

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF WRITING INSTRUCTION AND DISCUSSION



The TEXAS WRITES Program at the Mammen Family Public Library

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 AT 10 AM**

131 BULVERDE CROSSING, BULVERDE, TX 78163

**PRE-REGISTRATION SUGGESTED | CALL (830) 438-4864**

**"DON'T SLEEP ON SETTING: MAKING  
PLACES COME ALIVE"  
WITH KIMBERLY GARZA**

Great writing has the power to transport us to places near and far, foreign and familiar. But often, setting is an afterthought for writers, separate from plot and character. How can we make place more than just background and landscape—turn it into a vital part of the stories we tell? We'll look at examples of writing that spotlights setting and share tips for creating vivid, complicated places on the page, where character, plot, and conflict can emerge.

**Kimberly Garza** is the author of the novel *The Last Karankawas* (2022, Henry Holt). Her stories and essays have appeared in *Texas Highways*, *Electric Literature*, *LitHub*, *Copper Nickel*, and elsewhere. She holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas, where she earned a PhD in 2019. A native Texan—born in Galveston, raised in Uvalde—she is an associate professor of creative writing and literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio.



**"WRITING FROM THE I: TRANSFERRING  
THE PERSONAL INTO POETRY"  
WITH AMANDA JOHNSTON**

Inspiration is all around us and often comes from our lived experiences. In this workshop, participants will catalog the everyday and extraordinary moments from their lives and learn how to use that source material to create poems that speak to our shared human experience.

**Amanda Johnston** is a writer, artist, and the 2024 Texas Poet Laureate. She is the author of two chapbooks, *GUAP* and *Lock & Key*, and the full-length collection *Another Way to Say Enter*. Her work has appeared in online and print publications, among them, *Callaloo*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Offing*, and the anthologies, *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry* and *Women of Resistance: Poems for a New Feminism*. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem, Hedgebrook, and The Watermill Center. She is a former Board President of Cave Canem, an Affrilachian Poet, and founder of Torch Literary Arts.



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