

**QUESTION #1:** What is the Writers House

**ANSWER:** As one of only six Writers Houses in the country, and the second to be built after the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, The Philadelphia Alumni Writers House is a literary performance space – and so much more. Each school year, the Writers House Community (including you!) re-defines the House, creating their ideal of what a space devoted to readers and writers should be and bringing invention to each program we host. Yet there are some common themes that shape all of our programs.

- We foster and nurture student creativity.
- we work with faculty and students to support the curriculum across disciplines.
- We bring world-class writers into conversation with emerging writers and readers.
- We build stronger ties between current students, alumni, faculty, and featured writers.

We do all of this to commune together as part of a lively, larger world of writing, publishing, creating, and interpreting.

**QUESTION #2:** When did the Writers House begin?

**ANSWER:** Officially, the Writers House opened its doors in 2004. But before the actual building existed, students, faculty and staff initiated the first iteration of the Writers House Community and began planning and hosting literary programs across campus. At the same time, they laid the foundation for how the Writers House would live and thrive on the Franklin & Marshall campus.

**QUESTION #3:** What will be expected of me during my visit to the Writers House?

**ANSWER:** Most times, a guest will be giving an 8 PM reading or presentation at the Writers House (633 College Avenue). This event takes place in the Reading Room, a comfortable living room atmosphere with comfy couches and a fireplace. There is also a podium and microphone for your use. Our readings typically last 45 minutes with 15 minutes for a question and answer period. There is a 6 PM dinner in the Writers House dining room, or at a nearby restaurant, before your reading. A small group of faculty, or faculty and students, attends. In addition, you may be asked to give a class visit earlier in the day, as students will be reading your work in anticipation of your visit. If you are not scheduled for an evening presentation, you will likely be giving a craft talk at 4:30. This is more informal than an evening lecture and consists of more time for student questions and dialogue between you and them on a specific aspect of your writing life. Finally, you may participate in our Writers in the Schools program (for an additional honorarium), in which you will visit a local elementary or high school to give a short presentation to students about your work and career. Please visit the link on the Guest Artist page.

**QUESTION #4:** How do I get to the Writers House?

**ANSWER:** The Writers House will work with you to have your travel expenses reimbursed. We ask that you make your own plane or train reservations (as you know your schedule and area better than we) and let us know your arrangements as soon as you can. We will arrange to pick you up, or have a car do so, when you arrive in Lancaster. Please be sure to bring your original receipts with you so we can reimburse you in a timely fashion. If you are driving, the College currently reimburses at 55 cents per mile. You will need to submit an email or print out of the travel route you took, your beginning and ending address, your mileage and any significant detours or stops. Please visit the Contact Us link for driving directions from major nearby cities.

**QUESTION #5:** What are my accommodations during my visit?

**ANSWER:** If you are staying in Lancaster before or after your event, the Writers House will pay one night's lodging and make all of the necessary arrangements. You will either stay at the College's Guest House, a beautiful antique-filled historic home three blocks from the Writers House, or the Lancaster Arts Hotel, an urban chic establishment, also a few blocks from the Writers House. We will reimburse you (with original receipts) for any meals you have while staying with us. If you have free time between your readings, you may relax at the hotel or Guest House, at the Writers House or library, or a student or faculty member will show you around Lancaster if time permits.

**QUESTION #6:** How do I get paid?

**ANSWER:** Once an honorarium has been agreed upon, please click on the “ Event Contract” link on the Guest Artist page. This is a writeable PDF that you can fill out and email back to us. This is information (such as your full address, date of the event, etc.) that is required by the business office to process your payment. Please return this form as soon as possible. If you feel uncomfortable with email, you may print it out and fax it back to us. As long as we receive this contract three weeks prior to your visit, you will receive your honorarium when you are here at the Writers House. Otherwise, we will mail it to your home address.

**QUESTION #7:** Will I be recorded?

**ANSWER:** The Writers House does record (rarely videotapes) each of the readings or events that takes place here. Please see the Recording Contract on the Guest Artist page and sign and return if you agree to the terms. As you will see, the recordings will be used only for nonprofit educational purposes.

**QUESTION #8:** What is the mission of the Writers House?

**ANSWER:** In addition to the information provided in number 1, the Writers House does have an official mission statement, which the Mission Committee composed with lines mined from several student submissions offered from the Writers House Community:

The **Philadelphia Alumni Writers House** welcomes, inspires, feeds, teaches, shares, loves. Among pens, computers, dirty dishes, and good food, more than a community is evoked. It is here where the imagination has no limits and dreams meet reality. We believe that academic and artistic endeavors are fundamentally connected to everyday life. All are welcome to visit, listen, contribute, or just stay a while.