? What are the ethical concerns in writing dialect? What do Asian-Americans consider classics? How is it that the lack of research is required? How do they transform the past into stories, poems, novels and essays for today? What fidelity do they show to the historical record? Eugenia Kim, Shelley Puhak, Richard Slotkin, and Michael Downey present personal stories, as they explore questions and more, including history’s ongoing role as a compelling and necessary subject for writers.
10:00AM - 11:00AM - BC205

Truth & Trauma: How We Write Authentic Stories of Pain
Four writers across genres, Kristinda Gaddy, Elizabeth Ellvits Dickinson, Cija Jefferson, Wallace Lane and Neda Semami, write global and local stories of war, loss, death, illness, abuse, crime, and discuss researching and writing trauma, as well as the effect working with difficult subjects can have on a writer.
10:00AM - 11:00AM - BC207

Possible & Impossible Futures
Jason Harris, Sarah Pinkser, Erin Roberts, and K.M. Szpara explore classic, recent, and upcoming near-future fictions and discuss the responsibilities and challenges of looking forward: utopias, dystopias, apocalypses, and hope.
11:00AM - 12:00PM - BC135

Your Classics Aren’t My Classics: Decolonizing the Literary Canon for Asian Americans
What do Asian-Americans consider classics? How is it that the lack of media representation of Asians and Asian Americans has made so that only white writers are considered canon? How can we change this? Del Rosario, Chris Jesu Lee, Meika Rivas, Marissa Rodriguez, Eliza Romero and Sharon Tran deconstruct the concept of a must-read as it applies to Asian Americans.
11:00AM - 12:00PM - BC123

You Can’t Live Off Air: Money is in the Room
An open dialogue with funders, featuring representatives from the National Endowment for the Arts, Maryland State Arts Council, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, Maryland City Council, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, and Creative Capital and grantee Ashlie Kaufman, about the promise of receiving a grant.
12:00PM - 1:00PM - BC112

Identity in Artistry: Exploring the Queer Perspective
Writers Jamie Grace Alexander, Mark King, and Clare Askari integrate their identities in a way that provides insight into their lived experiences as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. They have used their artistic medium to share their experiences and explore sexual identity, creating works that showcase an underrepresented perspective.
12:00PM - 1:00PM - BC143

No One Leaves Home Unless Home is the Mouth of a Shark: The Immigrant’s Journey
Warsan Shire’s poem “home” shares the truths of many immigrants, migrants, and refugees in the world. Why did they leave? Why can’t they return? Ana Portroy Brimmer, Daria-Arrn Martinez, Girum Said Mulat, Senait Woldemariam, Lark Ouma and Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez, poets originating from different parts of the world, including Ethiopia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad & Tobago, share their work and a piece of their story as someone “not from here,” and how their home still speaks in their poetry.
12:00PM - 1:00PM - BC143

Breaking Down Bars: Stories that Challenge Mass Incarceration
Dr. Tara Betts, Tony Clark, Mark King, Chris Wilson and Denzel Presley share excerpts from their books and discuss the flaws and biases in mass incarceration. These writers discuss how prisons cripple communities of color and poor people, extend the power of policing, and create economic dependence on the corporatized prisons. Their books, and other writings expose the inefficacies of the prison system, challenge the perspectives people have about mass incarceration, and offer a bit of hope.
1:00PM - 2:00PM - BC135

Novelists at Work: How to Structure a Novel & Walk Away Like a Boss Featuring Jung Yun, Susan Muaddi Darraj, Katia Ulysse, Lauren Francis Sharma and Maria Goodson Join us as these authors discuss their unique approaches to story, character, and plot, share observations, tips and reveal real-life challenges of creating flow on the page, making sense of the characters’ lives they create and the whole mess of narrative logic. All told through the eyes and experiences of authors committed to the craft of fiction.
1:00PM - 2:00PM - BC205

Poet This!
Based on Lucille Clifton’s endearing phrase. “Why don’t you poet that.” Aliush Hopper directs a panel of poets including Thaew Brown, Sarah Browning, Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez, David Yezzi, Winniebell Xinyu Zong, and Tafisha Edwards. These writers discuss how prisons cripple communities of color and poor people, extend the power of policing, and create economic dependence on the corporatized prisons. Their books, and other writings expose the inefficacies of the prison system, challenge the perspectives people have about mass incarceration, and offer a bit of hope.
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When It All Falls Down: Real Talk About Journalism in the Age of Trump
What it takes to be a journalist right now. Baltimore Beat founders Larry Snowden-McCray talk nuts and bolts of what it means to be a journalist in 2019. Learn about journalism basics, pitching, storytelling with compassion, using social media, and more.
3:00PM - 4:00PM - BC205

We Need Diverse Books: Children’s & Young Adult Literature
Seasoned and debut authors discuss the importance of new voices and share information about the publishing industry as they know it. Former and current Maryland Citizens for the Arts board members Embracing the power of art to promote empathy and understanding, We Need Diverse Books will host a panel of seasoned and debut authors committed to the craft of fiction.
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New We Need Diverse Books: Children’s & Young Adult Literature
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