

CALL FOR PAPERS

50th Annual Conference of the Western Literature Association

“Visual Culture of the Urban West”

Reno, Nevada: October 14-17, 2015

The 50th annual conference of the Western Literature Association takes place at Harrah’s Reno. We will gather there in “The Biggest Little City” on the western edge of the Great Basin, at the intersection of Washoe and Paiute tribal homelands, where the transcontinental emigrant trail and railroad line meet the mighty Sierra Nevada, 35 highway miles from North Lake Tahoe. Riding the edge of old and new, at the interface of urban and wild, of indigeneity and transience, Reno is an apt location for our semi-centennial: an occasion to consider our histories, but more so, the next 50 years of western American literary and cultural studies. In that spirit, this year’s Distinguished Achievement Award recipients are LeAnne Howe, Choctaw writer, scholar, and playwright, and the late Robert Laxalt, progenitor of the transatlantic tradition of Basque-American writing. Our featured speakers include Howe, performer/comics artist Arigon Starr (Kickapoo), and novelist and musician Willy Vlautin.

In addition to proposals on any aspects of the literature and culture of the North American West, we especially encourage innovative proposals on the following:

- Visual culture, film, performance
- Environmental art, politics, justice, literatures
- Indigenous Wests, writers, filmmakers, artists
- Basque-American writers
- Latino/a Studies in Western places
- Twain and Tahoe
- Gendered spaces in the West
- Emigrant and mining narratives
- The recreational West: tourism, mountaineering, river-running

Reno is easily reached by direct flights from many major hubs, soon to include New York City and London! Amtrak’s California Zephyr stops daily at the depot a few steps from our conference hotel, where room rates will run \$99/night Friday and Saturday, and \$59 other nights, with many complimentary amenities including wifi. See <https://www.caesars.com/harrahs-reno> for more information.

Stay tuned for important updates via our Western Literature Association Facebook page and @twitter at #WesternAmerica1 and #westernlit2015

All participants must be members of the Western Literature Association. Contact us with questions at WLAConference2015@westernlit.org. For further details on the conference and to submit proposals, go to www.westernlit.org/wla-conference-2015/.

Deadline for proposals is June 15, 2015