

Stoked for Wordstock

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Portland Observer about their interaction with Wordstock and their latest books.

"I'm so excited to be coming back to my home town like this," said Watson. "I started writing *This Side of Home* back when I was junior at Jefferson. I didn't even have words yet for things like 'gentrification.' I remember the Fred Meyer's on MLK being transformed into a police precinct. I remember feeling the city changing. And I just started writing. And to be able to come home and be honored for my writing and help bring diversity and show kids that black women can be authors, and that is so much for me."

Sandra Cisneros admitted that this being her first time at Wordstock, she didn't know much about it going in, but that she's excited to be a part of it this year, and to share work from her new book, *A House of My Own* and to host the festival's film night.

"Portland is such a literary city," said Cisneros. "Like Buenos Aires or Rome, you feel livened up being there. It's a city where people love to read."

And as it turns out, it's also a city that loves to write. This year's Wordstock will also feature a number of writing workshops, including an opportunity to work in small classroom setting with Watson herself. Her workshop will focus on the places we call home, and how we critique and celebrate those places. The workshop itself costs \$45 and participants must register ahead of time.

Watson and Cisneros won't be

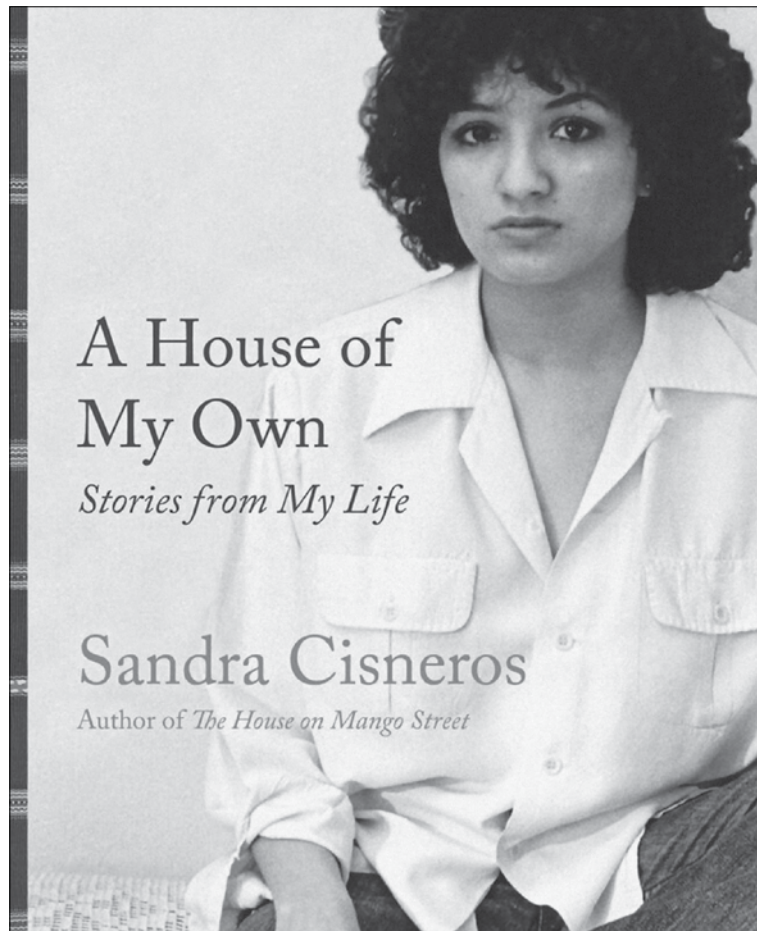
the only women of color at the event either. Nearly a fifth of the presenters will be people of color, and just over half of them will be women.

The festival will be split in half between local/regional authors and out-of-state ones, meaning that it while it will give Portlanders and visitors alike a chance to familiarize themselves with local writers, it will also allow them to learn more about the literary world at large.

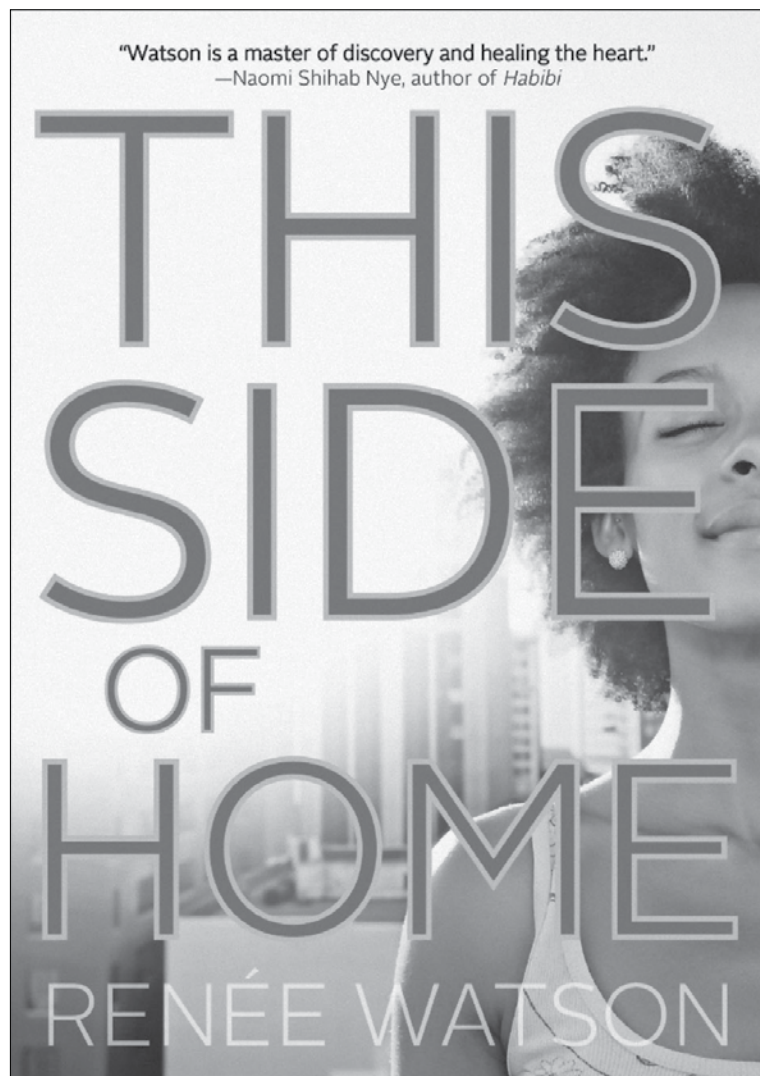
"The goal from the beginning

was to build a festival with something for everyone," said Bullock. "I hope that Portland will find that is true at Wordstock this year."

Literary Arts also stepped forward this year with its first ever Writers of Color Fellowship, which received nearly 50 applicants in June and will be announced along with their seven other award winners this January. A visiting African-American poet Claudia Rankine will serve as Literary Arts' February artist in residence, and the Multnomah



World-acclaimed Chicana author Sandra Cisneros makes her first visit to the Portland literary festival 'Wordstock' Saturday to share work from her new book, 'A House of My Own.'



Renée Watson, author of 'This Side of Home,' returns to her Portland roots to participate in 'Wordstock,' Portland's annual book festival.

County Library plans to give away up to 7,000 copies of *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez for this year's Everybody Reads.

Wordstock will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Portland Art Museum. Entry is \$15 and includes admission to the museum for the entire day, events and readings throughout the festival, and a \$5 voucher to spend at an extensive book fair, where visitors can discover a new

poetry press, pick up information about studying creative writing academically, get recommendations from the library workers and pick up festival authors books from Powell's. Private workshops are additionally priced, but all registration fees include admission to the festival. All attendees 17 and under and anyone with a valid high school student ID can attend the festival for free. For more information, visit literary-arts.org/what-we-do/wordstock.



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2015 CALENDAR November

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>1 Daylight Savings Time Ends National Author's Day All Saint's Day National Family Literacy Day</p>	<p>2 Daniel Boone born, 1734 International Space Station Opened in 2000</p>	<p>3 ☾ National Sandwich Day</p>	<p>4 Gail Haley born, 1939 First Wagon Train Reached CA (1841) King Tut's Tomb Discovered (1922)</p>	<p>5 Guy Fawkes Day</p>	<p>6 National Nachos Day</p>	<p>7 Hug-a-Bear Day Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867</p>
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