



AMERICAN
WRITERS
MUSEUM

O V E R V I E W

CHRIS ABANI EDWARD ABBEY ABIGAIL ADAMS HENRY ADAMS **JOHN ADAMS** LÉONIE ADAMS JANE ADDAMS RENATA ADLER JAMES AGEE CONRAD AIKEN DANIEL ALARCÓN EDWARD ALBEE **LOUISA MAY ALCOTT** SHERMAN ALEXIE HORATIO ALGER JR. NELSON ALGREN ISABEL ALLENDE DOROTHY ALLISON JULIA ALVAREZ A.R. AMMONS RUDOLFO ANAYA SHERWOOD ANDERSON MAYA ANGELOU JOHN ASHBERY **ISAAC ASIMOV** JOHN JAMES AUDUBON JOSEPH AUSLANDER PAUL AUSTER MARY AUSTIN **JAMES BALDWIN** TONI CADE BAMBARA AMIRI BARAKA ANDREA BARRETT JOHN BARTH DONALD BARTHELME WILLIAM BARTRAM KATHARINE LEE BATES L. FRANK BAUM ANN BEATTIE **HARRIET BEECHER STOWE** SAUL BELLOW AMBROSE BIERCE ELIZABETH BISHOP HAROLD BLOOM JUDY BLUME LOUISE BOGAN JANE BOWLES PAUL BOWLES T. C. BOYLE RAY BRADBURY WILLIAM BRADFORD ANNE BRADSTREET NORMAN BRIDWELL JOSEPH BRODSKY LOUIS BROMFIELD **GERALDINE BROOKS** GWENDOLYN BROOKS CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN DEE BROWN MARGARET WISE BROWN STERLING A. BROWN WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT PEARL S. BUCK EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS **WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS** OCTAVIA BUTLER ROBERT OLEN BUTLER TRUMAN CAPOTE ERIC CARLE RACHEL CARSON RAYMOND CARVER JOHN CASEY ANA CASTILLO WILLA CATHER MICHAEL CHABON **RAYMOND CHANDLER** JOHN CHEEVER **MARY CHESNUT** CHARLES W. CHESNUTT KATE CHOPIN SANDRA CISNEROS BEVERLY CLEARY BILLY COLLINS INA COOLBRITH JAMES FENIMORE COOPER HART CRANE STEPHEN CRANE ROBERT CREELEY VÍCTOR HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ COUNTEE CULLEN **E.E. CUMMINGS** MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM RICHARD HENRY DANA JR. **EDWIDGE DANTICAT** REBECCA HARDING DAVIS HAROLD L. DAVIS SAMUEL R. DELANY DON DELILLO TOMIE DEPAOLA PETE DEXTER JUNOT DÍAZ PHILIP K. DICK JAMES DICKEY E. V. Rieuwerts IVAN DOIG **H.D. (HILDA DOOLITTLE)** JOHN DOS PASSOS FREDERICK DOUGLASS JAMES EARL RAY LAURENCE DUNBAR STEPHEN DUNN RICHARD EBERHART JONATHAN EDWARDS JOHN EDWARDS JOHN EMERSON **LOUISE ERDRICH** MARTIN ESPADA **JEFFREY EUGENIDES** JAMES T. FARRELL T.S. ELIOT T.Z. GEORGE T.ZGERALD LOUISE FITZHUGH MARTIN FLAVIN JOHN GOULD FLETCHER **HORACE FOSTER** JAMES H. HOPKINS AMIN FRANKLIN **JONATHAN FRANZEN** CHARLES FRAZIER IAN FRAZIER BETTINA FRANKLIN GANNETT CRISTINA GARCIA WILLIAM GASS THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL ELLEN GILCHRIST CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN ALLEN GINSBERG ELLEN GLASGOW **SUSAN GLASPELL** JULIA GLASS LOUISE GLÜCK **WILIAM GOLDMAN** PAUL GOODMAN JAIMY GORDON ULYSSES S. GRANT SHIRLEY ANN GRAU ZANE GREY JOHN GRISHAM DAVID GUTERSON A.B. GUTHRIE JR. JESSICA HAGEDORN ALEX HALEY DONALD HALL ALEXANDER HAMILTON DASHIELL HAMMETT **LORRAINE HANSBERRY** PAUL HARDING MICHAEL S. HARPER BRET HARTE **NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE** ROBERT HAYDEN SHIRLEY HAZZARD LAFCADIO HEARN ANTHONY HECHT LARRY HEINEMANN JOSEPH HELLER LILLIAN HELLMAN ERNEST HEMINGWAY ALEKSANDAR HEMON **PATRICK HENRY** JOHN HERSEY JUAN FELIPE HERRERA OSCAR HIJUELOS ROBERT HILLYER **CHESTER HIMES** EDWARD HIRSCH DANIEL HOFFMAN OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES KHALED HOSSEINI RICHARD HOWARD FANNY HOWE IRVING HOWE JULIA WARD HOWE WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS LANGSTON HUGHES **ZORA NEALE HURSTON** JOHN IRVING WASHINGTON IRVING SHIRLEY JACKSON HARRIET JACOBS **JOSEPHINE JACOBSEN** HENRY JAMES WILLIAM JAMES RANDALL JARRELL THOMAS JEFFERSON GISH JEN SARAH ORNE JEWETT HA JIN ADAM JOHNSON CHARLES JOHNSON CROCKETT JOHNSON DENIS JOHNSON JAMES WELDON JOHNSON JOSEPHINE WINSLOW JOHNSON **EDWARD P. JONES** JAMES JONES ERICA JONG NORTON JUSTER DONALD JUSTICE MACKINLAY KANTOR **ALFRED KAZIN** EZRA JACK KEATS WILLIAM KENNEDY JACK KEROUAC KEN KESEY FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES TRACY KIDDER **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.** STEPHEN KING BARBARA KINGSOLVER MAXINE HONG KINGSTON JAMAICA KINCAID GALWAY KINNELL CAROLYN KIZER JOHN KNOWLES YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA **E.L. KONIGSBURG** JERZY KÓSIŃSKI ALEX KOTLOWITZ

Our Mission

The mission of the American Writers Museum is to engage the public in celebrating American writers and to explore their influence on our history, our identity, our culture, and our daily lives.

There's a story that needs to be told: the story of the extraordinary men and women who have created the written works that have shaped our society since its inception and have informed, inspired and entertained us.

Welcome to the American Writers Museum, the first and only museum of its kind in the United States. Opening in Chicago in Spring 2017, this vibrant, interactive museum will celebrate the lives and works of America's great writers, and their influence on our history and our culture.

- *Permanent exhibits will feature your favorite works and tell the story of your favorite writers, whether they wrote non-fiction or fiction, plays or poetry.*
- *Special galleries will showcase exhibits and artifacts on loan from our nation's historic writers' homes, joining with our museum to tell the behind-the-scenes stories of our great writers.*
- *Diverse educational programs and special events will promote literacy and foster a love of reading and writing.*

In the pages that follow, you can explore the concept design for the museum.

We invite you to join in the celebration.

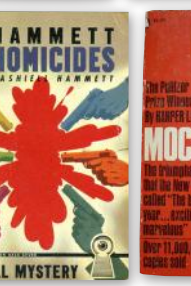
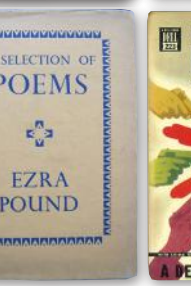
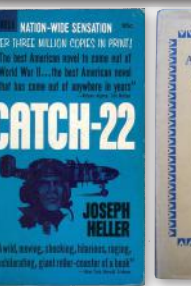
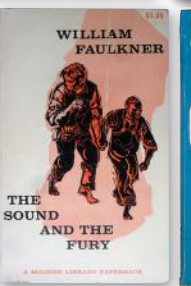
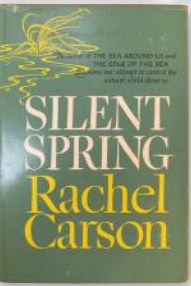
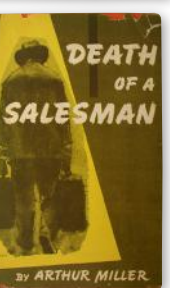
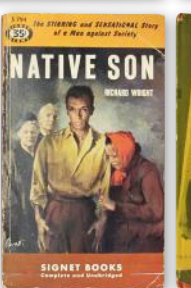
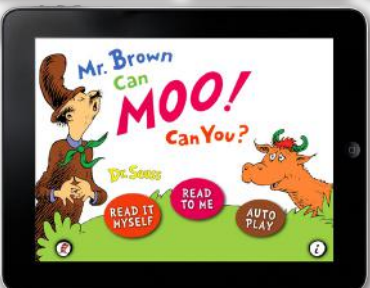
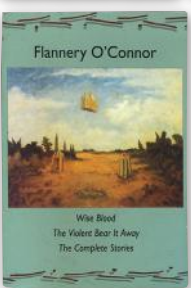
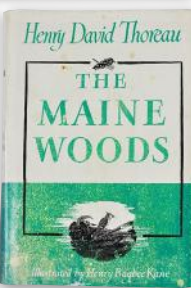
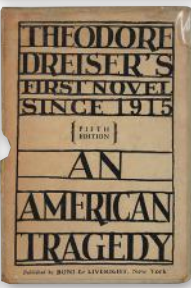
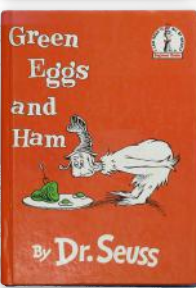
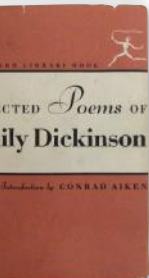
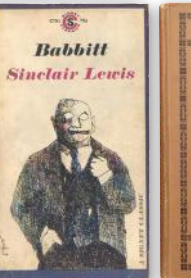
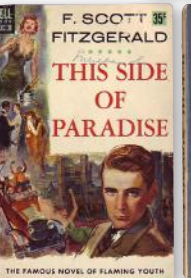
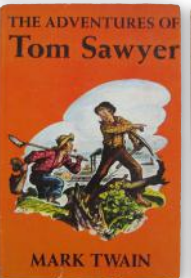
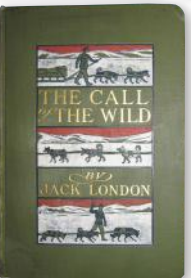
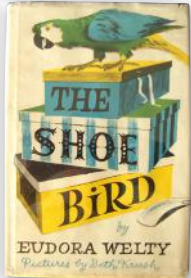
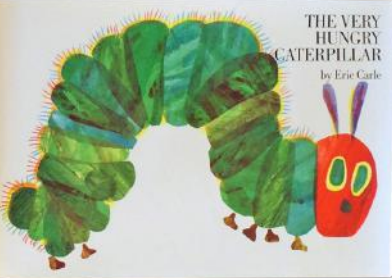
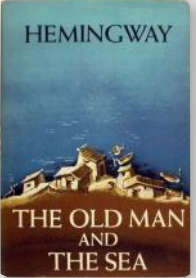
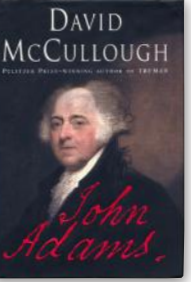
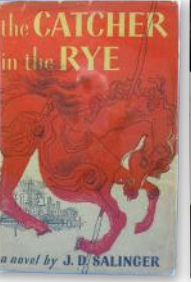
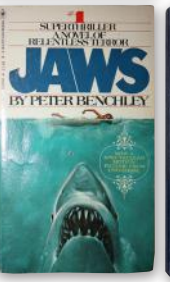
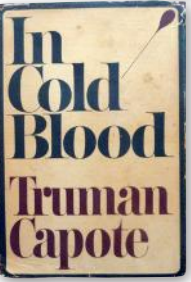
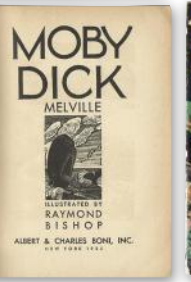
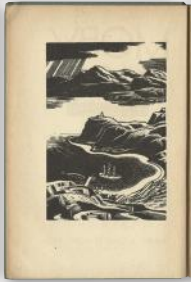
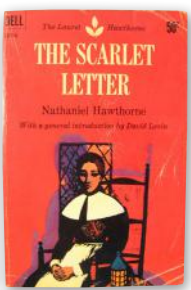
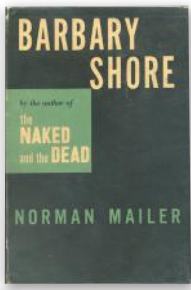
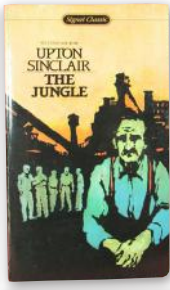
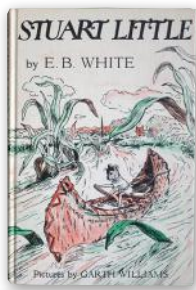


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Where Will it Be?

*AWM will be located in the heart of downtown Chicago on one of the busiest blocks of famed Michigan Avenue. Millennium Park, a magnet for Chicago residents and visitors from all over the world, is one block away. Other cultural attractions in the area include **The Art Institute of Chicago**, **Chicago Symphony Center**, **Pritzker Military Museum and Library**, and the **Chicago Architectural Foundation**. The theatre district lies two blocks to the west. The AWM will be just a short walk away from a number of Chicago's major hotels.*



*Children's
Literature
Gallery*

A Nation of Writers

Changing Gallery

Readers Hall

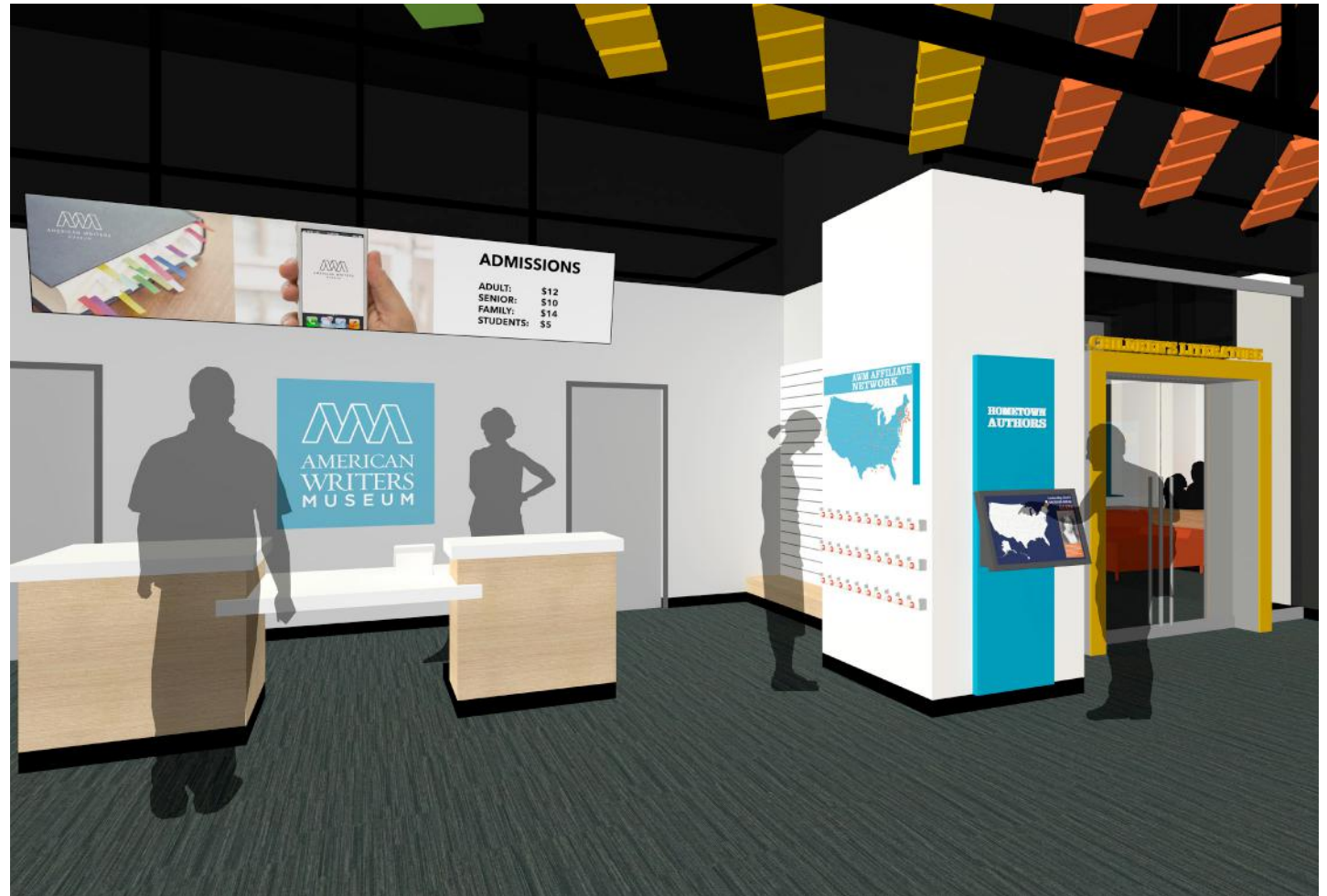
Writers Hall

*Chicago Writers:
Visionaries and
Troublemakers*

The Mind of a Writer

Writers Hall

Writers Hall provides a welcoming, literary-themed arrival, featuring a soaring book sculpture overhead and introductions to AWM's exhibits, programs, and affiliates.



What to See and Do:

- *Great writers come from all corners of the country, including where you live. Our "Home Town Authors" interactive exhibit lets visitors discover the American authors who have lived and worked near them.*
- *Learn about the American Writers Museum's broad network of author-home museum affiliates.*

A Nation of Writers

Utilizing state-of-the-art projection mapping technology, A Nation of Writers introductory film traces the emergence of a distinct “American” form of writing that spans the breadth of the country and the range of writing types.



Mark Twain in front of his boyhood home in Hannibal, Missouri.

What to See and Do:

- What defines “American” writing? Where does this writing come from and how is it exemplified? What will I discover at AWM? In an innovative film format that can be viewed from multiple directions, visitors will be invited to discover answers to these questions as they explore AWM.



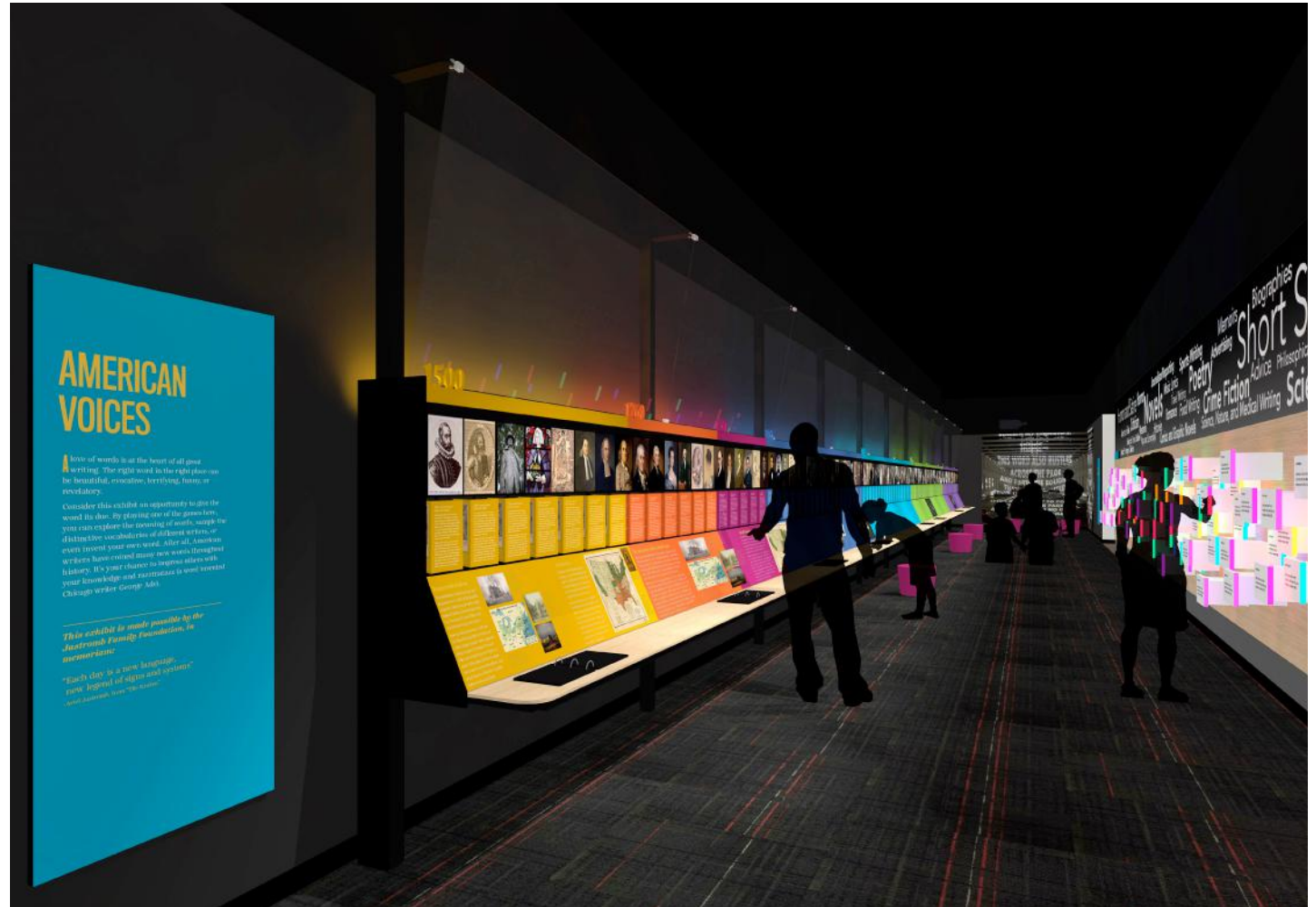
The American prairie – illustrated by Garth Williams in the ‘Little House’ books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.



The Ozarks of Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath,” illustrated by Thomas Hart Benton.

American Voices

American Voices chronicles American literature from the early Native American oral traditions up to the explosion of voices of the 20th century.

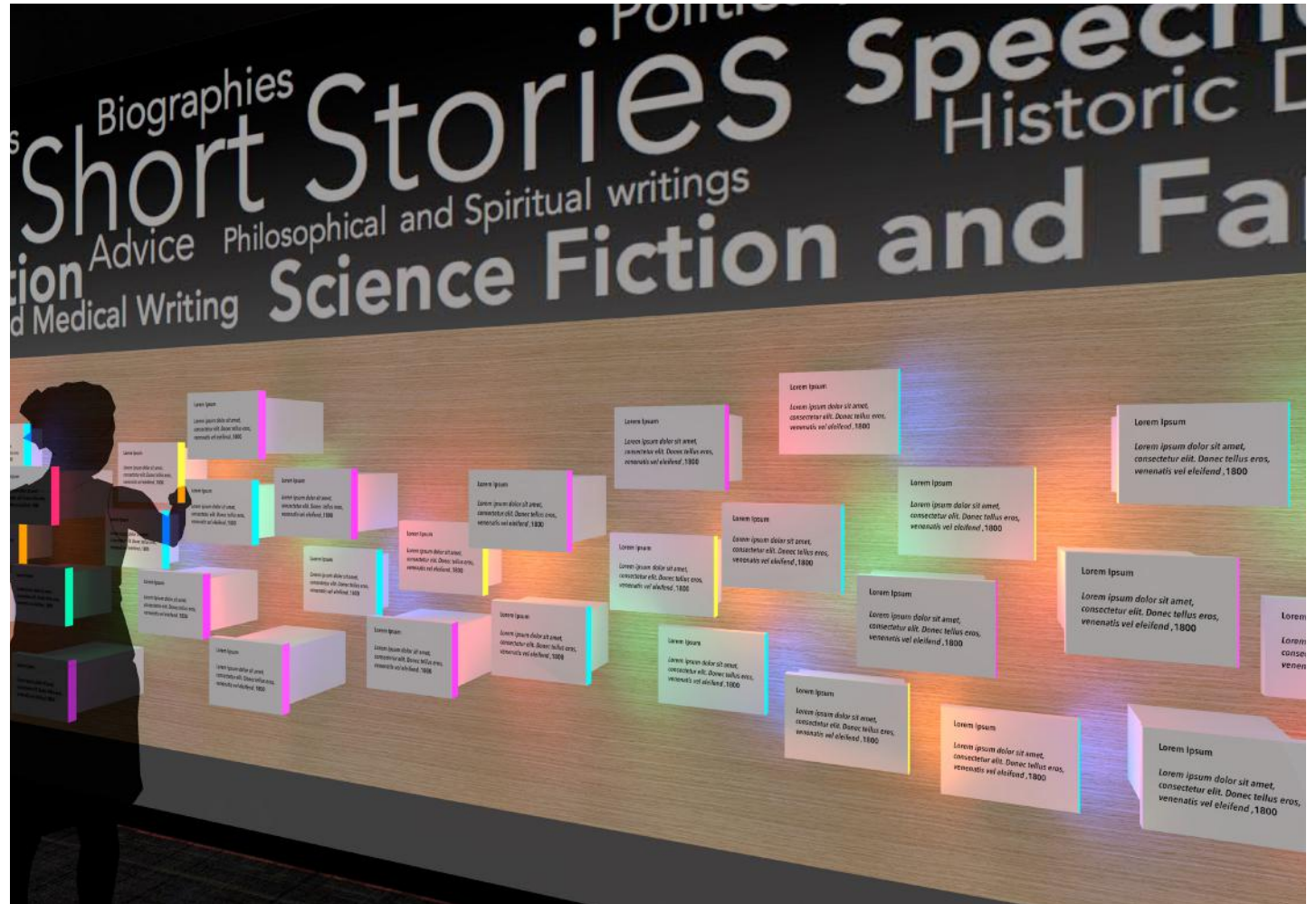


What to See and Do:

- *The 60-foot-long multilayered exhibit wall takes you on a journey through the literary history of the United States.*
- *Explore the country's literary development with Ivy Wilson, Maureen Corrigan and Ilan Stavans, who narrate a thematic and chronological presentation of 100 American writers throughout our history.*

Surprise Bookshelf

While the American Voices timeline chronicles the literary history of America, the Surprise Bookshelf illustrates the breadth and range of American writing by showcasing novels, poems, plays, speeches, editorials, lyrics, screenplays, and more.

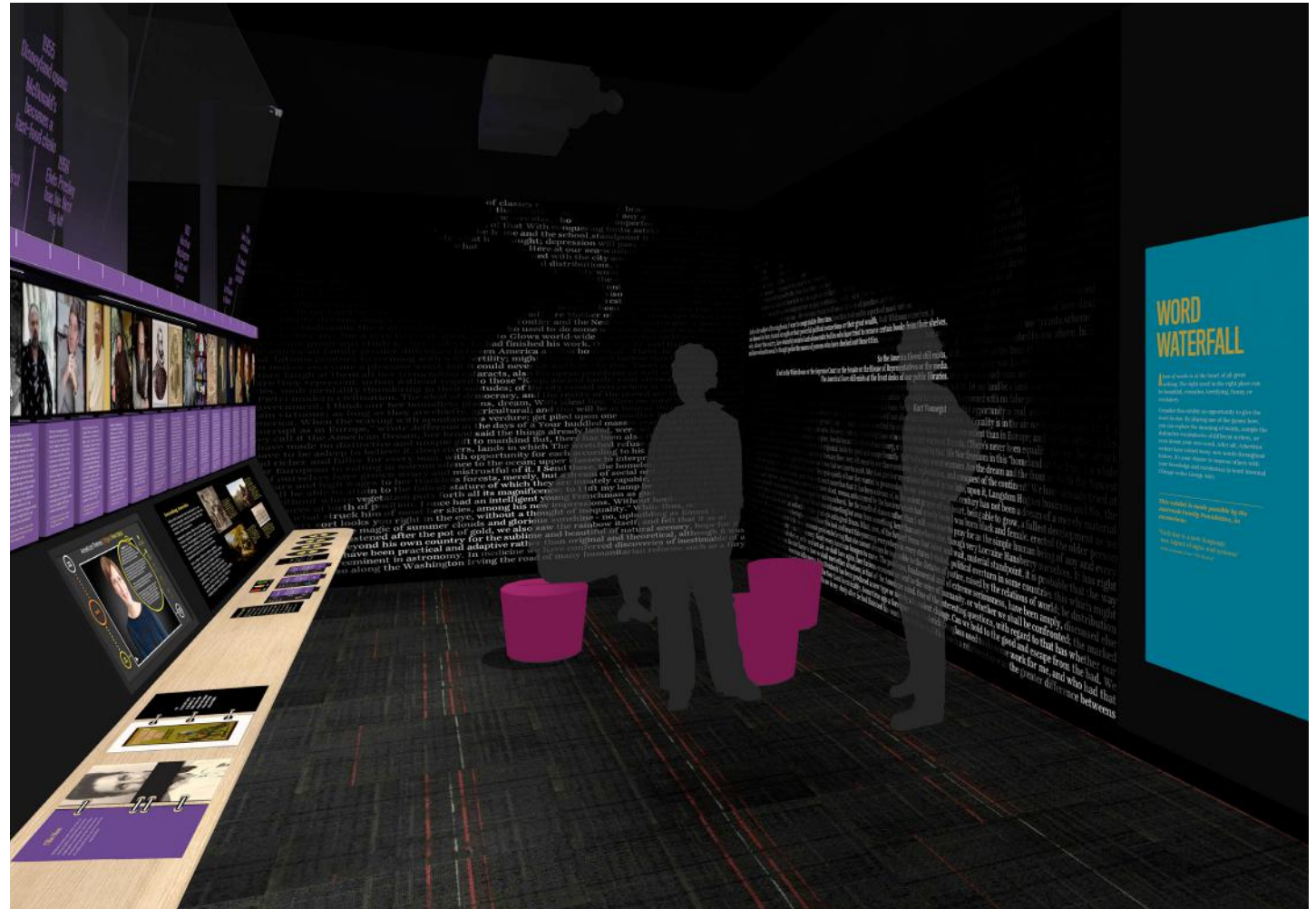
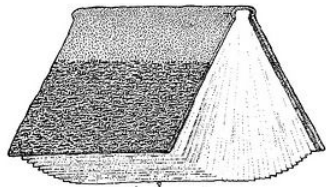


What to See and Do:

- The Surprise Bookshelf will present a series of stunning, edge-lit boxes, each with a hint on its face about an example of American writing. Visitors will slide the lit box to the side to discover inside something interesting, memorable or unusual about the work. When the box lid is slid to its side, the edge lights will animate in a playful pattern.

Word Waterfall

Magic happens here. Words float down and assemble in interesting and memorable ways.



What to See and Do:

- From a distance, you will be enchanted by an evocatively lit, floor-to-ceiling waterfall of words.
- Up close, watch words assemble themselves in stanzas or paragraphs.

The presentation will combine dynamic animation of words from featured works, accompanying imagery (photography, art, video) and a soundscape. In contrast to the highly interactive, content-rich American Identity and Surprise Bookshelf experiences, Word Waterfall is contemplative and meditative.

Readers Hall

This is the museum's primary gathering and multipurpose space. It offers flexible seating and viewing configurations for films, talks, readings, and other events and programs. Readers Hall also offers interpretive exhibits celebrating the role of the reader and writer in American literature.



What to See and Do:

- *Discover the reading habits of our ancestors through the books they had on their shelves.*
- *Learn about the social, cultural and technological developments that influenced written works.*
- *Share your favorite authors and favorite books at a touch-screen kiosk.*

The Mind of a Writer Gallery

Could you be a great writer? In this gallery explore what it takes to produce a masterwork in four distinct exhibit areas: Story of the Day, Word Play, Anatomy of a Masterwork and Featured Works.



What to See and Do:

- *A giant roll of paper will be suspended from the ceiling to an easel, providing the opportunity to create a story. Every day, AWM staff will begin a story by writing a single sentence on the paper, then let visitors continue the story by adding a sentence or paragraph or two of their own. Visitors will be able to download the complete story from the AWM website or order their own copy as a permanent memento of their visit to the museum.*

Word Play

Interactive tabletop consoles offer multiple games that encourage visitors to experiment with words.

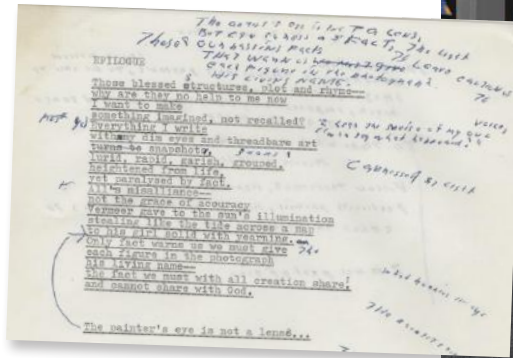


What to See and Do:

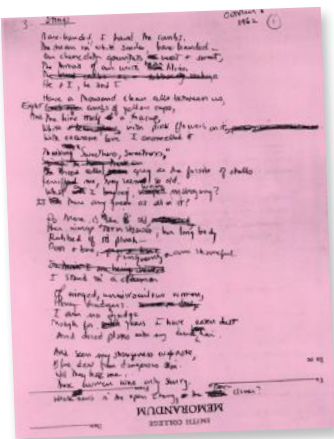
- Explore words made up by American writers; invent new words and meanings in an interactive game. When San Francisco “Chronicle” columnist Herb Caen coined the word “Beatnik” he said it was because Russia had just launched Sputnik. Are hipsters the new beatniks? You can decide!
- Consider how careful word choice gives meaning to a sentence. Create sentences by adding and removing words to see how the meaning changes.
- Explore word choices and phrasing of great American writers; try to guess the name of the author.

Featured Works

Here a multi-user touch-table allows you to explore in depth 20 masterworks of American Literature.



Draft page of Robert Lowell's "Epilogue".



Draft page of Sylvia Plath's "Stings" in the Plath Collection at Smith College.

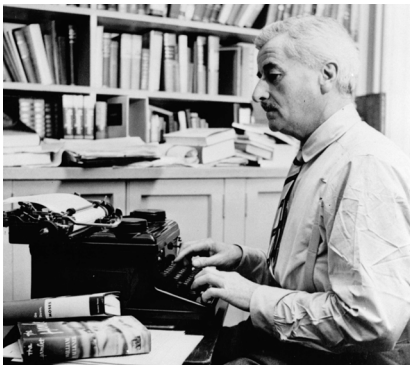


What to See and Do:

- View a long, multi-touch table loaded with deep, relevant, and interrelated information related to a specific masterwork.
- Select a work to explore. Through a series of screens, choose to learn more about the work or the writer: discover influences, backstories, and biographical information.
- Learn about author-home affiliates related to Featured Works.

Writer's Room Gallery

This semi-enclosed gallery includes an artifact case built to high-end museum conservation standards so that AWM will be able to display artifact loans from other institutions, beginning with the famous Jack Kerouac scroll.



William Faulkner



Mark Twain



Edith Wharton

Chicago Writers: Visionaries and Troublemakers

Why is the American Writers Museum here in Chicago? Here's where visitors will discover Chicago's longstanding history with American literature.

As the “new American city,” Chicago eschewed tradition and “the old rules,” fostering literary experimentation that has had global impact.

Many great American writers of the 19th and 20th centuries worked in Chicago for a significant portion of their careers and in turn, the city inspired some of their greatest writing.



What to See and Do:

- Explore classic works of Chicago literature, such as Nelson Algren's “Chicago: City on the Make,” through an interactive touchscreen.
- Explore Communities using an interactive map. Locate publishing houses, newspapers, libraries, bookstores, and other literary institutions in Chicago’s history.
- Explore tactile display objects relevant to the “communities” stories such as meeting announcements, brochures, leaflets, sample works, and group memorabilia.

Children's Literature Gallery

Great American writers have created beloved children's works of enduring power and characters who are an indelible part of the American imagination. Children's literature will be showcased exclusively in the Children's Gallery.



Changing Exhibits Gallery

The AWM will host temporary exhibitions including those produced by the AWM and those on loan from partner organizations.

As its inaugural temporary exhibit, the changing gallery space will feature an installation titled "Palm," that celebrates the poet W.S. Merwin and the capacity of writers to connect readers to Nature. This installation – sponsored by The Poetry Foundation – will create an immersive experience including a living forest inside the gallery, sound design with spoken words by a selection of writers and spaces for viewers to interact with poetry. Created by the artist duo Saylor/Morris, the installation will have its international debut at this space.

"On the last day of the world I would want to plant a tree"

– W. S. Merwin



“The American Writers Museum is a grand, highly worthy idea. I’m all for it. Imagine all there will be to work with and what a center of inspiration it will be! The importance of our novelists, poets, dramatists, writers from every part of the country, every kind of background, has been part of the American story for more than 300 years. Think of what we owe them and how much we continue to learn from them!”

DAVID MCCULLOUGH, AUTHOR & HISTORIAN

Advocates

“Chicago is an ideal place for the American Writers Museum. The capital of our nation’s heartland, Chicago can boast of authors like Mike Royko, Nelson Algren, Carl Sandburg, and Saul Bellow, who brought a frequently gruff, but insightful and uniquely American style to their work. Chicago has been a fertile training ground for generations, from Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., James T. Farrell, and Studs Terkel to Gwendolyn Brooks. They drew on their experiences of Chicago for their most inspired work.”

“You have my enthusiastic support.”

– ALDERMAN EDWARD M. BURKE
DEAN, CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

“The essential literary experience, of course, takes place in silence inside a book, but why shouldn’t the abundant joy of American writing have its own museum, a physical place that readers can walk into and learn and marvel?”

– BILLY COLLINS
U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2001–2003

“Here is a promise to create a museum in Chicago that will stimulate our young people to read, imagine, and write. Using interactive digital media, the American Writers Museum will bring to life the captivating stories of our great writers and explore their influence on our nation.”

– JAMES R. DONNELLEY
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

“Anyone invested in the cultural landscape of the United States would welcome an American Writers Museum—even those of us who believe that a picture might be worth a thousand words. A museum devoted to American literature would play a vital role in keeping the creative impulse alive in the national psyche.”

– DOUGLAS DRUICK
PRESIDENT AND ELOISE W. MARTIN DIRECTOR, ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, 2011–2016

“This is such a great idea. Museums make history three dimensional, and museums bring people together into that three-dimensional space to learn about and celebrate that history. This is needed for American literary history—a communal space to celebrate our rich legacy of prose and poetry. And maybe I’m biased, but I think Chicago, home of Bellow, Brooks, and Terkel, is the perfect place for such a museum.”

– DAVE EGGERS
AUTHOR, EDITOR, AND PUBLISHER

“Our nation’s libraries are dynamic cultural centers which make America’s literary riches available to widely diverse audiences. A museum devoted to American authors is an exciting idea—one which we believe will be welcomed by librarians across the United States.”

– KEITH MICHAEL FIELDS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

“How thrilling to imagine a museum dedicated to the great achievements of American literature. Such a museum would immediately become both a national center and a national symbol for creativity, education, and the highest aspirations of our culture.”

– DANA GIOIA
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, 2002–2009

“The train line goes from Mississippi to Chicago. ...The music informed the history; the stories followed the music. This museum is great!”

– NIKKI GIOVANNI
POET

“American writers have produced some of the world’s great literature, essays and poetry, and it is time that their authors and their works be gathered and presented to the American people in a major cultural museum. The educational opportunities are endless, and I support the creation of the American Writers Museum with enthusiasm.”

– HENRY A. KISSINGER
AUTHOR & FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

“Rooted in the private, individual pleasure of reading, there is a compelling excitement in learning more about America’s writers in the shared, public experience of a museum. It will be a place to meet one’s old friends—Twain, Dickinson, Frost—and make new acquaintances. What fun that will be.”

– RICHARD LARIVIERE
PRESIDENT AND CEO
THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

“In a country established as an idea explicated in written documents and embellished by generations of poets, novelists, and critics, the case for commemorating the written word is self-evident. After all, what is written describes a people and what is celebrated defines their values.”

– JIM LEACH
CHAIRMAN, THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, 2009–2013

“There is no better place than Chicago and no better time than now to bring to life the lives of the people who create magic and reality with words. The writers are the ones who help us laugh when we want to cry, think when we want to laugh. They are the keepers of our past, present and futures. Onward to the next page! Always to the next page!”

– JIM LEHRER
JOURNALIST AND NOVELIST

“The Iowa Writers’ Workshop at The University of Iowa pioneered the teaching of creative writing at the university level. There is a significant underlying principle here in Iowa: that the literary arts are for everyone at every age, in every walk of life. We believe an American Writers Museum would serve to keep alive our stories for generations to come.”

– SALLY MASON
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, 2007–2015

Advocates

“Those of us whose main task it is to instill within the museum visitors an active and probing interest in nature and culture can only respond to the plans of a writers museum: This is the right thing to do!”

– JOHN MCCARTER JR.

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF REGENTS
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

“The idea of an American Writers Museum seems to me long overdue. The literate world has known and prized American writers since the generation of Emerson and Thoreau. Whitman and Emily Dickinson have influenced poets and readers in English and in translation into many languages. The great current continues, and a museum honoring and portraying American writing would be an honor to the suffering and vision from which our literature came.”

– W.S. MERWIN

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2010–2011

“What a brilliant idea, to establish an American Writers Museum! It is very fitting that this ambitious museum is Midwestern in its setting, and particularly in the great literary city of Chicago. Here is a project that will be both educational and thrilling, inspiring to all who love to read and to write. I am honored to be involved in this original enterprise and will be very intrigued by its development and the ways in which it will flourish.”

– JOYCE CAROL OATES

AUTHOR

“The American Writers Museum promises to be a vibrant cultural institution dedicated to preserving American literature in an entirely contemporary manner. PEN/Faulkner is pleased to endorse this exciting project.”

– PEN/FAULKNER FOUNDATION

“A national museum, which would offer a chance to explore the richness and vitality of one of the world’s great cultural resources—the heritage of great American writing—is a remarkable idea and long overdue.”

– MAX RUDIN

PUBLISHER, THE LIBRARY OF AMERICA

“I love the idea of the American Writers Museum. The American project has been fueled since the beginning by impassioned writing, and the Museum would be a wonderful place for that history to be embodied and rediscovered....”

– GEORGE SAUNDERS

AUTHOR

“From its beginning in the 19th Century to the present day, Chicago has provided inspiration for renowned novelists, poets, journalists and essayists. Having the American Writers Museum here would be both appropriate and a wonderful addition to Chicago.”

– MORTON SCHAPIRO

PRESIDENT, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

“How brilliant: An institution that will tell the stories of the people who tell us stories. The American Writers Museum promises narrative riches of every kind, in and well beyond its own walls. It is set to work some very powerful magic.”

– STACY SCHIFF

AUTHOR AND NEW YORK TIMES
GUEST COLUMNIST

“I write to express my hearty and enthusiastic support for the American Writers Museum. The technological and economic revolution underway in the presentation and reception of the written word makes this an auspicious time for establishing an institution whose focus is on writers.”

– DAVID SPADAFORA

PRESIDENT, THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY

“Establishing a national institution that will celebrate American writing is an inspired idea. Through its programs, exhibitions, public readings, and film presentations, the museum will kindle a new appreciation of our literature and deepen our understanding of American writers.”

– THOMAS F. STALEY

DIRECTOR, HARRY RANSOM CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,
1988–2013

“Chicago, my home and birthplace, nurtured many of America’s greatest writers of the past: Dreiser, Farrell, Hemingway, Sandburg, Algren, Bellow, Brooks, and Terkel, to name a few. With so much of America’s literary heritage rooted here, it would be an ideal site of the American Writers Museum.”

– SCOTT F. TUROW

AUTHOR

“This exemplary project, to found a national museum devoted to celebrating the story of America through the tales and lives of its remarkable writers, is an idea that I suspect will prove as durable and as inspiring as Betsy Ross’s flag.”

– STEVE WASSERMAN

EDITOR AT LARGE, YALE UNIVERSITY
PRESS

“Our greatest writers contribute to the intellectual vitality of our country, and the American Writers Museum is an ambitious way in which to honor and recognize their contribution to scholarly inquiry and cultural expression. I welcome the potential to create such a museum both as a resource for research and engagement, as well as a symbol of literature’s lasting importance.”

– ROBERT J. ZIMMER

PRESIDENT, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Poetry Foundation

Affiliated Author Home Museums



Louisa May Alcott, Orchard House 🏠
399 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742



William Cullen Bryant Homestead 🏠
207 Bryant Road
Cummington, Massachusetts 01026



Pearl S. Buck House 🏠
520 Dublin Road
Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944



Pearl S. Buck's Birthplace 🏠
8129 Seneca Trail
Hillsboro, West Virginia 24946



Truman Capote & Harper Lee, The Old Courthouse Museum 🏠
31 North Alabama Avenue
Monroeville, Alabama 36460



The Willa Cather Foundation 🏠
413 North Webster
Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970



Emily Dickinson Museum 🏠
280 Main Street
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002



Ralph Waldo Emerson & Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Old Manse 🏠
269 Monument Street
Concord, Massachusetts 01742



William Faulkner, Rowan Oak 🏠
916 Old Taylor Road
Oxford, Mississippi 38655



Frederick Douglass National Historic Site 🏠
1411 W Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20020



The F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum 🏠
919 Felder Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36106



Robert Frost Farm 🏠
122 Rockingham Road
Derry, New Hampshire 03038



Alex Haley Museum & Interpretive Center 🏠
200 South Church Street
Henning, Tennessee 38041



Joel Chandler Harris, The Wren's Nest 🏠
1050 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30310



Nathaniel Hawthorne, The House of the Seven Gables 🏠
115 Derby Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970



Ernest Hemingway Foundation 🏠
200 North Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302



Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center 🏠
1021 West Cherry Street
Piggott, Arkansas 72454



Washington Irving, Sunnyside 🏠
639 Bedford Road
Pocantico Hills, New York 10591



Helen Hunt Jackson, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum 🏠
215 S. Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903



Sarah Orne Jewett House Museum 🏠
5 Portland Street
South Berwick, Maine 03908



Jack Kerouac, The Beat Museum 🏠
540 Broadway
San Francisco, California 94133



Frances Parkinson Keyes, The Beauregard-Keyes House 🏠
1113 Chartres Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70116



Jack London State Historic Park 🏠
2400 London Ranch Road
Glen Ellen, California 95442



Longfellow House: Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site 🏠
105 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138



Wadsworth-Longfellow House 🏠
489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101



Herman Melville's Arrowhead 🏠
780 Holmes Road
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201



The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop 🏠
436 East Hill Road
Austerlitz, New York 12017

Affiliated Author Home Museums



Margaret Mitchell House 🏠
990 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309



John Muir National Historic Site 🏠
4202 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez, California 94553



Flannery O'Connor's Andalusia Farm 🏠
P.O. Box 947
Milledgeville, Georgia 31059



Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site 🏠
P.O. Box 280
Danville, California 95426



William Sidney Porter, O. Henry Museum 🏠
409 East 5th Street
Austin, Texas 78701



Poe Museum 🏠
1914-16 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23223



Poe Baltimore 🏠
203 N Amity Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21223



James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home 🏠
528 Lockerbie Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202



Will Rogers Memorial Museum 🏠
1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard
Claremore, Oklahoma 74017



Carl Sandburg Home 🏠
81 Carl Sandburg Lane
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731



The National Steinbeck Center 🏠
One Main Street
Salinas, California 93901



Harriet Beecher Stowe Center 🏠
77 Forest Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105



Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site 🏠
1205 Pleasant Point
Rome City, Indiana 46784



Henry David Thoreau & Ralph Waldo Emerson, Concord Museum 🏠
200 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742



Thurber House 🏠
77 Jefferson Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum 🏠
120 North Main
Hannibal, Missouri 63401



Mark Twain House and Museum 🏠
351 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105



Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library 🏠
The Emelie Building
340 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



Noah Webster House 🏠
227 South Main Street
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107



Eudora Welty House and Garden 🏠
1109 Pinehurst Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202



Edith Wharton's Home, The Mount 🏠
2 Plunkett Street
Lenox, Massachusetts 01240



Walt Whitman's Birthplace 🏠
246 Old Walt Whitman Road
West Hills, New York 11746



John Greenleaf Whittier Birthplace 🏠
305 Whittier Road
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830



Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum 🏠
330 8th Street
Walnut Grove, Minnesota 56180



Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum 🏠
3068 Highway A
Mansfield, Missouri 65704



Thomas Wolfe Memorial 🏠
52 North Market Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

🏠 = link to website

“What a fantastic concept—a museum devoted to great American writing....At a time when life moves so fast and so much of what we encounter is disposable, an institution that allows us to immerse ourselves in that which is permanent and meaningful, which allows us to embrace American writing and American stories...”

*- DAVE ISAY
FOUNDER, STORYCORPS*



AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
180 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 505
CHICAGO, IL 60601

TEL: 312.374.8790
AMERICANWRITERSMUSEUM.ORG