



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

FULL-ACCESS BUSINESS PASS INFORMATION

For writers interested in taking their work to market one day, Lit Fest offers an opportunity to educate yourself about and connect with publishing professionals. Given the busy schedules of agents and editors, it's a rare chance to receive direct feedback and advice. You must purchase a Gold, Silver, Bronze, Penny, or Full-Access Business Pass before requesting a meeting with an agent.

We have the following agents and editors available for one-on-one meetings at Lit Fest 2019*:

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14
Noah Ballard David Forrer	Noah Ballard David Forrer	Noah Ballard Eleanor Jackson	Noah Ballard Eleanor Jackson Sonali Chanchani	Sarah Bowlin Sonali Chanchani Serene Hakim	Sarah Bowlin Sonali Chanchani Serene Hakim	Sarah Bowlin Allison Devereux
June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21
Allison Devereux Stephanie Hansen Sarah Murphy	Stephanie Hansen Sarah Murphy	Stephanie Hansen Sarah Murphy Jessica Friedman	Jessica Friedman Michelle Dotter	Melissa Flashman Susanna Einstein	Melissa Flashman Monika Verma Susanna Einstein	Melissa Flashman Monika Verma

*Schedule is subject to change.

LIT FEST PASSHOLDERS

BEFORE MEETING WITH AN AGENT OR EDITOR

Make sure you're really ready for this. Writing is a competitive business, and agents are direct about their reactions to your work. Have you had a professional read of the work you're submitting? Is it reasonably edited? If not, we'd recommend attending Lit Fest's business panels first and then reaching out to agents and editors at a later date. Poets, short-story writers, and essayists without complete manuscripts are recommended to meet with an editor to discuss how their work fits into the current marketplace.

For those who opt to take a meeting, submit your one-page query letter and a chapter or excerpt of up to 15 pages via [Submittable](#). You must create a Submittable account in order to submit. Your query letter should be addressed to your top-choice agent or editor; select your second choice in the form. We'll confirm your meeting time and let you know if additional meetings are available for purchase.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 7 (midnight MST):** Submit your top three agent or editor choices
- **May 10:** We'll confirm your meeting time and open up additional meetings if space allows
- **May 14 (midnight MST):** Deadline to submit your query letter and 15-page writing sample
- **May 18:** You'll receive final confirmation of your meeting schedule

HOW MATCHES ARE MADE BETWEEN AGENTS AND PASSHOLDERS

First, we'll do the best we can to make sure that writers are matched with agents who have a professional interest in their genre. Ideally, they'll be actively seeking the type of work you do, so they can give you direct feedback on how your work presents in the marketplace. Once we've made your match, we'll confirm the time and date. Due to limited space and high demand, we can't guarantee that you will meet with your first choice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is important: While several writers have secured agents and even book deals at Lit Fest, we encourage you to think of this more as an opportunity to educate yourself. It's a huge world out there, and we don't often get a chance to hear an agent's professional reaction to our work. It's best, then, to think of this meeting as more like an informational interview than a job interview.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR 20 MINUTES

If you can, look up some of the books the agent or editor has represented. Being familiar in some way with the agency's work sets a nice tone, and you can then ask any question you have about your own work or the business in general. It's often useful to just start by asking about first impressions of your work.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

By May 10, we'll open up additional meetings for Lit Fest pass holders for \$60 members/\$70 non-members each. We'll let you know if this option is available.

QUESTIONS: Contact Torin (torin@lighthousewriters.org).

AGENT BIOS

Noah Ballard (Curtis Brown, Ltd) received his BA in English from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and began his career in publishing at Emma Sweeney Agency, where he sold foreign rights in addition to building his own client list. Noah specializes in literary debuts, upmarket thrillers, and narrative nonfiction, and he's always on the lookout for honest and provocative new writers. Noah has appeared across the country at graduate programs and writing conferences speaking about query letters, building nonfiction platforms, and submission etiquette. He lives in Brooklyn.

Sarah Bowlin (Aevitas) joined Aevitas Creative Management in 2017. Before becoming an agent, she spent a decade as an editor of literary fiction and nonfiction, first at Riverhead Books and most recently at Henry Holt & Company. She has edited many acclaimed and prize-winning writers including Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Sheila Heti, Salvatore Scibona, Helen Phillips, Ramona Ausubel, Rachel Khong, and Julie Buntin. As an agent, she represents Vanessa Veselka, Aysegul Savas, Souvankham Thammavongsa, Halimah Marcus, Lynn Steger Strong, Shane Jones, Elisa Albert, and Kevin Nguyen, among others. She is interested in bold voices—specifically stories of strong or difficult women and unexpected narratives of place, identity, and the shifting ways we see ourselves and each other. Originally from the South, she now lives in Los Angeles.

Sonali Chanchani (Folio) began her career in publishing with an internship at Kaya, an independent press dedicated to publishing authors from the Asian diaspora. She joined Folio in 2015, where she works closely alongside Claudia Cross and Frank Weimann on a range of fiction and nonfiction projects while actively building her own list. She's looking for character-driven upmarket and literary fiction with a strong, distinctive voice, and narratives with a social justice bent or that illuminate some aspect of our society or culture. Across the board, she's a fierce advocate of authors from marginalized communities and keen to represent a diversity of voices.

Allison Devereux (Elyse Cheney) joined The Cheney Agency in 2019 as agent and foreign rights director. She represents narrative nonfiction, memoir, cultural history, natural history, science, sports, philosophy, and select literary fiction. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin's Plan II Honors Program, she began her publishing career at Macmillan before working as an agent and foreign rights manager at MacKenzie Wolf.

Susanna Einstein (E.L.M.) launched E.L.M. in 2015 after working as an agent for ten years, first at LJK Literary Management and then at the Einstein Thompson Agency. She is on the Board of Directors of the Association of Authors' Representatives and is a member of the Women's Media Group. Susanna has a particular fondness for crime fiction, upmarket commercial women's fiction, MG and YA fiction, and narrative non-fiction. She likes a good story well told. A native New Yorker, she graduated with distinction from Northwestern University. She lives in NJ with her husband and two children.

Melissa Flashman (Janklow & Nesbit) is a native of Lexington, Kentucky, who majored in English at Wesleyan University. After stints in the English Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins, commercial and indie radio, the advertising world and something called cool-hunting (it was the late '90s), she got her first job in publishing and has been an agent ever since. She represents award-winning and best-selling fiction and nonfiction. In nonfiction, she is particularly interested in conversation-changing books including journalism, science, technology, business/finance/economics, memoir/narrative, essays, and cultural criticism. She is

drawn to a range of literary and commercial fiction and is particularly excited about stories that touch on the deeper meaning of life, family, identity, and love. A good page-turner is always welcome.

Melissa's authors have won numerous awards including the National Book Critic Circle Award, The Whiting Award, the Rona Jaffe Award, the Hugo Award, n + 1 writer's fellowship, The Nation's Ridenhour Prize and the American Book Award among others. Some authors she represents include Anne Boyer, Amina Cain, Stephanie Danler, Conor Dougherty, Michele Filgate, Stanley Fish, Lizzy Goodman, Emily Gould, David Graeber, Megan Phelps-Roper, and Kate Zambreno.

David Forrer (Inkwell) began his career in publishing in 1997 after receiving a Masters in Creative Writing (fiction) from Boston University. He has been an agent with InkWell Management since it was created in 2004. His areas of interest and representation range from literary, commercial, historical and crime fiction to suspense/thriller, humorous non-fiction, and popular history.

Jessica Friedman (Wylie Agency) has a master's degree in literature from the University of Chicago, and represents such notable authors as Danielle Geller, Evan James, Joanna Kavenna, and Emily Nemens. Friedman lives in Brooklyn with her husband.

Serene Hakim (Pande Literary) holds an M.A. in French to English translation from NYU and a B.A. in French and Women's Studies from the University of Kansas. Born to Lebanese immigrants in the Midwest, she grew up straddling cultures and languages and still feels like a third culture kid. Serene loves to read a variety of genres but is particularly drawn to fiction with strong female voices, both YA and adult fiction and non-fiction with international themes, and LGBTQ and feminist issues. She is always on the lookout for great YA sci-fi and fantasy, realistic YA, and anything that gives voice to those whose voices are underrepresented and/or marginalized. When she's not reading, she can usually be found trying a new recipe while simultaneously balancing a toddler on her hip.

Stephanie Hansen (Metamorphosis) represents everyone from debut authors to *New York Times* bestsellers. She's signed authors with small presses to major publishing house distribution. She predominately represents YA SF/F but has a secret addiction for romance. While these are her favorite, she handles all fiction, from children's books to adult thrillers. Previously an editor for Mind's Eye Literary Magazine, she became a part of Metamorphosis in July 2016. Originally looking to help Midwest authors garner attention from major publishing houses, she found camaraderie with multiple agents and editors. She's seeking thrillers, YA with an edge, and quirky literary works. She is intrigued by prose that flows as smoothly as poetry, unforgettable plot twists, and well-rounded characters.

Eleanor Jackson (Dunow, Carlson & Lerner) is an agent whose list includes authors of fiction and non-fiction in a wide range of categories, including David Wroblewski (*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*), Susan Straight (*In the Country of Women*), Susie Steiner (*Persons Unknown*), Hallie Rubenhold (*The Five*), and Tanaz Bhathena (*The Beauty of the Moment*). She looks for books with deeply imagined worlds, and for writers who take risks with their work. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband, two sons, and their dog.

Monika Verma (Levine Greenberg) joined LGR in 2006, and represents a wide range of nonfiction book projects. She specializes in humor, pop culture, memoir, narrative nonfiction, and style and fashion titles.

She loves to work with authors to develop their writing careers, whether that means helping them make the jump from blogger to published author, brainstorming the perfect funny gift book topic, or working with a debut author to showcase a strong narrative voice. Her clients include humorist and actor Nick Offerman; costume designer Janie Bryant (AMC's "Mad Men"); style and celebrity bloggers Tom & Lorenzo; and writer, illustrator, and blogger Allie Brosh (*Hyperbole and a Half*).

EDITOR BIOS

Michelle Dotter (Dzanc Books) is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Dzanc Books, an independent nonprofit publishing company that champions innovative and award-winning literary fiction and nonfiction. She earned a degree in creative writing from Colorado College before beginning her editing career with MacAdam/Cage Publishing in San Francisco and worked as a developmental and copy editor before helming Dzanc. She has worked with *New York Times* bestselling authors, along with winners of the National Book Award, the Whiting Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and recipients of other honors. For more information on Dzanc, including information about annual fiction contests, please visit dzancbooks.org.

Sarah Murphy (Flatiron Books) was most recently Editor at HarperCollins, where she published a wide range of nonfiction, including: *My Glory Was I Had Such Friends* by Amy Silverstein, optioned by J.J. Abrams for a limited TV series starring Jennifer Garner; the *New York Times* bestseller *Genius Foods* by Max Lugavere; and *Modern Loss* by Rebecca Soffer and Gabrielle Birkner. At Flatiron, Murphy is building a list of narrative nonfiction and select fiction, focusing on science, medicine, nature and outdoor adventure, psychology and human behavior, "big idea" books that explore social and cultural trends, feminist voices and issues, and memoir with great heart and soul. Current authors on her list include Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Jill Biden, and Dr. Michael Greger.