

## Teen Writers' Symposium 2024

### Schedule

11am: Check in begins

11:30am-12pm: Pizza lunch, meet & greet with writers

12-12:20pm: Writers' Panel moderated by Helen Maynard

12:25-1:30pm: Workshop 1

YOU ARE FREE with **Quartez Harris and Kortney Morrow**

Last Words: How to Nail Your Ending with **Susan Petrone**

Speculative Fiction: Writing the Not Real with **Marie Vibbert**

Ready to Hit Submit with **Jason Harris**

1:35-1:45: Break

1:50-2:55pm: Workshop 2

Tales from the Cryptid with **Siaara Freeman**

Last Words: How to Nail Your Ending with **Susan Petrone**

Speculative Fiction: Writing the Not Real with **Marie Vibbert**

One-on-one and peer editing session with Jason Harris, Helen Maynard, and Lake Erie Ink teachers

3-3:30pm: Closing reading by participants to share pieces from workshops

## Workshop Descriptions

### Tales from the Cryptid with **Siaara Freeman**

In this workshop, writers will explore cryptids and the myths that surround them. Writers will use different methods and prompts to create a new cryptid or modernize an old one. This workshop aims to use poetic devices as a vehicle to character and narrative building.

### Last Words: How to Nail Your Ending with **Susan Petrone**

Why do some endings leave the reader longing for more and other endings fall flat? We'll look at some of the best story and novel endings and examine how to write last words that linger with your readers.

### Speculative Fiction: Writing the Not Real with **Marie Vibbert**

Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Supernatural fiction all step away from the world as we know it. What additional challenges and pitfalls does writing in these genres entail? What even is a genre? We'll play with a few writing exercises in other worlds and talk about the realities of writing the unreal.

### Ready to Hit Submit with **Jason Harris**

This workshop will teach participants about submitting their writing to a literary magazine for publication. Writers will learn about Submittable, ChillSubs, and how to find the best fit journals and magazines to submit your writing.

### YOU ARE FREE with **Quartez Harris and Kortney Morrow**

In this generative workshop, participants are encouraged to write whatever comes to their minds. Participants will then compare the factual details of their autobiographies to something they have experienced, spanning from trampolines, basketball, windows, trees, and more. Participants will explore their memories and generate a poem by incorporating sensory details.

### One-on-one Editing Sessions

Get feedback on your finished piece or work in progress! Participants will take turns meeting one-on-one with Jason Harris, Helen Maynard, and Lake Erie Ink writers to discuss participants' work and ask questions. Participants should bring either a short piece/excerpt or an idea to the session. Individual sessions will last approximately 10 minutes, and participants can use the rest of the time to write on their own or with peers.

## Author Biographies

### **Siaara Freeman**

Siaara Freeman is from Cleveland Ohio, where she is the current Poet Laureate for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. She is also the unofficial Lake Erie Siren. She is a 2023 Room in the House fellow with Karmau Theater, a 2022 Catapult fellow with Cleveland Public Theater. In 2021 Siaara filmed a commercial for the Cleveland Museum of Art She is a 2021 Premier Playwright fellow recipient with Cleveland Public theater. She is a 2020 WateringHole Manuscript fellow, 2018 Poetry Foundation incubator fellow and a four time nominee for the pushcart prize. Her work appears in The Journal, Josephine Quarterly, Cleveland Magazine and elsewhere. She has had multiple poems go viral and has toured both nationally and internationally. Her first full length manuscript *Urbanshee* is available with Button Poetry and is a 2023 finalist for the Audre Lorde Award with The Publishing Triangle as well as a 2023 Silver award winner for the Benjamin Franklin IPBA award for Poetry. When she is not working she is likely by a lake, thinking of Toni Morrison & talking to ghosts. She is growing her Afro so tall, God uses it as a microphone and speaks through her.

<https://www.siaarafreeman.com/>

### **Jason Harris**

Jason Harris is a Black American who serves as Editor-in-Chief for *Gordon Square Review*. Jason's writing has appeared in *Hobart*, *Barren Magazine*, the *Cleveland Review of Books*, and more. Most recently, Jason served as a co-editor to the forthcoming nature poetry anthology called *Light Enters the Grove: Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park Through Poetry* (published by Kent State University Press).

<https://jasonharriswriter.com/>

### **Quartez Harris**

Residing in Cleveland, Ohio, Quartez Harris was once a second-grade teacher in Cleveland Public City Schools. Harris is the Ohio Poetry Association's 2021 Poet of the Year. Harris is the author of *We Made It To School Alive*, a full-length collection of poems published by Twelve Arts Press, and *Nothing, But Skin*, a poetry collection published in 2014 by Writing Knights Press. He is the first recipient of the Barbara Smith Writer-In-Resident at Twelve Literary Arts and a 2020 Baldwin House Fellow. His poetry and ideas have been featured in *The Plain Dealer*, *Ideastream*, and *City Club of Cleveland*. Harris is represented by McKinnon Literary Agency. His works in progress are two picture books and a middle-aged novel.

<https://www.quartezharris.com/#/>

### **Helen Maynard**

Broadcast Journalist with extensive experience working in local and network television news, sports, and talk radio. Convention and Special Event planning expert. Multimedia storyteller skilled in, News and Promotional Writing, Avid, Final Cut Pro Editing, Video composition, Social Media content. Mentor, trainer, student advocate. Love to help non-profits – always a supporter of the community, social services and our youth. Political junkie. Lifelong chocoholic.

**Kortney Morrow**

Kortney Morrow is a poet creating from her studio in Cleveland, Ohio. Her work has received support from 68to05, The Academy of American Poets, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Prairie Schooner, Tin House, and Transition Magazine. She has her MFA in Poetry from The Ohio State University. In 2023, she was awarded the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant Award from the Ohioana Library Association for her essay “The Care & Keeping of You.” When she’s not writing, she’s co-running Studio Reciprocity—a consulting collective that helps organizations and individuals heal, re-imagine, and transform.

<https://iamkortney.com/>

**Susan Petrone**

Susan Petrone is the author of *The Musical Mozinskis* (2024), *The Heebie-Jeebie Girl* (2020,) *The Super Ladies* (2018), *Throw Like a Woman* (2015), and *A Body at Rest* (2009). Her short fiction has been published by Glimmer Train, Muse, Conclave, Cleveland Review, and Whiskey Island. Her short story, “Monster Jones Wants to Creep You Out” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her non-fiction has appeared in CoolCleveland, Belt magazine, and ESPN.com. She is a recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award and was one of the co-founders and first board president of Literary Cleveland.

<https://susanpetrone.com/>

**Marie Vibbert**

2023 Nebula Award Nominee Marie Vibbert’s short stories have appeared in top magazines like *Nature*, *Amazing Stories*, and *Analog Science Fiction*. She’s sold over 80 stories and been long-listed for the Hugo and British Science Fiction Award. Her latest novel, *The Gods Awoke*, is about a telepathic being with amnesia trying to figure out who or what she is. By day she is a computer programmer at Case Western Reserve University.

<https://www.marievibbert.com/>