In 1998, writer and City College alumnus Walter Mosley, like Saint Paul, was struck by a proverbial bolt of lightning: he realized that if more people of color worked in publishing, diversity among published writers would increase.

And that’s the beginning of the Publishing Certificate Program (PCP) at CCNY.
“I believe my time in the PCP was my biggest selling point in the interview stage and the greatest aid in ensuring I maintained etiquette and work ethic worthy of Michelle Giuseffi, Crown’s Senior Publishing Manager, who referred to me as “the best intern [Crown] had ever had.” All of the work that led to that moment began with Saraciea Fenell’s Intro to Publishing course in Spring of 2021.”
PCP Director David Unger, CCNY President Yolanda Moses and PCP founder Walter Mosley at the 1998 CCNY PCP launch
“After learning so much about the publishing industry both through my internship and The Publishing Certificate Program, I am certain about the path that I want to take in my future career. I hope to one day become a Senior Editor working in children’s publishing for middle-grade and younger readers…. Through this program, I have been lucky enough to acquire specific skills and knowledge for an industry that needs diversity, not just in books but in the people who help create them.”
Walter Mosley and David Unger
Blanca Aulet
Studio Manager (Art), Grand Central Publishing, Hachette Book Group

“The PCP broadened my understanding of Publishing and opened my eyes to new opportunities. Under the guidance of David Unger/PCP, these opportunities led to a career in publishing with people who truly love books.”
Gloria Castillo  
Class of 2022

“The Publishing Certificate Program was the reason I decided to attend City College.... I knew I wanted to work in the publishing industry, but I didn’t know where to start.... Professor Taylor said in order for one to work in this industry you have to be able to speak up for yourself and to defend your stance on a book no matter your department, especially as a person of color. After this class, I knew I wanted to work with publicity in the publishing industry to push further diverse representation; to be a Latine voice in the American market.”
EARLY SUPPORTERS

Bernard Mazel, sponsor of the Bernard Mazel Opportunity Scholarships
Samia Tariq
Class of 2021

“I think that in the classroom, since I had the privilege to learn from industry experts, I knew what was expected of me and was able to navigate my [internship] experience. I was able to learn how to present myself in the professional setting and what would be expected of me in this type of position.”
David Unger; Marianne Martens, PCP instructor; Catherine McKinley, first PCP Assistant Director; sponsor Sherry Bronfman; CCNY Dean of Humanities James Watts
Christina Marie Castro  
Assistant Director, Publishing Certificate Program, CCNY

“Every milestone in my career is a direct result of completing the PCP program. From operations, to social media, to copyediting, then earning an MFA and transitioning to higher ed. With the PCP training and certificate in hand, it’s amazing how multidimensional our careers can become while still contributing to the world of books, literacy, and knowledge sharing!”
Artist Faith Ringgold and Sherry Bronfman
Anayae Holmes
Class of 2022

“The three Publishing Courses I took—Introduction to Publishing I, Books for Young Readers, and the Editorial Process—were the only courses where I had a Black or African American Professor, aside from two other classes within my 3 years at City College. After taking these three classes, I was comforted by the many options, or paths many of my professors had achieved such as setting up their own businesses, freelancing, or working with a publishing house that created content they wanted to be a part of.”
Editor Karen Thomas, Walter Mosley, and Literary Agent Marie Brown
“As I was taking these classes, and as I reflect on my time with the PCP now, I realize just how important my experience with this program was. I feel very fortunate and lucky to be able to go to a college where I can study English, creative writing, journalism, and book publishing all at the same time. Not only did I learn practical skills like writing a cover letter, performing effective and powerful public speeches, and writing in MLA format, but I also learned so much about myself.”
Jennifer Baker
Senior Program Manager, Author Support, Narrative Initiative
Writing Consultant, Baruch College
Creator/Host, Minorities in Publishing Podcast

“The Publishing Certificate Program helped me recognize that my love of words could forge a career path to uplift and empower creators and fellow professionals as we celebrate literature and the communities touched most by it.”
Deanna Denman
Class of 2023

“My internship was very fulfilling. I felt like I was actually helping my team in some way. I wrote blog posts for the official PRH international sales site, did the weekly New York Times Bestseller List e-newsletter, and helped them by making grids, fixing errors on documents, and assisting anywhere they needed when I had the time. I came at a great time because they were preparing for the London Book Fair, which is a big deal to a team that deals mostly with selling our books overseas.”
EARLY SUPPORTERS

PCP Instructor Tracy Sherrod (VP, Little Brown)
Keisy Roldan  
Class of 2023

“I created @keisyreads to share my love for books and reading with other book lovers and avid readers. I have met a whole community that I can participate in, where interests overlap.... I love being in this specific circle in the bookish community because we understand how representation matters and how BIPOC authors don’t get as much attention and recognition as white authors do. This topic is what I am passionate about.”
Ayesha Pande (AP Literary Agency), past PCP Assistant Director Retha Powers (Holt, Senior Editor)
Miguel Molineros
Class of 2023

“Professor Jennifer Buño, she was always open to answering any of our questions about working in publishing; she had experience in many departments such as sales and marketing, editorial, design, and publicity. Hearing about her different experiences helped me understand that a publishing company has many departments in which my skills can be useful.”
Peggy Samedi
Production Director,
Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, PRH
President, New York Book Forum

“I am forever grateful to Lisa Healy for introducing me to my boss, whom I have worked with for 18 years. Her dry wit and robust network helped me get started in an industry I love.”
Catherine McKinley, CCNY past President Gregory Williams, Walter Mosley, past W.W. Norton President Drake McFeely, former student Winfreda Mbewe, David Unger and CCNY’s John Lubbe
Mohammed Navil
Class of 2023

“One of the other great opportunities I managed to get out of the PCP was the mentorship program with Viking, Penguin.... Knowing that I not only have Director Unger and Assistant Director Castro who have been a constant help, but that I also have two great mentors who can help me with learning more about the industry is one of the greatest things that I’ve gotten from the Publishing Certificate Program.”
Linda Duggins (formerly at HBG and Edelweiss), Instructor Carol Taylor (Tanya McKinnon Literary Agency)
Lisa Davis
Senior Production Editor,
Macmillan Publishers

“As a student at CCNY, Dean Brown insisted I attend the PCP. I’m so glad I did. I interned at literary agencies and publishing houses, and met amazing mentors who were honest with me about the industry.”
Sophia Chen  
Class of 2023

“From being the child who wished to go into publishing, to the lost teenager who thought dreams were only fantasy, and now to the present-day me who has one foot in the doorway of the publishing industry, I never thought I could rekindle my childhood dream. Without the preparations I gained in The Publishing Certificate Program, as well as my other achievements in other classes, I probably would not have known about the multifaceted possibilities in the publishing industry nor would I have had the qualifications for an internship at two companies that provided me very different but rewarding experiences.”
EARLY SUPPORTERS

Black Classic Press’s Paul Coates and HBG CEO Michael Pietsch
Former PCP Instructor Chris Jackson (PRH) with guest
Elaine Vasquez
Class of 2023

“As per requirements, I took four classes: Intro to Book Publishing, Publishing Practicum, Publishing for Young Readers, and the Editorial Process. Each class taught me different and similar knowledge and skills to excel in my internships and future jobs. With homework, projects, and group projects, I had to present myself and my ideas, which taught me to speak up in internship meetings. I loved all my classes and the teachers who taught me the importance of connections.”
Krishan Trotman
Vice-President, Publisher, Legacy Lit, Hachette Book Group

“The CCNY program helped me get my first job in publishing. I wouldn’t be in this position without the program.”
Daniela Cortes  
Class of 2021

“Learning about a reader’s report in the classroom taught me how to read critically which was an important skill essential to reading and evaluating a manuscript.... The authors’ authority along with the strength of their writing made me write a more positive reader’s report, as their experience on the subject matter was essential in determining how their non-fiction book would succeed in the marketplace. Like learning about the reader’s report, gaining knowledge about queries and book proposals aided me in understanding what to look for when evaluating them during my internship.”
PCP GRADUATES

Claribel Vasquez, Jenn Bunker, Maureen Winter and PCP Assistant Director Christina Castro (PRH)
“Without the Publishing Certificate Program at City College, I would not have been aware that jobs in publishing do exist, and I would not have been able to map out my academic and career paths as clearly as I can now.... Because opportunities in publishing, specifically in editorial, are scarce, I am thankful to have come across Future House Publishing’s internship program. I am even more thankful that this internship has given me exposure to a multiracial/multiethnic work environment.”
EARLY SUPPORTERS

PCP Instructor Lisa Healy (Simon & Schuster) schmoozing with two PCP students
“When I began the program at PCP, my goal was to become the next great editor. After my professor, John Jusino told me that I had “way too much personality for editorial” and “publicity would be a better fit,” I shifted focus and the rest is history!”
Edison M. García
Senior Manager, IPS International at Ingram Content Group (ICG)

“Recently in a town hall meeting with new employees at ICG, I shared my career path and reflected on the huge impact that this program had on my career and personal life. I interned at the publicity department at Penguin Books. Then, started working at Simon & Schuster in the managing editorial department. Later I discovered the international sales team, and I met my tribe. Today, I oversee sales in Latin America, The Middle East, Asia, India, Australia, and Africa.”
John Lubbe, Adrienne Ingrum (Broadleaf Books) and Judith Curr (Harper Via)
Joseph Benincase
Associate Director, Digital Marketing & Advertising, Grand Central Publishing, Hachette Book Group, Inc.

“There’s no future in publishing, the majority said. Twelve years later, that future has been, and continues to be, one of immense professional growth and success. Thank you to the Publishing Certificate Program for being the minority, and encouraging new generations to take risks and keep publishing alive and fresh.”
INFLUENCING CHANGE

Student News

Publishing Certificate Program
PCP students are looking forward to an array of visiting publishers, how about their experiences last week?

(AS PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

[Image 1709x1025 to 2725x1792]

INFLUENCING CHANGE

[Image 848x1024 to 1670x1793]

CUNY Congratulates Alum Walter Mosley, First Black Man to Receive Prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from National Book Foundation

Prodigious Writer Got His Start at City College, Later Helped Launch the College’s Publishing Certificate Program to Diverse the Industry

Over More Than Two Decades, the Program has Helped Scores of Students Break Into the Publishing Industry

[Image 1914x233 to 2731x984]

[Image 849x234 to 1873x983]

[Image 123x237 to 808x1789]

[Image 2777x240 to 3645x762]

[Image 87x1919]
2023 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
KRISHAN TROTMAN