Benjamin Alire Sáenz is an American poet, creative writer, and young adult novelist. He speaks and writes in the innumerable languages of the border that are not limited to English and Spanish (European languages capable of transcending their own cruelty). Though the language he writes in may sound like English—if you listen, you will hear the multiple languages that live in him—the language of the poor, the language of the rain, the language of drought, the language of the desert and its sand—and the language of the people of the border whose hope is eternal.

Sáenz has won numerous awards. His collection of short stories, *Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club*, centers the stories of people on the borderlands, and earned him the PEN/ Faulkner Award for Fiction and the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction. He was awarded the Stonewall Book Award and the Pura Belpré Award for *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Award-Winning Author

**10:00 - 11:00 AM PST**

**Saturday**

**February 27th, 2021**

An ASL Interpreter will be provided.

**Moderated by Kevin Perez**

M.A. Candidate
Dual Language & English Learner Education

Alberto Esquinca, Ph.D
Associate Professor,
Dual Language & English Learner Education
Cayleff & Sakai LGBTQ+ Pride Faculty Scholar

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