

# Embracing the Season of Change

Autumn's Journey of Transformation

Welcome to Autumn—a season of transformation, reflection, and the kind of crisp clarity that only the fall air can bring. As the leaves turn, so too does our chapter, with a new milestone for EC Poetry and Prose Collective: our official recognition as a 501(c)(3) organization. This isn't just a feather in our cap; it's a testament to our unwavering commitment to purpose, community, and impact. We are a dedicated group.

Why does this matter? Because it signals a new dawn for the advocacy that drive us. Our 501(c)(3) status is more than just a tax classification—it's an affirmation of our mission to inspire change and elevate narratives that need to be heard. It empowers us to channel new resources into the programs and initiatives that fuel our collective vision.

As we embrace this moment, we invite you—our family, partners, patrons, and passionate change-makers—to join us in this journey. This status opens doors to new collaborations, grants, and opportunities that were once beyond our reach, and with it, the potential to amplify our impact exponentially.

This autumn, let us gather our collective energy, much like the harvest, to reap the rewards of our shared efforts. We are grateful for your support and belief in our vision. Together, let's continue to challenge the status quo, ask the bold questions, and tell the truths that are often left unspoken.

Thank you for being an integral part of EC Poetry and Prose Collective. Here's to new beginnings, meaningful connections, and a future where our purpose and passion intersect to create change. Please donate what you can to help lift us to continue the fight for literary excellence and authenticity. Below is the tax deductible link (embedded) to support our work as we move forward in this new era. 🙌💜

<https://square.link/u/Ok5uZ7cH>



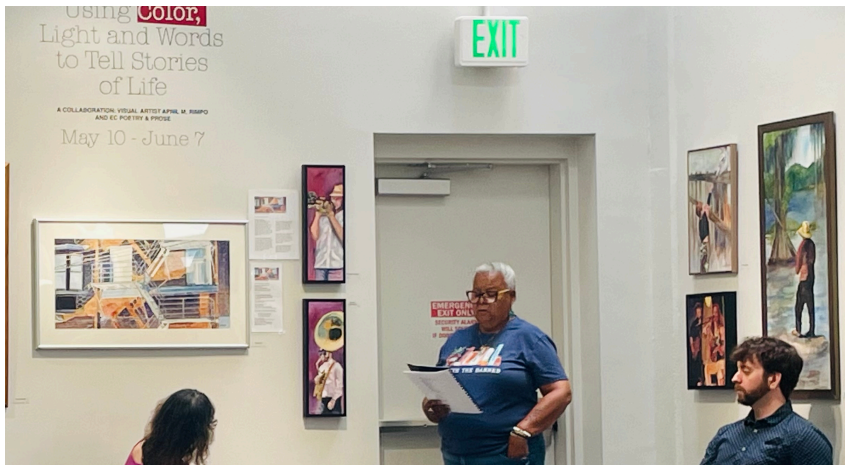
# Highlights from Our Summer Activities

Here are some snapshots capturing the fantastic work we accomplished this summer while supporting international watercolorist April Rimpo at the Ekphrasis show: *Using Color, Light and Words to Tell Stories of Life*. Several poets crafted pieces inspired by April's paintings and shared their work during an evening reading at the Columbia Arts Center in Howard County.

The event culminated with HOCO Pride Day, where we shared poems and enjoyed the jazz melodies of Terry Parham, all while raising funds for PFLAG of Howard County, which advocates for the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and friends. We raised \$50 through small contributions from event attendees. Thank you, HOCO supporters!

In July, we spent a full Saturday in Bowie at The Write Women Book Festival, where we read and performed throughout the day. The audience was engaged, and the feedback was wonderful. We connected with several new poets who will be joining our collective, and we cherished the interactions with numerous women writers and literary enthusiasts. Though our voices were exhausted by the end of the day, our hearts were filled with joy. A big thank you to Heather Brooks and Cardyn Brooks for yet another fantastic event!.

**Peace - Poetry - Truth** 💜





### Don't Miss the Virtual Nonfiction Panel!

The Write Women Book Festival is back with a vibrant virtual event over the next months. Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM EST, when a dynamic panel will dive into Writing Non-Fiction from the Heart – Journals, Spirituals, & Devotionals. Connect with these inspiring voices; Shikha Bajaj, Jalesa, Jennia, and Elizabeth Wiggins as they share their journeys, insights, and heartfelt advice. Patti will facilitate a discussion examining the significance and complexity of spiritual nonfiction writing within a community setting.

### Poetry Panel: "Souls Talking" in October

Of course we are going to talk poetry. :) October brings an extraordinary poetry panel to the virtual festival, featuring the creative brilliance of Zorina Frey, Mari B., Lori Nissley, Jessica L. Sparrow and Kathleen Hellen. Join the conversation on Thursday, October 9th, at 7:00 PM EST, as these acclaimed poets explore the theme of "Souls Talking"—discover how this idea weaves through their writing and sparks transformative poetry.

