

Poetry Downtown 2024 Guide



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



The Raven

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



**HOUSE OF
CRAZINESS**

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Publisher:

House Of Craziness

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Cover:

Photo AI

Special thanks:

Deandra Williams, Boston Public Library

Lau Lapidés, Lua Lapidés Company, Boston

Julia Gokalp, Philadelphia Ethical Society

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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.

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) into 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 the poet we honored 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 legacy 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 respectively Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore..

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

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and de passion to reach for the start to change the world."
-- Harriet Tubman

September 27

Boston



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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.



Graffiti Alley, Baltimore

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

selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm PATCH

Poetry And Tales Cocktail Hour

+ Ultimate Typewriter Showdown

September 28

New York



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Poetry Train

SEPTEMBER 28

MASSACHUSETTS

6.35 AM BOSTON (BOS)

6.40 AM BOSTON (BBY)

6.50 AM ROUTE 128

RHODE ISLAND

7.15 AM PROVIDENCE

7.36 AM KINGSTON

7.50 AM WESTERLY

CONNECTICUT

8.12 AM NEW LONDON

8.31 AM OLD SAYBROOK

9.06 AM NEW HAVEN

9.55 AM STAMFORD

NEW YORK

10.16 AM NEW ROCHELLE

10.51 AM NYC PENN

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

Neither Snow Nor Rain

Under Neither Snow Nor Rain at Penn Station poets on the Poetry Train and poets from New York and other cities in America come together. At exactly 11.00 am we walk to Herald Square to take the D-Train to Poe Park.

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.

**After the lecture you get the opportunity to visit the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage!*

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

Poetry Downtown New York

selected poets read their work.

5.00 - 6.00 pm Workshop
(Poetry Train)

Zine Making

+ Ultimate Typewriter Showdown
Artist Erik van Loon teach the poets, artist, musicians, writers and others on the Poetry Train how to make the first Poetry Train Zine in history.

September 28-29

PHILADELPHIA



PoetryOnAir.com

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

September 28

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. The official title of this lecture is Quoth the Raven: 'Eat My Shorts': The Literature and Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe.

8:00 - 10:00 pm

Readings

(Philadelphia Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square)

Poetry Downtown Philadelphia

Selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm

PATCH

Poetry And Tales Cocktail Hour

+ Ultimate Typewriter Showdown

September 29

8.00 - 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!

September 29

Baltimore

Poetry Train

SEPTEMBER 29

PENNSYLVANIA

11.56 AM PHILADELPHIA

DELAWARE

12.18 AM WILMINGTON

MARYLAND

1.10 PM BALTIMORE

2.00 - 3.00 pm Lecture
(Nightclub The Depot, 1728 N Charles 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.

3.30 - 6.00 pm Poetry Cycle
(Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum, 203 N Amity St)

Edgar Allan Poe in Baltimore

A poetry cycle of 5 miles from Edgar Allan Poe's former house via the Westminder Hall and Burying Ground to Frederique Douglas Head at Fell's Point.

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

Poetry Downtown Baltimore

Selected poets read their work.

10.00 - 11.00 pm Patch

Poetry And Tales Cocktail Hour

+ Ultimate Typewriter Showdown



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***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 Crazyness

Bio Edgar Allan Poe

(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, VA (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. 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!

- since 2018 -
**ART
DRAWING
CENTER**
www.artdrawingcenter.com



**LA Poetry Beach
Festival 2023**

*I never could
talk to you*
Sylvia Plath



LA Poetry Downtown 2023

I Never Could Talk To You
Sylvia Plath

Oct 27, 1932 – Feb 11, 1963

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.

Get Ready To Die
Kenneth Patchen

Dec 13, 1911 – Jan 8, 1972

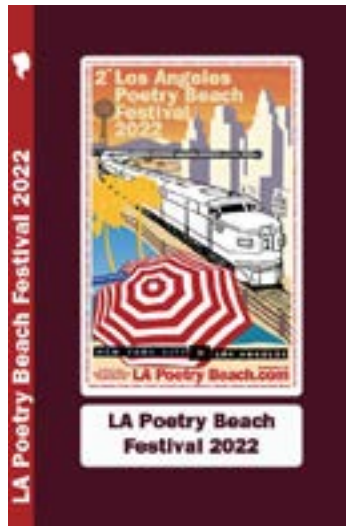


Poetry Downtown 2021

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

Some People Never Go Crazy
Charles Bukowski

Aug 16, 1920- Mar 9, 1994



Poetry Downtown 2022

Poets from 17 states submitted, only the best were chosen. 2022 had also it's first Poetry Train.



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 \$30 and get our 4th Poetry **Downtown** shirt (sizes s, m, l and xl) in return! We have three different prints!



**Poetry Train
Polaroid On The Tracks
Unlimited**

Donate \$75 and get an American Short on Polaroid photo (3.5 x 4.2 inch) signed by Erik van Loon 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!



**Poetry Drink
4x**

Donate \$250 and have a drink while Erik van Loon types on his typewriter a personal poem for you in Boston on 9/19, New York on 9/21, Philadelphia on 9/23 or Baltimore on 9/24.



**Poetry Train
Ticket 2024
50x**

Donate \$300 and we give your Poetry Train ticket Boston to Baltimore to a poet!

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

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





PoetryOnAir.com

Friday, September 27

1-2 pm Lecture
Literacy Through Poetry

3-4 pm Radio Play
A Voyage To The Moon

8-10 pm Reading
Boston

Saturday, September 28

12,30-1.30 pm Lecture
Poe in New York

1.30-3.30 pm Reading
New York

7-8 pm Lecture
Poe in Popular Culture

8-10 pm Reading
Philadelphia

Sunday, September 29

2-3 am Lecture
A Mad Genius?

8-10 pm Reading
Baltimore

8-10 pm Final
Ultimate Typewriter Showdown

www.PoetryOnAir.com

Since 2024

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

Sponsors:



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Events on the Poetry Train are for free but you need to register online via

www.poetrydowntown.com

(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!





PoetryOnAir.com



**HOUSE OF
CRAZINESS**

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DOWNTOWN**

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