# Split This Rock Poetry Festival: Poems of Provocation & Witness March 26-28, 2020, Washington, DC

## Call for Session Proposals: Workshops, Readings, and Panel Discussions

Submissions Due: Monday, July 22, 2019, 11:59 pm PDT

**For questions related to accessibility**, contact us at 202-787-5210 or access@splitthisrock.org.

Split This Rock is now accepting session proposals for the seventh biennial Split This Rock Poetry Festival on March 26-28, 2020 in Washington, DC.

Send your bold and tender ideas for workshops, themed group readings, panel discussions, or hybrid session formats. Do you have a successful session you've shared in another community or something that's never been accepted at a conference before? Send both of those proposals our way!

For examples of how to craft session proposals, refer to the lists of accepted sessions from previous festivals on the [**Split This Rock website**](https://www.splitthisrock.org/programs/festival-biennial).

### THEMES:

Given that 2020 is an election year, the Festival curation team welcomes proposals that combat despair or take action in the midst of it, encourage learning across generations, celebrate communities targeted by violence, imagine what it means to thrive in the midst of struggle, and equip us as artists to live at the center of public life and social change. We want to learn how you've invoked poetry to work against repressive regimes and for liberation.

Split This Rock values diversity in methods and content, including creative ways of learning together and ideas that challenge the status quo. The Festival curation team welcome proposals on topics and from presenters whose work is historically underrepresented in literary spaces, including but not limited to sessions focused on Indigenous and Native lives, disability justice, trans liberation, reproductive rights, immigration justice, health care access, confronting white supremacy, poverty and economic inequality, and environmental justice.

### PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

In your proposal, please describe how your session is timely and aligns with Split This Rock's mission, the ways in which the session will provide participants with new knowledge or resources, how the presenter(s) are uniquely qualified to lead the session, and how you will ensure that the session is interactive.

We are accepting proposals in three categories:

Workshops – Workshops might offer writing prompts, revision or craft exercises, practical techniques for professional writing practice or balancing self-care with work, or other activities that connect contemporary issues and the writing life. Please describe the specific activities you will offer. A workshop may be led by one person or a team. Every year, attendees ask for more workshop sessions--if you can turn your session idea into an interactive workshop, we heartily encourage you to do it.

Themed Group Readings - Readings might showcase voices, perspectives, or topics that could otherwise be missing from the festival program or literary landscape. Please describe the central theme or connecting thread for your reading. All proposals for Readings must identify how much time will be set aside for participants to dialogue with readers. All readings must include at least two people.

Panels Discussions - A panel discussion may consist of 3-5 persons total, with one person designated as facilitator. Please describe what questions you plan to explore. All panels must include an interactive component; please describe how you will involve participants in the discussion and *how* much time will be set aside for participants to dialogue with one another and/or session leaders.

SESSION LENGTH: Sessions are typically an hour and a half long. We will confirm how much time each session will have once sessions are accepted.

PRESENTERS: Proposals for Readings and Panels must include at least two (2) presenters. This form will not allow you to submit a Reading or Panel proposal with only one presenter. Proposals may include up to five (5) presenters. There is no limit to the number of proposals you may send, but **be sure all proposed presenters have agreed to be part of your session before you send it to us**. Presenters may be part of no more than two accepted sessions. Once sessions have been selected, we will ask any presenters who are part of more than two accepted sessions to make choices. Presenters are not compensated, but registration scholarships are available.

COMMUNITY BUILDING: The Festival prides itself on being a place for community building. Plan for your session to be interactive. When proposing panel discussions and readings, please set aside time for dialogue or a period of questions and answers.

NO ACADEMIC PAPERS: Split This Rock treasures scholarly interventions, but the Poetry Festival is not an academic conference. While your work may draw on scholarly lineages, please propose sessions for a general audience from a range of backgrounds. Proposals focused primarily on the presentation of academic papers will not be considered.

**All presenters with accepted proposals must register individually for Split This Rock Poetry Festival**. Last year, early bird festival registration for presenters was $100, with a student rate of $50. While these rates may change, we are committed to keeping festival prices reasonable. Scholarships are available.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

**A loving reminder**: Split This Rock Poetry Festival is a national gathering managed by a very small staff. Please follow these instructions carefully so the curation team can give your proposal the best possible consideration. Please take time to develop your proposal and bear in mind that session selection is a very competitive process.

Pro tips:

* Give your proposed session an enticing, meaningful name of 10 words or less (no more than 40 characters).
* Provide FULL contact information for all your session presenters.
* Read session descriptions from previous Festivals to guide your proposal writing.
* Remind all session leaders that they will have to register and pay for their own travel and lodging if the session is accepted. Generous scholarship funds to cover registration fees will be available; we will post a short scholarship application when festival registration opens.
* No formal presentations of academic papers.
* **Send your daring, bold, heartful ideas and help us create the shared spaces we are all longing for.**

Questions? Email us at **poetryfest@splitthisrock.org** or 202-787-5210.

This Festival is made by what we can imagine together. We look forward to reading your proposal!

### Split This Rock Poetry Festival 2020

### Call for Proposals Submissions Instructions

To submit a proposal, please submit the following information to **poetryfest@splitthisrock.org** as a Word document by Monday, July 24, 2019, 11:59 pm PDT.

**PRESENTER INFORMATION**

Please provide the information listed below for your session’s main contact and all additional presenters. Be sure to indicate which person is the main contact. Also be aware that your main contact must be a presenter for the proposed session, all readings and workshops must include more than one person, and there is a limit of 5 presenters per session.

Provide the following required information for the main contact and each additional presenter.

* First Name (Feel free to include middle name(s) in this section.)
* Last Name (Please note this is the name by which this person will be listed alphabetized in the festival program book should your proposal be accepted.)
* E-mail Address
* Phone Number
* Bio (75 words or less written in 3rd person. Please begin with your name. This is the bio that will be in the program book should your proposal be accepted and cannot be changed. Be mindful to include any info that illustrates your unique ability to lead this session.)

As applicable, please also provide this optional information for the main contact and each additional presenter. This information is requested to assist with promotion of the festival should your proposal be accepted.

* Website
* Facebook Username and/or Link
* Twitter Handle
* Instagram Name

### DESCRIBE YOUR SESSION

Session Title -- Provide a title for your proposed session of 10 words or less. Keep in mind that this is the title that will be included in festival materials if your proposed session is accepted and cannot be changed.

Session Description -- In 150 words or less, provide a brief description of your session. Please consider Split This Rock's mission, values, and work as you envision your session. Keep in mind that every session should feature an interactive element, such as a question and answer period. If your session is selected for the 2020 festival, this description will be used to list your session in the program book and cannot be changed.

Additional Session Information -- Tell us about your proposed session by answering the following questions:

* Is your proposed session a workshop, reading, or panel? Select one.
* If your proposed session is a reading or panel discussion, could it be presented as a workshop?
* In which of the way(s) listed below will this session be interactive? Include all that apply.
	+ Question & Answer Period
	+ Writing Prompts
	+ Sharing Poems Written in Session
	+ Discussion Period
	+ Activism
	+ Movement or Games
* What resources listed below would you like to request for this session? Include all that apply. Note: This question helps us assess presenter needs for the festival. If your session is selected, we will do our best to fill the requests and will be in touch to confirm what will be supplied. Though we cannot guarantee that these resources will be available for every session, accommodations requested based on disability will be our highest priority. Accessibility requests for all attendees, including presenters, will be gathered during registration.)
	+ Projection Equipment
	+ Internet Access
	+ Easel Paper/Blackboard/Dry Erase Board
	+ No Resources Needed
* Does your session address any of the areas below? Select all that apply. Note: These themes are often underrepresented among proposals. We welcome proposals that address these topics and experiences, either on their own or in combination with other themes.
	+ Disability Justice
	+ Indigenous/Native Lives
	+ Poverty/Economic Inequality
	+ Reproductive Rights/Justice
	+ Trans Lives & Liberation

### Session Theme List

From the list below, what are 3 primary topics that your session will focus on?Choose 3 primary topics your session will focus upon.

* Activism
* Aging & Countering Ageism
* Animals/Animals Rights
* Body/Body Image
* Civic Participation
* Disability Justice
* Dismantling White Supremacy
* Ending Police Brutality
* Environment/Eco-Justice
* Food & Hunger
* Gender
* Gentrification
* Global Perspectives
* Health/Health Care/Illness
* History & Elders
* Homelessness
* Immigration Justice
* Indigenous/Native Lives
* Intergenerational Community
* Language & Translation
* Mental Health
* Poetics
* Poverty/Economic Inequality
* Prison Industrial Complex
* Race/Ethnicity/Racism
* Reproductive Rights/Justice
* Resisting Islamophobia
* Resisting Empire/Decolonization
* Sexuality
* Social Movements/Resistance
* Spiritual Practice/Ceremony
* Spoken Word
* Teaching
* Trans Lives & Liberation
* Veterans/Military
* Violence & War
* Womanism/Feminism
* Writing Techniques, Prompts, Etc
* Youth/Countering Adultism

### Consent Statement

When submitting your proposal, you must include the following statement in your email to confirm your consent:

I am aware that session presenters for all accepted proposals will be required to register for the festival prior to attending the festival. I have been informed that a special presenter rate and scholarships will be available. I confirm that all presenters listed on this proposal are available to lead this session between 9 am and 6 pm on either Friday, March 27 or Saturday, March 28. I am aware that if my session is selected, it would be scheduled on one of these two days. I consent to having the bios and session description included in this proposal copy edited to match Split This Rock’s style guide.

More information about copy editing: Split This Rock balances following our style guide with honoring the wide range of expression and always seeks to preserve each writer’s individual voice.

**Thank you for submitting your proposal! We look forward to reading it.**