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## Silo City, Just Buffalo Poetry Series Sets 10<sup>th</sup> Year *Nationally known poets slated to read works in renewed industrial area*

**BUFFALO, NY March 11, 2022** – The 10<sup>th</sup> annual [Silo City Reading Series](#) – an acclaimed program that features America’s best living poets – will offer nationally recognized writers reading their latest works this summer inside one of the country’s most extraordinary revitalized industrial spaces.

The series is a collaboration of the [Just Buffalo Literary Center](#), which for more than 40 years has brought the world’s greatest writers to Buffalo, and [Silo City](#), a collection of former grain elevators re-imagined for art, theatrical and photography exhibitions, festivals, film premiers, author readings and now apartments beside the rejuvenated Buffalo River.

The reading series started in 2013 as one of the first recurring cultural events at Silo City, which had sat disused and underutilized for decades along Buffalo's waterfront following the collapse of the city’s once-flourishing grain industry. The poets and musicians who performed inside the cavernous, 100-foot tall concrete silos attracted thousands of visitors to the property over the years and served as a catalyst for Silo City's eventual transformation into one of Buffalo’s most exciting mixed-use developments. Hundreds of new residents – including artists, writers, and other members of the city’s creative class – will soon move into newly constructed apartments housed in refurbished warehouses on-site.

Since the Silo City Reading Series started, the adjacent Old First Ward neighborhood added two large apartment and condominium buildings, the Buffalo Scholastic Rowing Association practice facility and the Shuck Shack restaurant, all on Ohio Street. The Old First Ward also now features Riverfest Park and its Tewksbury Lodge, Resurgence Brewery, Hartman’s Distillery Co. and, opened in September 2021, the \$2 million Buffalo River-Ohio Street Fishing Access Site.

Highlighting the 2022 series is *New York Times* Magazine poetry editor [Victoria Chang](#), on July 30, and Pulitzer Prize winner [Jericho Brown](#), director of the Emory University Creative

Writing Program and an Emory professor, on August 27. The program kicks off June 11 with Stanford University poetry teacher [Richie Hofmann](#) and SUNY Geneseo and Rochester Institute of Technology poet [Albert Abonado](#). Buffalo's [Joe Hall](#) joins Chang July 30, and the soon-to-be-announced Just Buffalo Poetry Fellow will present with Brown on August 27.

“The Silo City Reading Series is an art party with poetry acting as the heart. It celebrates the act of listening and attention, and like Silo City, thrives on the energy of becoming,” said Silo City Reading Series Founder & Curator [Noah Falck](#).

A complete schedule of poets and dates will be formalized later this spring, adding to the legacy of powerful poets invited to the series.

“Reading poems in a grain elevator while rain fell outside was one of the most magical poetry experiences I've ever had,” [Maggie Smith](#) said after her 2017 series appearance. “The audience was all-in, ready to share the experience. Buffalo has something truly special – enviable – in the Silo City Reading Series.”

The 2022 poets join an impressive list of past readers who came to the unique site in the city's once-neglected Old First Ward. In addition to Smith, they include 2019 MacArthur Fellow [Ocean Vuong](#); National Book Award finalist [Hanif Abdurraqib](#); National Book Critics Circle Award winner [Morgan Parker](#); singer-song writers [Simon Joyner](#), [Tim Rutili](#), and [Julie Bryne](#); also transdisciplinary artist and SUNY Buffalo visiting professor [Shasti O'Leary Soundant](#); film and video director [Mary Helena Clark](#); Buffalo-based muralist [Edreys Wajed](#), and many more.

“The Silo City Reading Series offers an unlikely home in an unlikely location,” Abdurraqib said after his 2018 visit. “It is the perfect reading place for those looking to break free of traditional reading spaces. I felt close to the room, its history and the people inside of it. May all of our old buildings be repurposed in a way which allows them to continue to feed vast communities of people.”

Silo City is undergoing a transformation this year with one-hundred and sixty-eight apartments inside the American Mill and Malting buildings, demonstrating the limitless re-use potential of these industrial behemoths. The property is also within close proximity to a variety of new attractions, breweries, parks and apartments lining the city's redeveloped waterfront.

“A decade after starting our series, we're sure Buffalo is becoming known for more than just the Bills, wings and snow – and we're thrilled about that,” said Rick Smith, Silo City's founder and leader. “When the best poets in the world walk onto our campus, and they breathe in the magic and scale of the site, and their adrenaline races with the charge of electrifying an audience inside a 15-story building with their words, we know we're onto something special.”

The reading events include musical acts and visual artists and the 2022 roster is still being organized.

### **More about the Silo City Reading Series**

*Since 2013, the SILO CITY READING SERIES has brought together nationally acclaimed poets and performers with Buffalo-based writers, artists, and musicians for multidisciplinary and collaborative arts events at Silo City—a*

*complex of abandoned grain silos along the Buffalo River. The readings take place in the summer months.*  
<https://www.justbuffalo.org/upcoming-silo-city-readings/>

### **More about the Just Buffalo Literary Center**

*For over 45 years, Just Buffalo Literary Center has hosted, organized, or co-sponsored more than 2,000 literary events, bringing the world's most innovative and iconic writers—like Allen Ginsberg, Lucille Clifton, Amiri Baraka, Dave Eggers, Patti Smith, and Colson Whitehead—to Western New York. The organization also offers writing workshops for youth and adults, and advocates for the literary arts on a local & national level. Learn more at [justbuffalo.org](http://justbuffalo.org).*

### **More about Silo City**

*Silo City is a collaborative cultural and ecological campus that continues to inspire creativity and community within the historical legacy of Buffalo's grain silos. Since 2012, we have hosted tours, poetry readings, music festivals, theater, art shows, and film crews. In June of 2018 we opened a new bar and music venue, Duende. The land on this powerful bend of the Buffalo River — where Silo City is seated — was part of the Seneca Buffalo Creek Reservation, and a home to regional indigenous populations for centuries prior to its use for grain storage, malting and milling.*  
<https://www.silo.city/> [www.duendesilo.city](http://www.duendesilo.city)