

Set in the West: Cultures Old & New
23rd Annual Women Writing the West Conference
October 26-28, 2017
Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort
Tucson, Arizona



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

You are invited to submit a proposal for the 23rd Annual
Women Writing the West Conference

"Set in the West: Cultures Old & New"

October 26-28, 2017

Tucson, AZ

Jan Cleere & Carolyn Niethammer

Conference Co-Chairs

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: *March 24, 2017, 5:00 pm MST*

Women Writing the West is an organization of writers and other professionals who write and promote writing about the West with emphasis on the experiences of western women and girls. We invite you to join our writing community. Membership is open to all persons, worldwide.

CONFERENCE THEME: *Set in the West: Cultures Old & New*

This year, the Women Writing the West conference will meet in Tucson to celebrate the wealth of cultures found throughout the Southwest, those from ancient times to the emerging voices of the future. Tucson was the heart of Arizona Territory during its early struggle for statehood and has remained an integral force in shaping the state's progress into the 21st century. From the writings of Martha Summerhayes as she trekked from one early Arizona military post to another, to the induction of Arizona native Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court, Arizona women have served their state and their country with tenacity, fortitude, and a spirit of unity. The state was the first to elect five women to its top political offices. It is often said that while men settled the West, it was the women who civilized it.

THE VENUE: *Tucson, Arizona*

Set in the lower Sonoran Desert in a great basin surrounded by high mountain ranges, Tucson has become a magnet for young families seeking relief from city dwellings and a better quality of life, new and expanding businesses expecting high revenue from these young communities, and desert aficionados attracted to the pristine landscape and casual lifestyle. From its beginning when prehistoric Hohokam Indians roamed the area, followed by the Pima and Tohono O'odham people, Apaches and Yaquis, Spanish and Mexican natives venturing north seeking new lands to conquer and settle, multitudes have permeated the desert southwest. Today, Tucson is home to the University of Arizona, Biosphere II, Kitt Peak National Observatory, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Old Tucson Movie Studios, a plethora of outstanding restaurants that provided the impetus for the city becoming the UNESCO world city of gastronomy, and the acclaimed Tucson Festival of Books attracting writers from across the globe.

CALL TO PARTICIPATE

Early arrivals to the conference can enjoy the amenities of the four-star Loews Ventana Canyon Resort or take a half-day tour of the surrounding area. More details about tours will be posted on the WWW website. The popular Roundtable Advance Critique will return Thursday afternoon. Information will be forthcoming on how to submit your first 10 manuscript pages in advance to receive feedback from editors, agents, and other participants. The day will conclude with a casual reception under the stars, giving everyone the chance to meet and reconnect with old friends. Friday, October 27, will encompass general sessions on the business of writing

with speakers covering topics that are particular to writers. Panels of agents and editors will detail their criteria for selecting new publications, and pitch sessions will be ongoing throughout the conference. Evening will be on your own to catch your breath, explore the desert, or dine with new and special friends.

Saturday, October 28 will be devoted to breakout sessions on the art of writing.

WWW is actively seeking proposals for both Friday and Saturday sessions.

All presenters must:

- Register for the conference (WWW does not reimburse expenses, i.e. registration, hotel, meals, and audiovisual equipment except as noted on the proposal form).
- Refrain from changing the conceptual content of the session as described in the proposal abstract and description after the proposal has been accepted.
- Presenters are expected to engage the session audience, rather than reading from a scripted presentation.

Audiovisual (AV) Equipment

WWW provides an LCD projector, screen, and podium microphone in each session room. Presenters should plan to bring their own laptops. If using an Apple laptop, presenters should also plan to bring conversion cords.

TYPES OF SESSIONS for which proposals are requested:

We welcome proposals for breakout sessions to be held on Saturday, October 28, which focus on the art of writing. We are particularly interested in proposals that celebrate, inform, and advise attendees about the changing aspects when writing about the West. Topics that members have specifically expressed an interest in are writing for children and a poetry session, although all proposals will be considered equally.

PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL

We ask that you use a proposal form so that all proposals are uniform. This form will be used to collect information the committee needs in the event your proposal is selected as well as information required to help balance selections. The most vital parts used to score your proposal are indicated below and your effort should be focused on making those sections shine.

Parts of a Proposal

The proposal has three components that are scored by peer reviewers: a title of 10 words or less, a 50-word abstract, and a 300-word session description.

1) Title

The title should accurately reflect the session content and be clear to intended audience.

2) Abstract

The abstract should accurately reflect session content and must not exceed 50 words, nor include presenters' names or publications.

3) *Session Description*

The session description should provide the holistic sense of the content of the session. Please include detailed descriptions of what participants can expect to experience and what they will take away from the session. The description must not exceed 300 words.

WOMEN WRITING THE WEST PROPOSAL

Download the proposal form from the WWW website or files area of the WWW Yahoo group. You may also request a form by sending an email request to 2017WWW@outlook.com. Submit your proposal using that form and submit it per the instructions on the form. Proposals submitted in other formats make it more difficult for the committee to compare proposals and to collect all needed information.

All proposals must be submitted to Conference Co-Chair, Jan Cleere, at Jan@JanCleere.com, by 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2017.

Presenters

All presenters must register for the conference. If presenters are not pre-registered, accepted sessions may be eliminated from conference schedule. Only one proposal submission per session.

Proposal submissions will be reviewed by the WWW 23rd Conference Committee and decisions made based on how well session ideas highlight the theme of “Set in the West: Cultures Old & New,” appropriateness of topic for the field of writing, and overall content of the whole of conference offerings. Presenters will receive notification of the status of their submission by April 14, 2017.

We look forward to your submissions!