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## LITERARY ARTS Acquires WORDSTOCK Portland's Annual Book Festival

**Re-launching November 7, 2015 at the Portland Art Museum**

**Literary Arts, Inc., the Portland-based nonprofit organization celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, has acquired the Wordstock Festival, the nine-year-old program that celebrates the transformative power of words and books.** The Wordstock Festival will re-launch as a one-day event on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Portland Art Museum in Downtown Portland. Literary Arts is committed to an annual festival for the next three years as a pilot project. The other programs of Literary Arts include Portland Arts & Lectures (one of the nation's largest subscription series), Writers in the Schools, the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships, and Delve Readers Seminars.

Wordstock began in 2005 and is the largest celebration of literature and literacy in the Pacific Northwest. Each year, the festival brings together thousands of readers and hundreds of small presses, independent publishers, nonprofits, and independent booksellers, along with 150+ authors. Wordstock and Literary Arts are dedicated to connecting attendees to contemporary writers, and the festival includes a series of knowledge and skill workshops for practicing writers called Wordstock for Writers.

"We feel we can best serve our community with this new home for the festival," explains **Wordstock Board Chair Michele Wasson**, who initiated the conversation with Literary Arts in December 2013. "Literary Arts has a national reputation as one of the leading literary centers in the country, with a 30-year history of connecting an intergenerational reading audience with the leading writers and thinkers of the day. This acquisition allows the festival to continue to develop as a world-class event, with a deeper level of support, while becoming more efficient in terms of overhead and administrative costs."

**Literary Arts' Executive Director Andrew Proctor** says, "We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to build on Wordstock's history. We look forward to collaborating with the incredible group of writers, publishers, volunteers, and funders who have built this celebration of literature into an important cultural moment for Portland and for Oregon."

**Jessica Mozeico, Board Chair of Literary Arts**, adds, "Presenting the Wordstock Festival gives Literary Arts the chance to engage readers and writers in an exciting way. It's a perfect complement to our other programs that serve both emerging and established writers, publishers, and readers. We are grateful for the support of funders and community partners and look forward to working with organizations here in Oregon, publishers from coast to coast, and our partners from around the country to continue to build a festival of national stature."

The re-launched festival has been made possible by three concurrent grants from **The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation**, the **Meyer Memorial Trust**, and the **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust**.

In 1984, Portland Arts & Lectures launched its subscription series at the Portland Art Museum. Today, Literary Arts is pleased to announce that the Portland Art Museum will support Literary Arts as a venue partner for Wordstock 2015.

**Brian Ferriso, Executive Director of the Portland Art Museum**, says, "We are looking forward to playing host to some of the region's and the world's most exciting writers and welcoming a diverse range of readers of all ages to the Portland Art Museum. We are thrilled at the prospect of literary events taking place not only in our larger venues, but also throughout the gallery space, where great art will be a part of the overall festival."

Literary Arts is also pleased to announce that **Powell's Books** will be a community partner of the festival. **Emily Powell** says, "We believe that Literary Arts' stewardship of Wordstock will bring a vibrant, world-class literary festival to Portland--one that delves deeply into Oregon's rich community history and connects to a global literary conversation."

[www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org) | 925 SW Washington Street | Portland, Oregon 97205 | t:503.227.2583 f: 503.241.4256

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jessica Mozeico, Chair; Betsy Amster, Mike Barr, Alice Cuprill-Comas, Rebecca DeCesaro, Amy Donohue, Theo Downes-Le Guin, Marie Eckert, Robert Geddes, Pamela Smith Hill, Susheela Jayapal, Amy Carlsen Kohnstamm, John Meadows, Amy Prosenjak, Jon Raymond, James Reinhart, Barry Sanders, Jacqueline Willingham, Thomas Wood

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Andrew Proctor STAFF: Jenny Chu, Lydah DeBin, Susan Denning, Megan Gex, Jennifer Gurney, Paige O'Rourke, Mary Rechner, Mel Wells

Additional information for writers, publishers, booksellers, and vendors who would like to participate in Wordstock 2015 will be available in the coming months here: [www.literary-arts.org/wordstock](http://www.literary-arts.org/wordstock). Literary Arts invites the community to give feedback about what the 2015 festival should look like via this web page. Later this year and into the new year, Literary Arts will be inviting the community to meetings and events to help shape the festival.

**Literary Arts has also launched a national search for a Festival Manager.** Details on this job posting are on the Literary Arts website here: [www.literary-arts.org/open-positions](http://www.literary-arts.org/open-positions).

### About LITERARY ARTS

Established in 1984, Literary Arts is a nonprofit organization founded, inspired, and sustained by the likes of Ursula K. Le Guin and William Stafford and has helped make Oregon more than a place with a bookish reputation. They are a comprehensive, nationally recognized cultural center for writers, publishers, readers, and lovers of thoughtful conversations.

Literary Arts is home to the country's largest literary lecture series, where speakers don't read from their published works; instead, they share lectures and presentations that they've written specifically for Literary Arts or engage in unscripted on-stage conversations with up to 2,700 people in a concert hall and thousands more public radio listeners across the state through a partnership with Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Literary Arts keeps literature democratic with more than 100 free community programs and events every year, connecting multiple generations and skill levels with renowned authors in public schools and spaces. Their Writers in the Schools program hires working writers of today to teach and inspire local high school students. They award \$30,000 a year to transform Oregon Book Awards winners and fellows into literary ambassadors who engage Oregonians at workshops and readings across the state. In 2014/2015, Literary Arts will award an additional \$19,000 in honor of their 30th Anniversary and the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships founder, Brian Booth. Under the steady hand of an experienced scholar, readers explore demanding books in the discussion-based Delve Readers Seminars. And, with some coaching and encouragement, budding young poets court their muses, haul them on stage, and bring them to life at Verselandia!, Portland's citywide teen poetry slam.

### LITERARY ARTS' 30th Anniversary Highlights Include:

- **Sept. 8th Birthday Celebration** with Elizabeth Gilbert, Calvin Trillin (Portland Arts & Lectures 1st speaker in 1984), Colin Meloy of The Decemberists, Verselandia! 2014 winner Bella Trent, poet Zachary Schomburg, and additional special guests
- Literary Arts announces **Wordstock 2015**, re-launching Nov. 7, 2015 at the Portland Art Museum
- Literary Arts partners with **TriMet** and the **Poetry Society of America** to bring poetry back to Portland's public transit this fall with the Poetry in Motion program
- *The World Split Open*, a Literary Arts Reader, will be published by **Tin House Books** on Nov. 11, 2014 and will be available at bookstores and e-retailers across the US and Canada
- Portland Arts & Lectures presents: **James McBride** (Oct. 16), **Elizabeth Kolbert** (Nov. 13), **Michael Chabon** (Jan. 15), **Ruth Ozeki** (Feb. 19), **Katherine Boo** (Apr. 23)
- Literary Arts will share 30 years of presentations by great writers and thinkers through an audio archive partnership with **Oregon Public Broadcasting** and a retrospective exhibit at **Multnomah County Library**
- This year, Literary Arts is nearly doubling the amount they will award for the **Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships** program, giving an additional \$19,000 to Oregon writers and publishers this year on top of their annual \$30,000 and establishing the **Brian Booth Writers' Fund**: <http://www.literary-arts.org/who-we-are/brian-booth-writers-fund/>
- Literary Arts co-hosts **The Moth Mainstage** (Dec. 15)
- Literary Arts re-launches the Poetry Downtown program with poets **Terrance Hayes** (Feb. 17), **Mark Doty** (Apr. 27), and **Anne Carson** (May 16)

Media Contact: Contact Alyson Sinclair at [aly@alysonsinclairpr.com](mailto:aly@alysonsinclairpr.com) or 612.201.3867 for requests and queries related to Literary Arts' 30th Anniversary events & initiatives.

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