BECOME A WRITING MENTOR FOR OUR New Origins POC LGBTQ+ Sci-Fi/Fantasy Writing Workshop for 6th & 7th Graders

About Chapter 510

MISSION
Chapter 510 is a made-in-Oakland youth writing, bookmaking & publishing center. Our teaching artists and volunteers work side by side with educators to provide a safe space and supportive community so Black, brown, and queer youth ages 8-19 can bravely write.

VISION
Every young person in Oakland writes with confidence and joy.

WHY WE EXIST
We believe that writing is an act of liberation. Young people transform themselves and their communities when they write and get published, succeeding in school, work, and life.

WHAT WE DO
Through writing programs at our center and within Oakland public schools,
we help young people improve their writing craft, confidence, and competency at every stage.

**About the workshop**

A 10 week sci-fi/fantasy writing workshop for POC LGBTQ+ identified 6th and 7th graders.

New Origins is a creative writing workshop that both highlights and anthologizes queer youth experience through Fantasy and Science Fiction. In this workshop, we recognize the legacy of queerness as it refers to our intersectional identities. Fantasy and Science Fiction as genres both have powerful creating abilities that I like to call imagined alternatives. Blue printing what could be through the power of imagination helps us get there. This is why queer youth must always be involved in the work of imagining, for themselves and for the world around them. To imagine better possible futures that they can lean into, walk into and become all on their own.

**Who:** POC LGBTQ+ identified 6th & 7th graders  
**When:** Every Tuesday March 15 – May 24, 4pm–5:30pm  
**Where:** In Person at Chapter 510, 546 9 St. Oakland

Teaching Artist Bio: Duane Horton is an Oakland based black queer fantasy and science fiction writer and educator. You can see his work appear in an anthology by Green Mountains Review, Sapphire Hues Press and he has a forthcoming story that will appear in Free Spirit literature magazine. He is currently working on a novel that explores his own identity as black and queer through the lens of fantasy. His work has been called wonderfully imaginative and captivating by literary agents and editors alike. He spends his time working on his craft, and when he isn’t he is probably playing his flute.

**Writing Mentor Role & Qualifications**

We are looking for POC Queer identified writing mentors with experience in the genre of sci-fi/fantasy. If you have experience working with middle school students this is an added bonus.

Writing mentors must be available to attend two online/zoom writing mentoring sessions on Tuesday, May 10 and 17, 4:30pm–5:30pm, and the online mentor orientation on Tuesday, May 3rd, 6pm-7pm (or at least watch
the video before your first mentoring session on May 10).

As a writing mentor, you will be paired with one student to support in developing, revising, and finalizing their sci-fi/fantasy short story, which will be published in a zine at the culmination of the program. During the orientation, we will provide you with more frameworks and guidance around our Chapter 510 approach to writing mentorship.

The mentoring sessions will happen during normal class time. We will begin each mentoring session as a whole group in one zoom meeting for a warm up activity and then send you to your break out room with your student to work on revision and story development.

**Compensation**

We are offering a $250 honorarium for this mentoring position. If you are interested in helping us bring this amazing project to life, please email your resume and or your experience as a writer, educator and or artist to marabet_morales@chapter510.org. **Volunteers are also welcome!**