# Vancouver Writers Fest 2023 Program Guide: Simple Text – ASL Interpreted Events

This document contains information about ASL-interpreted events at the 2023 Vancouver Writers Fest.

Visit our website to learn more:

[Ticket information](https://writersfest.bc.ca/box-office)

[Accessibility at the Festival](https://writersfest.bc.ca/accessibility)

[Venue Maps](https://writersfest.bc.ca/venue-maps)

[Information for Teachers](https://writersfest.bc.ca/info-for-teachers)

01. Between The Pages: An Evening with the Scotiabank Giller Prize Finalists

Monday, October 16 7:30pm at Playhouse Theatre ($30)

ASL Interpretation Provided

Without fail, the winner of the annual Scotiabank Giller Prize becomes a household name in Canada. Those shortlisted also step into the proverbial CanLit Hall of Fame, their titles splashed across best-of lists for good reason. No wonder the Giller shortlist has become a staple of many bibliophiles’ reading lists. We’re delighted to celebrate these visionary authors to kick off the Festival with the cross-Canada Between the Pages tour. Find out who’ll be on stage when the shortlist is announced on October 11th! Check our website for the full lineup of authors. Moderated by Leslie Hurtig. Presented in partnership with the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/01>

16. Inheriting Truth

Tuesday, October 17 8:30pm at Revue Stage ($25)

ASL Interpretation Provided, Guest Curator Event

These books consciously deal with the weight of inheritance, whether it’s inheriting story, self-mythology, or trauma. How do we make sense of what’s been passed down to us? Three lauded novelists discuss just this with our Guest Curator Elamin Abdelmahmoud. Janika Oza’s instant national bestseller, *A History of Burning*, follows three sisters across generations as they experience the reverberations of their family’s past. katherena vermette’s *The Circle*, a sequel to *The Break*, shares the far-reaching consequences of a missing woman in a small community. And Ada Zhang’s exceptional debut, *The Sorrows of Others*, probes intergenerational ties that bind. Each shows why the webs and depths of inheritance are as powerful as they are often invisible.

*Presented in partnership with UBC Library.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/16>

31. Blackness as a Portal, Blackness as the Frame

Wednesday, October 18 8:30pm at Waterfront Theatre ($25)

ASL Interpretation Provided, Guest Curator Event

Each of these writers analyze their relationship to Blackness from different vantage points and from different ends. In what promises to be a fascinating, powerful discussion, they will share why they write about Black experience, whether through memoir, historical analysis, or cultural criticism, and their relationship to Blackness. The panel includes three of the most exciting literary minds today, brought together by our Guest Curator, Elamin Abdelmahmoud. Aisha Harris *(Wannabe)* is “one of our smartest, most entertaining modern cultural critics” *(ELLE)*. Suzette Mayr won the Giller Prize and many others for her astonishingly creative, enveloping *The Sleeping Car Porter*. And Christina Sharpe *(Ordinary Notes)* is regularly hailed as inventive, dazzling, and intellectually expansive in her work. *Moderated by Jasmine Sealy.*

*Presented in partnership with Hogan's Alley Society.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/31>

45. Celeste Ng in Conversation

Thursday, October 19 7:30pm at Granville Island Stage ($25)

ASL Interpretation Provided

Where does one start when listing the accolades and praise for Celeste Ng’s deeply felt, intelligent body of work? *Little Fires Everywhere* sold millions of copies worldwide and was adapted to a highly acclaimed series on Hulu. Of her latest, *Our Missing Hearts*, Stephen King shared that “it’s impossible not to be moved,” while *TIME, NPR, People, The Globe and Mail*, and more, listed it as a book of the year. This inspiring book about the bond between a mother and son, and her unbreakable love, was one of the biggest books of 2022. With the paperback releasing this fall, this lauded author—whose work has been published in more than 30 languages—will speak to her work to date… and what comes next. *Moderated by Jael Richardson.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/45>

53. Book Banning in a Precarious Age

Friday, October 20 1:00pm at Performance Works ($25)

ASL Interpretation Provided

Book banning is on the rise. In the United States, 2,532 books were banned in 2021/22, the majority of which explore LGBTQ2S+ issues or have a protagonist who is a person of colour. Books that weren’t political are suddenly cast as such. Librarians and teachers face losing their careers for sharing stories about a fair, more diverse world. What’s to be done about this expanding crisis of censorship? Could the same thing happen in Canada… or is it already? Marsha Lederman speaks with Jen Ferguson *(Those Pink Mountain Nights)*, Casey Plett *(A Safe Girl to Love),* and Aden Polydoros *(Wrath Becomes Her)*; three writers whose works remind us that human rights should be non-negotiable, in literature and beyond. *Moderated by Marsha Lederman.*

*Presented thanks to the generous support of the Al Roadburg Foundation.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/53>

65. Chinatown: Past and Future

Saturday, October 21 10:30am at Performance Works ($25)

ASL Interpretation Provided

In this important, prescient event, writers, and artists explore what it means to be Chinese in North America. They explore threats to Chinese North American heritage, community, and wellbeing including spreading gentrification across Vancouver, Toronto, and San Francisco, home to the largest Chinese diasporic populations in the West. They also offer a vividly accessible way to celebrate the sustained vibrance of these communities. Don’t miss this conversation with Daniel Innes and Christina Wong *(Denison Avenue),* Fae Myenne Ng *(Orphan Bachelors)*, and Henry Tsang *(White Riot)*. *Moderated by Kevin Chong.*

*Presented in partnership with Chinatown Storytelling Centre.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/65>

79. Food for Thought

Sunday, October 22 11:00am at Performance Works ($45)

ASL Interpretation Provided

A revitalized take on our Sunday Brunch, Food for Thought presents six authors exploring topics at the forefront of our minds. Charlotte Gill *(Almost Brown)* fearlessly examines the complexities of life within a multicultural household. Jérémie Harris simplifies AI and the universe, in *Quantum Physics* *Made Me Do It*. Holly Hogan is a wildlife biologist who brings a warning of the devastating effect we’re having on the ocean in *Message in a Bottle*. In Races, Valerie Jerome sets the record straight on her heroic family’s history and the racism they fought along the way. Helen Knott gets straight to the heart of what matriarchy truly means in *Becoming a Matriarch*. And Stephen Marche offers pithy, witty guidance on the craft we love in *On Writing and Failure*. Guests will also enjoy a continental breakfast of croissant, fruit and yogurt, tea and coffee, and our signature mimosas. *Moderated by Kathryn Gretsinger.*

Link: <https://writersfest.bc.ca/festival-event-2023/79>

(**Please note: There is no ASL Interpretation for event 48**. We apologize for any confusion caused by the ASL designation for that event in our printed Program Guide.)