

# Poetry Downtown 2024



**Edgar Allan Poe**  
January 19, 1809 - October 7, 1849



# The Raven

**Edgar Allan Poe**  
January 19, 1809 - October 7, 1849



## Colofon:

**Publisher:**  
House Of Craziness

**Jury:**  
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G. H. Mosson, Poet

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**Lecturers:**  
Geraldine Cannon Becker, Roger McCormack,  
John Gruesser, Amy Branam Armiento

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# Introduction

Dear Poets,

In celebration of my 50th birthday in 2021, I introduced the LA Poetry Beach Festival to America. Each year, I honored an esteemed American poet with our festival and its Poetry Train from New York to Los Angeles.

Despite significant investment, the first three editions did not meet expectations. Therefore, I have decided to rebrand the festival from LA Poetry Beach Festival (2021-2023) to Poetry Downtown Festival..

I have also decided to change the route of the Poetry Train. Starting in 2024, we will no longer connect the two largest cities in America. Instead, the festival and its Poetry Train will begin each year from the birthplace of our honored poet and conclude in the city where they passed away.

This year, we will travel through 18 cities across 8 states, from Boston to Baltimore, celebrating Edgar Allan Poe with "The Raven." In 2025, we will honor John Trudell with "Look At Us," starting in Omaha and ending in Santa Clara County. Through this, the festival will eventually reach poets in nearly every state.

The Poetry Downtown Festival 2024 will feature readings, lectures, poetry cycles, a radio play, and many more events in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore respectively.

While the LA Poetry Beach Festival holds a special place in our hearts, we look forward to the future of Poetry Downtown.

Warm regards,

Erik Van Loon  
Poetry Downtown

P.S. On September 30, I will visit the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond. Join!

September 27

# Boston



8.00 - 11.00 am Poetry Cycle  
(62 Charles Street South, Boston)

## Edgar Allan Poe in Boston

A poetry cycle of 5 miles in which we cycle from Edgar Allan Poe from his birthplace, via Poe Square to Fort Independence where he was stationed.

1.00 - 2.00 pm Lecture  
(Commonwealth Room, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St.)

## Literacy Through Poetry

Prof. Geraldine Cannon Becker, poet and professor at the University of Maine at Fort Kent gives a lecture about how poetry can help fight illiteracy.

3.00 - 4.00 pm Radio Play  
(Commonwealth Room, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St.)  
Sponsored by Lau Lapidis Company

## A Voyage To The Moon

In the Commonwealth Room, we embark with max. 80 people on a solo trip with Edgar Allan Poe character Hans Phaall en route to the Moon, escaping civilization and crossing to another planetary body.

8.00 - 10.00 pm Readings  
(Long Wharf Pavilion, 74 Long Wharf)

## Poetry Downtown Boston

13 selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm PATCH

## PATCH Boston

Poetry and Tales Cocktail Hour



Graffiti Alley, Baltimore

September 28

# New York



## Poetry Train

SEPTEMBER 28  
MASSACHUSETTS  
6.10 AM BOSTON (BOS)  
6.15 AM BOSTON (BBY)  
6.25 AM ROUTE 128  
RHODE ISLAND  
6.50 AM PROVIDENCE  
7.11 AM KINGSTON  
7.25 AM WESTERLY  
CONNECTICUT  
7.45 AM NEW LONDON  
8:04 AM OLD SAYBROOK  
8:43 AM NEW HAVEN  
9:30 AM STAMFORD  
NEW YORK  
10:22 AM NYC PENN

10.30 - 11.00 am Gathering  
(Penn Station, Corner 8th Av and 31st Street)

## Neither Snow Nor Rain

Poets checkpoint at Penn Station.

12.30 - 1.30 pm Lecture  
(Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx)

## Edgar Allan Poe in New York

Roger McCormack from the Bronx Historical Society tells us about Edgar Allan Poe's life in New York.

1.30 - 3.30 pm Readings  
(Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx)

## Poetry Downtown New York

13 selected poets read their work.



WWW.POETRYDOWNTOWN.COM

September 28-29



PoetryOnAir.com

# PHILADELPHIA

## Poetry Train

SEPTEMBER 28  
NEW YORK  
5.05 PM NYC PENN  
NEW JERSEY  
5:22 PM NEWARK  
5.27 PM NEWARK AIRPORT  
5.40 PM METROPARK  
6.03 PM TRENTON  
PENNSYLVANIA  
6.30 PM PHILADELPHIA

7.00 - 8.00 pm Lecture  
(Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square)

### Poe in Popular Culture

John Gruesser will discuss Edgar Allan Poe's appearances in comics, fiction, film, theatre, television, and games.

8:00 - 10.00 pm Readings  
(Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square)

### Poetry Downtown Philadelphia

13 selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm PATCH

### PATCH Philadelphia

Poetry and Tales Cocktail Hour

## September 29

9.00 - 11.30 am Poetry Cycle  
(William H. Gray III - 30th Street Station, 2955 Market Street)

### Edgar Allan Poe in Philadelphia

A poetry cycle of 5 miles from the Amtrak Station via ao Einstein brains and the President's House to the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site and back!

ADVERTISEMENT

140 X 40 MM

180 USD

September 29



PoetryOnAir.com

# Baltimore

## Poetry Train

SEPTEMBER 29  
PENNSYLVANIA  
11.21 AM PHILADELPHIA  
DELAWARE  
11.43 AM WILMINGTON  
MARYLAND  
12.38 PM BALTIMORE

2.00 - 3.00 pm Lecture  
(Gallery Area 405, 405 E. Oliver St.)

### Edgar Allan Poe Brilliant or Mad?

Amy Branam Armiento, is professor of English at Frostburg State University delivers a lecture on the brilliance and according to some, the madness of Edgar Allan Poe.

3.00 - 6.00 pm Poetry Cycle  
(Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum, 203 N Amity St)

### Edgar Allan Poe in Baltimore

A poetry cycle of 4 miles from Edgar Allan Poe's House via the cemetery and Church Home & Hospital to Fell's Point.

8:00 - 10.00 pm Readings  
(Protean Books & Records, 836 Leadenhall St)

### Poetry Downtown Baltimore

13 selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm PATCH

### PATCH Baltimore

Poetry and Tales Cocktail Hour

ADVERTISEMENT

140 X 60 MM

230 USD

***We the poets foster  
intelligence, literacy,  
confidence and imagination.  
With words we infuse our lives  
with fun, energy and change.***

***Join your local poets or  
writers club, and ensure  
success, spread happiness  
and - most of all - ignite  
positive change!***

**Erik van Loon**  
**House Of Crazyess**

# Bio Edgar Allan Poe

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(January 19, 1809 Boston, MA - October 7, 1849 Baltimore, MD)

Edgar Allan Poe, one of America's most celebrated poets and authors, had a tumultuous yet highly influential life, marked by his stays in various cities that shaped his literary career.

## **Boston**

Born in Boston in 1809, Poe published his first collection of poems, "Tamerlane and Other Poems," in 1827 under the pseudonym "A Bostonian." Despite his Boston beginnings, Poe's literary journey took him to several other key cities.

## **Richmond**

Richmond played a crucial role in Poe's life, serving as his home during his formative years and later during his adulthood. It was in Richmond that he began his writing career, contributing to local magazines and honing his skills as a poet and storyteller.

## **New York**

In New York, Poe found a significant platform for his writing. It was here that he published his first novel, "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket" in 1838. In New York he wrote also his famous poem "The Raven."

## **Philadelphia**

During his years in Philadelphia, he worked as an editor for various magazines and published his most notable short story "The Fall of the House of Usher". This period is often regarded as the most productive phase of his writing life.

## **Baltimore**

Finally in Baltimore, the city where Poe got married and where he ultimately died, he won a literary prize with "MS. Found in a Bottle," which marked his first major success.

Those cities but also Charlottesville, Virginia (1826) and London, UK (1815-1820) played a crucial role in the development of Poe's literary genius, contributing to his enduring legacy as a master of the macabre and the mysterious.



# Anthology and Zine

Every year, we release a Poetry Downtown anthology (see right), showcasing the finest selection of poems. This year we also creating a Zine at the Poetry Train. All poets, writers, designers, artists, and photographers aboard the Poetry Train are invited to contribute to the Poetry Train Zine 2024.

There's just one rule: all creations must be made aboard the Poetry Train itself. For instance, if you wish to include a photo, you can use our vintage SX-70 Polaroid instant camera. Similarly, for typewritten works, our antique 'Charles Bukowski's' portable Underwood typewriter is at your disposal.

The Art Drawing Center will provide paper and pencils for your creative endeavors. Let's make this Zine a true reflection of the Poetry Train experience!



**ADVERTISEMENT**  
**32 X 70 MM**  
**100 USD**



**Get Ready To Die**  
**Kenneth Patchen**  
 Dec 13, 1911 – Jan 8, 1972



**LA Poetry Downtown 2021**

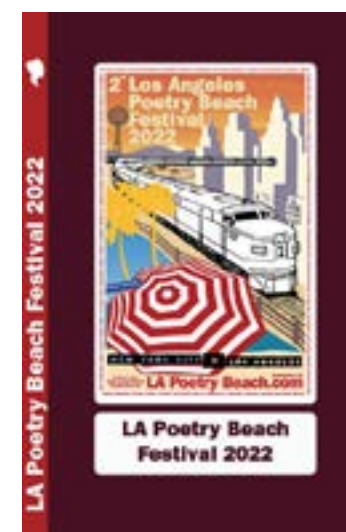
Purchase our inaugural anthology, carefully selected by our jury for the LA Poetry Downtown.

**I Never Could Talk To You**  
**Sylvia Plath**  
 Oct 27, 1932 – Feb 11, 1963

## LA Poetry Downtown 2023

Poets from across America have begun submitting 'I Never Could Talk To You' poems to honor Sylvia Plath, our first commemorated woman in history. Many find solace and relief in expressing their emotions through these heartfelt tributes.

**Some People Never Go Crazy**  
**Charles Bukowski**  
 Aug 16, 1920- Mar 9, 1994



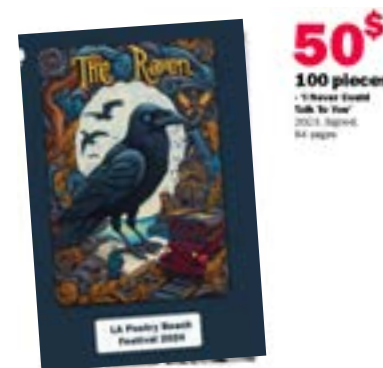
**LA Poetry Downtown 2022**

Poets from 17 states submitted, only the best were chosen. Many poets also joined our first LAPD readings.



Poetry Train  
Polaroid On The Tracks  
Unlimited

Donate \$40 and get an On The Tracks Polaroid photo (3.5 x 4.2 inch) with American Short poem in return!



Poetry Downtown  
Signed Anthology 2024  
100x

Donate \$50 and get a 'The Raven' anthology signed by your favorite Poetry Downtown 2024 poet in return!

# Crowdfunding



Conductors Club  
Septuagenarian Spew  
Unlimited

Donate \$20 and give a Septuagenarian Spew Cocktail to one of the poets at PATCH and we will toast on you!



Poetry Downtown  
Tshirt 2024  
100x

Donate \$50 and get a 3rd Poetry Downtown shirt (sizes s, m, l and xl) in return!



Poetry Train  
Ticket 2024  
50x

Donate \$100 and we give your Poetry Train ticket Boston to Baltimore to a poet!



Poetry Cab  
Art & Poetry Book  
250x

Donate \$125 and get a by Erik Van Loon signed Poetry Cab - Art & Poetry book with unique videos, poems and photos of Poetry Cab 2025!

[www.poetrydowntown.com/crowdfunding](http://www.poetrydowntown.com/crowdfunding)

# Buy Art

Each year, I personally fund the Poetry Downtown Festival. Participating poets contribute only \$5 each, which is insufficient to cover all expenses, including Poetry Downtown, the Poetry Train, and the events in Boston, New York, and Baltimore.

To support the festival and poetry in general, I am selling my ten 33 x 20 ft "I Will Win" paintings from the NYC Marathon at [www.erikvanloon.com](http://www.erikvanloon.com)

**I Will Win**  
2005



**The News**  
2006



**The Statue**  
2007



**The Runner**  
2008



**The History**  
2009



**The Creation**  
2010



**The Crisis**  
2011



**The Elections**  
2012



**The War**  
2013



**The End**  
2014



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Friday, September 27

10-11 am Lecture  
**Literacy Through Poetry**

4-5 pm Radio Play  
**A Voyage To The Moon**

8-11 pm Poetry Downtown  
**Boston**

Saturday, September 28

10-11 am Lecture  
**Poe in Popular Culture**

12-2 pm Poetry Downtown  
**New York**

5.15-6.15 pm Talkshow  
**The Raven**

8-11 pm Poetry Downtown  
**Philadelphia**

Sunday, September 29

10-11 am Lecture  
**Are We All Insane?**

2-3 pm Concert  
**The Raven Concert**

8-11 pm Poetry Downtown  
**Baltimore**

[www.PoetryOnAir.com](http://www.PoetryOnAir.com)

Since 2024

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140 X 84 MM

300 USD



(ONLY FOR POETS AND LOVERS)

**Poetry And Tales Cocktail Hour**

Everynight from 10 till 11 pm you can meet at PATCH your favorite poet in person and hear their poems and stories!



## Poetry Film and Anthology

Every poem performed in our Hollywood-style backseat film studio will be filmed and published!



## POETRY CAB

write a poem about your town or city and win a free ride during the National Poetry Month!

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### Rules:

- poetrycab.com/rules
- Age limit 21+
- Max 28 lines
- Entry fee \$ 10

### Sponsors:



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