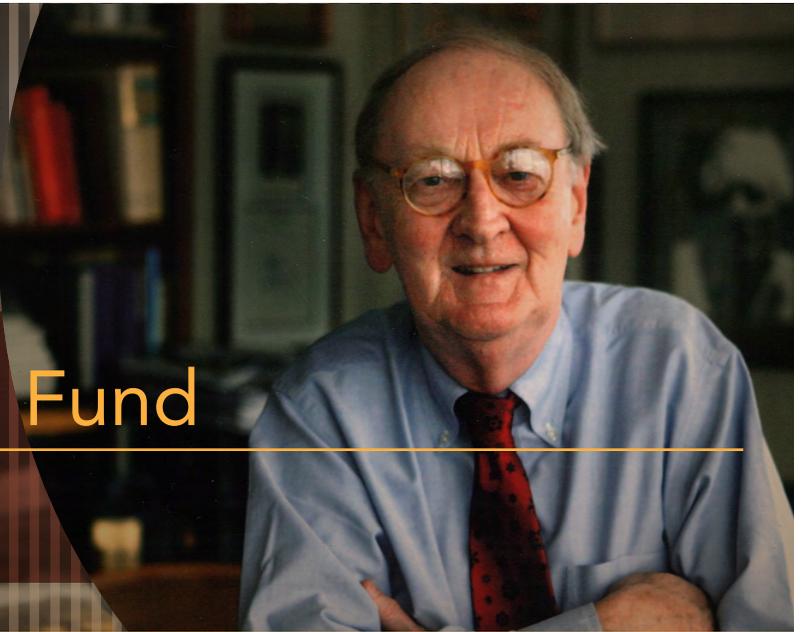


Brian Booth Writers' Fund

Endowment Campaign



Brian Booth, Oregon's beloved community leader, created the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships "to assist Pacific Northwest Writers and promote the literary arts in the Northwest".¹ To honor Brian's life and vision, and celebrate Literary Arts' 30th Anniversary, we are building a \$2 million endowment to provide permanent funding for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program.

"Literary arts (...) is an Oregon treasure but I would be surprised if it isn't on the verge of being recognized as a national treasure as well."

Kurt Andersen,
novelist, NPR host and 2011 OBA
Master of Ceremonies

The Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program supports, promotes, and celebrates Oregon's writers and publishers by providing them with vital financial support. Since its founding, the program has supported over 600 writers and 50 publishers with more than \$900,000 in awards. There is no other such program in Oregon, and ours is one of only a handful in the nation. Each year, Literary Arts receives hundreds of submissions for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships from all over the state.

The Brian Booth Writers' Fund will:

- Fulfill Brian Booth's vision by making the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships a financially self-sustaining program with a permanent funding source;
- Honor and foster the creation of new and important literature, ensuring that Oregon writers thrive;
- Support Oregon's rapidly expanding creative community, which is essential for the health of our state – civically, economically, educationally, artistically; and
- Cultivate literary bonds that bridge geographic, socio-economic, and cultural boundaries.

This campaign provides Brian's friends and admirers with a unique opportunity to honor his life and vision. It also provides writers, readers, and publishers with a special occasion to come together to strengthen and grow Oregon's creative community.

Although Brian did not foresee the dramatic changes now affecting the book and publishing industry, his vision for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships was clear and strong. Thanks to his initiative, the program has provided life-changing financial support and recognition for hundreds of authors, including Cheryl Strayed, Ursula Le Guin, Barry Lopez, Chang-Rae Lee, Ken Kesey, Gina Oschner, Tracy Daugherty, and Molly Gloss.

Today, the digital revolution is reshaping how literature is produced and delivered, opening new ways for Oregon writers and publishers to reach new audiences. The Brian Booth Writers' Fund will help future generations of Oregonians produce innovative and important literature, and will elevate their incredible achievements so they can enrich our community for years to come.

¹ Excerpt from April 14, 1986 letter from Brian Booth to Ursula LeGuin proposing the formation of what Literary Arts now calls the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program.

“Writing is a solitary activity, but its ultimate goal is always communication and community. Literary Arts has worked tirelessly to build and maintain Oregon’s literary community, to help us all feel less alone, to help us communicate across valleys, mountains, rivers, and deserts, up the coast and through the woods.”

Tracy Daugherty,
Oregon Book Award Winner

“It is hope that tells me my dream to become a writer might someday become a reality. Receiving an Oregon Literary Fellowship has given me a vast storehouse of hope and the means to put it to work.”

Norina Beck,
2007 Oregon Literary
Fellowships recipient

For more information,
please contact:

Lydah DeBin,
Director of Development
& Marketing, Literary Arts
at 503.227.2583 x 106 or
lydah@literary-arts.org

These changes have created greater urgency for nonprofits like Literary Arts to step up their efforts to support our writers and publishers.

By underwriting the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships, the Booth Writers Fund will help address this challenge. It will ensure that, every year, Literary Arts has sufficient resources to:

- Grant at least 10 Fellowships to help Oregon writers and publishers initiate, develop or complete literary projects;
- Select and recognize at least twenty five exceptional writers for original works published or produced in Oregon;
- Engage our diverse creative community in a public celebration honoring the recipients of Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships;
- Bring our state's most accomplished writers to at least eight Oregon communities for public readings, free workshops, and book group and school visits;
- Create new opportunities for Oregon writers to connect with the national literary community with events outside the state (e.g. festivals and conferences) that will increase visibility of Oregon’s literature and offer important professional development opportunities for writers and publishers;
- Ensure that award-winning books are available to all Oregonians by distributing approximately 400 copies of the honored titles, along with bookmarks promoting the authors, to libraries across the state.

Our quality of life and our state's economic vitality all depend on the effective nurturing of new and important artists. If we don't act together – and act now – insufficient investment in local writers and publishers could compromise the creative community that makes Oregon exceptional.

Join us. Literary Arts, in partnership with The Oregon Community Foundation¹, has laid the groundwork for this unique opportunity to honor the life and vision of Brian Booth, and to ensure that Oregon's writers thrive and enhance our community for years to come. This effort will accomplish much more than fund exceptional literature. It will strengthen and grow Oregon's creative class, so that it can continue to contribute to all aspects of our lives – civically, economically, educationally and artistically.

There are many ways to participate. You may:

- Make a current gift or pledge, payable over the next three to five years, up to December 31, 2018. Gift types may include cash, securities, property and charitable income trusts.
- Make a deferred gift pledge during the Campaign that will help fund the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships at some point after 2018. Gift types may include bequests, life insurance policies, IRA's or other retirement fund assets and charitable remainder trusts.

¹ OCF is managing the Booth Writers' Fund, and gift planners are available to assist with specialized deferred gifts.

Brian Booth Writers' Fund

Endowment Campaign

About Literary Arts

"I most of all want to say how amazing my day has been with Literary Arts and how full and rich it was, and how much in awe I am of what Literary Arts is in its extraordinary range of activities. I wish, actually, all cities in America could have anything even remotely like what I've seen today. I'm very admiring of it."

*—Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author,
Stephen Greenblatt, Portland Arts & Lectures, March 5, 2013*

Literary Arts is a nonprofit literary center based in downtown Portland, with a 33-year history of serving Oregon's readers and writers. Our mission is to engage readers, support writers, and inspire the next generation with great literature.

Since 1984, Literary Arts has:

- brought hundreds of the world's most important and influential writers, artists, and thinkers to Oregon,
- created the nation's largest live audience for literature,
- awarded over \$700,000 to Oregon writers and publishers, and
- helped tens of thousands of teenagers with writing instruction and literary programming.

Every year, we reach more than 20,000 writers, readers, teachers, and students across the state. We support, promote, and celebrate Oregon's writers and publishers through the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program; inspire public high school students to write, revise, edit, publish, and perform their own creative writing through Youth Programs; bring the world's most celebrated writers, artists and thinkers to Oregon to engage with our community in Portland Arts & Lectures; and build community around literature through Wordstock: Portland's Book Festival.

For Literary Arts, program excellence begins with our ability to provide Oregonians with access to the finest artists working in literature today. Our programs bring writers and readers together in forums large and small to inspire conversation, curiosity, and community around literature.

Literary Arts is financially strong. We have no debt or deficit, and our annual budget has grown to \$2.4 million.