



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Board of Directors Welcomes New Officers and Board Members

NORFOLK, VA – The AWP Board of Directors met in late October for its quarterly meeting, which included approving new board members and re-electing board members to a second term.

AWP Welcomes New Board Members 2023–2026

Kwame Dawes is the author of numerous books of poetry and other books of fiction, criticism, and essays. His most recent collection, *Sturge Town* (Peepal Tree Press, 2023), is a 2023 Poetry Book Society Winter Choice. Dawes is a George W. Holmes University Professor of English at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Glenna Luschei Editor-in-Chief of *Prairie Schooner*. He teaches in the Pacific University MFA program and is the series editor of the African Poetry Book Series, director of the African Poetry Book Fund, and artistic director of the Calabash International Literary Festival. He is a chancellor for the Academy of American Poets and a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Dawes is the winner of the prestigious Windham-Campbell Award for Poetry and was a finalist for the 2022 Neustadt International Prize for Literature. In 2022 Dawes was awarded the Order of Distinction (Commander) by the Government of Jamaica.

Carmen Giménez joined Graywolf Press as publisher and director in August 2022. She was previously the founder and publisher of Noemi Press and professor of English at Virginia Tech. A queer Latinx poet, she is the author of six collections of poetry, including *Be Recorder* (Graywolf Press, 2019), which was a finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry. She has been awarded fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Howard Foundation, and the Hermitage Artist Retreat.

Darrel Alejandro Holnes is an Afro-Panamanian American writer. His plays have received productions or readings at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, The Brick Theater, Kitchen Theatre Company, Pregones / Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Primary Stages,

and elsewhere. He is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, The Civilians R&D Group, Page 73's Interstate 73 Writers Group, and other groups. His play *Starry Night* was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference and the Princess Grace Award in Playwriting. His play *Bayano* was also a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference. His most recent play, *Black Feminist Video Game*, was produced by The Civilians for 59E59 Theaters, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Center Theatre Group, and other theaters and venues and won an inaugural Anthem Award. He is the founder of the Greater Good Commission and Festival, a festival of Latinx short plays. Holnes is the author of the poetry books *Migrant Psalms* (Northwestern Press, 2021) and *Stepmotherland* (Notre Dame Press, 2022). He is the recipient of the Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize from Letras Latinas, the Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Creative Writing (Poetry). His poem "Praise Song for My Mutilated World" won the C. P. Cavafy Poetry Prize from *Poetry International*. He is an artist-in-residence with the Latinx Playwrights Circle, an assistant professor of English at Medgar Evers College, and a faculty member at New York University. Holnes is also a screenwriter. Visit www.darrelholnes.com.

AWP Board Members Re-elected to Another Term 2023–2026

- o Regina Brooks
- o Mimi Herman

Officers Slate for 2023–2024

- o January Gill O'Neil – Chair
- o Mimi Herman – First Vice Chair
- o DeMisty Bellinger – Second Vice Chair
- o Kris Bigalk – Secretary
- o Bruce Saul – Treasurer

Discussions at the meeting included the state of the organization, strategic planning for 2024–2029, and potential meeting spaces for the annual conference and bookfair.

For a full list of the board of directors, visit the [AWP website](http://awpwriter.org). For press inquiries or questions, please email awpPR@awpwriter.org.