



COURAGE, CURIOSITY, & CHANGE
EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS OF STORY

2026 Conference
October 15 – 17, 2026
Phoenix, Arizona

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, October 15

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| 8:00am – 4:00pm | Registration Table Open |
| 9:00am -12:00pm | Visit to Western Spirit Museum in Scottsdale
Indicate bus reservation on registration form. Admission fee paid at the museum |
| 1:00pm – 5:00pm | Bookstore - Open For Drop Off |
| 2:00pm – 4:00pm | Roundtable Advance Critique with Editor/Agent
\$35/member; \$45/nonmember |
| 2:00pm – 4:00pm | “The Poems, Stories, and Songs in and Around Me” presented
by Arizona Poet Laureate Dr. Laura Tohe
\$30/member; \$35/nonmember |

Dinner on your own

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| 7:00pm – 8:00pm | President’s Welcome and First Time Attendees ’Acknowledgement |
| 8:00pm – 10:00pm | Readings by WILLA Winners and Finalists |

Friday, October 16

8:00am – 4:00pm	Registration Table Open
9:00am – 10:00am	Injecting Play Into Your Writing Process - Stephanie West Allen, Lynn Downey
9:00am - 10:00am	Homespun Marketing: What Worked and What Didn't - Candace Simar, Krista Soukup
10:00am – 5:00pm	Bookstore Open
10:15am – 11:45am	Agents and Editors Panel
12:00pm – 1:45pm	The LAURA Short Fiction and The DOWNING Journalism Award Luncheon with Readings - Featured Speaker Melissa Sevigny
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Pitch Sessions
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Talking About Unmentionables: How Do Writers Research Personal Topics Which Were Taboo? A Brief History of Feminine Hygiene, Contraception, and Health - Kimberly Burns
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Author, Publisher, Entrepreneur: The Successful Author-Publisher - Joyce Sherry, Nicki Ehrlich
3:15pm – 4:15pm	Artificial Intelligence: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - Clarissa Willis
3:15pm – 4:15pm	Courage and the Power of Connection: Exploring Personal Leaps and Divine Nudges to Uncover the Power of Connection in Our Narratives - Kate Hamberger Yakis
4:30pm	Open Time to Find Your Friends

Dinner On Your Own

7:00pm - 7:30pm	Take a ride down the Colorado River with trailblazing women in this short feature film, “About Damn Time The Dory Women of the Grand Canyon”
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Saturday, October 17

8:00am - 9:00am	AI as a Writer's Assistant: Practical Systems for Protecting Creative Time - Kristine Renae Brorman
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8:00am – 9:00am	Saddle Up for Self-Publishing: Your Trail Guide to Going Indie - Jayme Mansfield
9:00am – 10:15am	Pitch Sessions
9:15am – 10:15am	The Courage to Write What We Fear - Kathryn Wilder
9:15am – 10:15am	How True Stories Inspire Fiction: What to Leave In and What to Leave Out...and Why Natalie Bright, Cynthia Massey, Irene Sandell, Manuela Schneider
9:15am -10:15am	Writing from the Land - Susan J. Tweit, Dawn Wink, Pam Olson, Amy Hale
10:00am – 5:00pm	Bookstore Open
10:30am – 11:45am	WWW Membership Business meeting - <u>Mandatory for Voting Purposes</u>
12:00pm – 2:00pm	The WILLA Literary Award Finalists Luncheon with Readings
2:15pm – 4:30pm	Pitch sessions
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Pitch Perfect: Cut the Noise, Land the Hook - Casey Cowan, President & Creative Director, Roan & Weatherford Publishing
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Writing on History's Sex Workers: A Feminist Approach - Janelle Molony, David Grassé
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Book Signings
6:00pm – 8:00pm	The WILLA Literary Award Banquet & The WWW High School Writing Contest Awardees Announcement Keynote speaker: Anne Hillerman Formal Farewell

**** All consigned books must be picked up by 6:00pm**