Attendees during a free @LiteraryArts event at our community center in downtown Portland.
At Literary Arts, we create opportunities for readers and writers of all ages and walks of life to engage with literature.

Each year, we invite you to hear world-famous authors in the concert hall and on the radio. We ask you to support emerging writers, young and old, during community events and student readings. We offer you a seat at writing classes and reading seminars, where you can build community with other literary enthusiasts. We invite you to explore all forms of literature, from storytelling to slam poetry. At Literary Arts, we invite you to find your story here, in whatever form it may take.

**OUR MISSION IS TO ENGAGE READERS, SUPPORT WRITERS, AND INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION WITH GREAT LITERATURE.**

**WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Stories are powerful. The stories that get told define who we are for ourselves and others. Who has the opportunity to tell their story and who does not? And who has an audience that is listening, reading, and engaging with that story?

The history of who can tell their story and who is listening is part of the history of oppression, prejudice, and privilege. At Literary Arts we acknowledge that, as Oregonians, we have been part of this history. We are committed to a different future. One in which all members of our community have the opportunity to tell their stories, particularly members of our communities of color.

We have begun to make some programmatic progress in this area. For example, we have significantly increased the resources we give to writers of color and have expanded our education program into East Multnomah County. We regularly partner with culturally specific organizations at our downtown event space and highlight writers of color in all our programs, and we have focused on staff and board trainings and conversations around equity on a continual basis.

We consider this progress a start and are committed to deepening this work.

We cannot do this work alone, and we are grateful to all of our partner organizations and individuals who support our mission to better serve more Oregonians.

With appreciation,

Andrew Proctor, Executive Director

andrew@literary-arts.org

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**WHO WE ARE**

- Literary Arts Staff
  - Andrew Proctor, Executive Director
  - Amina Adams
  - Amanda Betch
  - Shiloh Dixie
  - Allana Farino
  - Jasmine Goodwin
  - Megan Gore
  - Janie Cronk
  - Kendra Hardesty
  - Shantel Hines
  - Ramon Keys
  - Alyssa Lopez
  - Samantha Moore
  - Liz Ouimet
  - Chilone Queen
  - Jasmine Rooker
  - Dru Strum
  - Mila Wik

- Literary Arts Board of Directors
  - Jacqueline Williams, Chair
  - Melinda Bubba
  - Ann Callahan
  - Gracie Cooper
  - Alisa Capitoli-Carson
  - Rebecca DeCao
  - Amy Dooley
  - Theo-Dominic Le Gras
  - Mara Eckert
  - Susan Hammer
  - Carley Hasting
  - Dona Hiner
  - Anne Margolis
  - Katherine O’Neil
  - Revis Pagan
  - Karl Meurk
  - Seth Raymond
  - Bob Spitz
  - Amy Werenski
  - Thomas Wood

- Strand & White Society
  - honorary society of distinguished advisors:
    - Gayle Mark Gamble Booth
    - Nancy Bogan
    - Larry Cohen
    - Rachel Cobb (retired)
    - Elinor Duntov
    - Brian Giarrusso
    - Diane Gooling
    - Julie Hesser
    - Carin Hoops
    - Carolee Huntington
    - Samantha Janower
    - Rory Jayson
    - Mia Marcano
    - Brenda Miholcska
    - Jessica Morin
    - Diane Morris
    - Michael Powell
    - Sue Rueda
    - Hali Saele
    - Steve Tarka
    - Steve Wyman

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  - Shiloh Dixie
  - Carley Hasting
  - Dona Hiner
  - Revis Pagan
  - Karl Meurk
  - Seth Raymond
  - Bob Spitz
  - Amy Werenski

- Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships Advisory Council
  - Joe Raymond, Chair
  - Tom Bork
  - Nancy Barlow
  - Karin Bard
  - Mike Glass
  - Kari Bugg
  - Cecilia Huntington
  - Linda Lowe
  - Meghan Moses
  - Tom Perce
  - Diane Strohman
  - Sara Thomas
  - Ann Talbot

- Youth Programs Advisory Council
  - Chair
  - Copper Roren
  - Amy Prosenjak
  - Andrew Proctor
  - Earl Hines
  - Betsy Henning
  - Amy Donohue
  - Jacqueline Willingham, Chair
  - Melinda Bubba
  - Ann Callahan
  - Gracie Cooper
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“Literary Arts is an amazing organization doing necessary, vital work in the community. They reach across boundaries and bring so many different people together around books. In doing so, they create community.”


Each year, our programs bring more than 20,000 Oregonians together to explore the many ways literature can enrich our lives.

Over the past year, we have seen record attendance at our events. From the 10,000 attendees at the Portland Book Festival to the more than 1,000 students producing work through our writing residencies, our community has shown us the importance of creating spaces for people to find their story.
Literary Arts brought some of the world’s most celebrated authors to engage with our local community. Our season of events featured more than 150 authors whose lectures, readings, and discussions inspired more than 20,000 readers of all ages.

PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL

In June, Wordstock: Portland’s Book Festival was renamed to, simply, the Portland Book Festival. By referring to our city, we reflect the civic nature of the event, and we clarify for our attendees, authors, and partners (both locally and nationally) the nature of the festival as a major event and one that puts readers at the forefront.

“I applaud Literary Arts’ willingness to open wide the big tent of intellectual curiosity. I love embedding myself deeply into a piece of fiction to spy on how it was made, the effect of authorial choices, its benevolent synchronicities...”
— Delve Readers Seminar participant

“Literary Arts is a truly essential organization—to Portland, and to the artistic life of the country, especially in recognizing how essential it is to bring art out into communities that might not normally be served in that way.”
— George Saunders, 2017/2018 Portland Arts & Lectures author

EVERYBODY READS 2018

In partnership with Multnomah County Library and the Library Foundation, this year’s Everybody Reads program featured Exit West by Mohsin Hamid. During his time in Portland, Hamid discussed his experience as an immigrant and the stigmas that are placed on refugees around the world.

1,700 attendees, including 740 students.

“This was the best lecture I’ve heard in years and so needed at this time in our country. It was water to my soul.”
— Everybody Reads 2018 attendee

DELVE READERS SEMINARS

Each year, we continue to experiment with the subject matter and format of our Delve Readers Seminars to engage a community of passionate readers and seminar guides. In partnership with the Portland Art Museum, local writer Coleman Stevenson hosted a seminar on the commonalities in the ways writers and visual artists recreate the human experience. During the six-week seminar, fifteen students explored works by modern and contemporary writers alongside the beautiful visual art in the museum galleries.

279 participants enrolled in 20 seminars.

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— Delve Readers Seminar participant

THE ARCHIVE PROJECT

Now in its fourth season, The Archive Project rebroadcasts a wide range of Literary Arts programming, including recordings from Portland Arts & Lectures, Portland Book Festival, Everybody Reads, and Verselandia. 15,000+ monthly listeners on the radio and online.

2018 PORTLAND ARTS & LECTURES

In addition to presenting to a sold-out audience at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, our five visiting authors engaged with readers and writers of all ages in the community. For example, Man Booker Prize-winning author George Saunders spoke with students at Madison High School and engaged with local writers at our community space in downtown Portland.

2,500 annual subscribers.

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ENGAGE READERS
SUPPORT WRITERS

Literary Arts connects with hundreds of local writers and publishers throughout the year. We celebrate and recognize the remarkable work being created by local writers and publishers through awards and fellowships. We also hire writers to teach workshops, and we partner with artists and organizations to host free events in our space and in the community.

OREGON BOOK AWARDS

The 2018 Oregon Book Awards finalists included 35 writers. This year, for the first time in over 15 years, the Oregon Book Awards judging system was changed to include three judges in each genre. An audience of more than 400 came to cheer on local authors during the live, annual Oregon Book Awards Ceremony on April 30, 2018.

205 books submitted.
35 finalists recognized and celebrated.

OREGON LITERARY FELLOWSHIPS

Twenty Oregon Literary Fellowship recipients were awarded a total of $70,000 this year. Out-of-state judges selected this year’s diverse group of recipients from more than 450 applicants. Two fellowships were funded by the Oregon Arts Commission, and two new fellowships in fiction were made possible by the Laurell Swails and Donald Monroe Memorial Fellowship. A generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation also supported these fellowships.

18 writers and 2 publishers awarded fellowships of $3,500 each.

“More than anything, this fellowship is a reminder I live in a community that values its storytellers and is willing to support them. I can’t overstate how much that means.”
—Omar El Akkad, 2018 Oregon Literary Fellowship recipient

WRITING CLASSES

Students from all levels of experience and backgrounds came to our classes this year to start their memoirs, finish their novels, revise their poems, and join a community of inspired writers. Many of our instructors are Oregon Book Award authors and Literary Fellowship recipients, and all of them are experienced teachers. Earned income from the classes contributes to the sustainability of our awards program.

356 students participated in 48 classes.

“Another goal of Incite is to feature unpublished queer writers. There are so many queer writers out there who are producing great work but who are getting overlooked or haven’t broken out yet.”
—Kate Carroll de Gutes, co-founder of Incite

OREGON BOOK AWARDS TOUR

Nine Oregon Book Award authors participated in this year’s tour and visited public high schools, libraries, community centers, and theaters across Oregon. Events included a staged reading of Words That Burn at the Linkville Theater in Klamath Falls, a performance of Berlin Diary at Oregon Contemporary Theatre in Eugene and Havurah Shir Hadash in Ashland, a school visit, and a free workshop.

6 towns visited across Oregon.
230 people engaged.

@LITERARYARTS EVENTS

Our community center in downtown Portland offers a space for local and national organizations to present literary events for free or at low-cost. We’ve seen our partners program innovative, culturally specific events that give a platform to new voices and emerging writers, including Incite: Queer Writers Read, Kundiman, and Los Porteños.

1,600 total audience attended 45 free events, featuring 20 community partners and 218 presenting artists.

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—Laura Kasischke, Oregon Book Awards judge

348 books by Oregon Book Awards finalists were donated from publishers and distributed by Literary Arts to 25 libraries in 17 counties across the state.

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Our Youth Programs inspired more than 4,000 students with a variety of literary opportunities in the classroom and concert hall. From creative writing residencies taught by local writers, to school visits with world-renown authors, students experienced first-hand the value literature can offer.

**WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS RESIDENCIES**

We partnered with 31 educators at 11 public high schools throughout the year. At Lincoln High School, poet Bertina de Leon Barrera worked in Trevor Todd’s Spanish-language magazine class. In a room of Spanish speakers from around the world, and particularly Latin America, Barrera taught the craft of poetry to help these students further their abilities as magazine writers and editors.

- **24 professional writers** hired.
- **1,055 students** served.

“Students were able to engage in writing that was personal and relevant to them. Additionally, they were able to learn to hear their own voices in their work.”
—Madison High School teacher

**156 students** were published in the 2016-17 WITS anthology *Galaxies on the Ground* and the chapbook *Everything is Changing*.

**AUTHOR VISITS AND STUDENTS TO THE SCHNITZ**

Hundreds of students engaged with eight award-winning authors in the concert hall and classrooms throughout the year. Two-time National Book Award-winning author Jesmyn Ward visited Benson High School and discussed how her fiction was affected by her life experiences, including living through Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

- **732 books** provided to **1,638 students** who attended lecture events and author visits.

“I saw a successful, talented woman of color that I can identify with. As she talked, I felt inspired to write more than ever before.”
—Woodburn High School student after attending Jesmyn Ward’s Portland Arts & Lectures event

**VERSELANDIA!**

During the annual Verselandia! City-wide Youth Poetry Slam, local high school students performed original poetry on stage at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. This year’s event drew the largest audience yet, underlining the importance of giving youth a platform where their voices can be heard.

- **21 students** performed in front of **1,436 peers, parents, and poetry fans**.

“If you have something to say, or feel like your voice is not heard, or if you have things to teach people and wisdom to get out, slam poetry is great.”
—Verselandia! finalist

**STUDENT READINGS**

Sharing work with friends, family, and community members helps students grow as writers. Students shared their poems, prose, and comics alongside teachers and WITS writers during 11 end-of-residency readings. Nineteen students performed their work on stage at the Portland Book Festival.

- **126 students** shared work.
- **365 attendees**.

“Having a WITS writer helped create a sense of community in our classroom. This experience has brought us together, so thank you!”
—Franklin High School Student

**COLLEGE ESSAY MENTORSHIP**

At Benson, Franklin, Gresham, Madison, and Roosevelt high schools, we paired volunteer mentors with students working on their essays for college and scholarship applications. Over half of these students reported that they are part of the first generation in their family heading to college.

- **239 students** served by **103 volunteer mentors**.

“My mentor was very nice, a good listener, and kept me on topic. She helped me gain insight on what I want to become in the future.”
—Roosevelt High School student

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**INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION**

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THE BRIAN BOOTH WRITERS’ FUND
A PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FOR THE OREGON BOOK AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM.

This year, Literary Arts awarded a total of $70,000 to 20 fellowship recipients—our largest cohort to date. This program is made possible in part by the Brian Booth Writers’ Fund.

BRIAN BOOTH WRITERS’ FUND CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

We thank the following donors for their generous gifts as we work to raise $2 million to permanently fund the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program. The following donors have pledged gifts of $3,000 or more to the Brian Booth Writers’ Fund as of June 1, 2018.

Raised to Date: $1,748,345

LEAVE A LEGACY
To learn more about how to make a meaningful charitable gift through your estate, visit literary-arts.org/legacy or contact our Deputy Director, Lydah DeBin, at 503-227-2583, x 106 or lydah@literary-arts.org.
Thank you to our supporters

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Joan C. Girgar & Roger Cooke
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Arleen Schnitzer
Dan Wieden & Priscilla Bernard Wieden

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Tim & Mary Boyle
Ginnie Cooper
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Ann & Mark Edlen Family

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Violet & Robert Metzler
Gabriel Mendoza
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Bob Gass
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Brian Booth
In Memory Of
Jackie Willingham

Thank you to our supporters

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Karin Baber
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Kerstie Buncher
Ryono Cato
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Iren & Barbara Chalmers
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Joseph & Leah Dun
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Kandas Furness
Jan & Paul Furnish
Briana Garza
Dana Garza
Elena Garber
Dennis Gearin & Cheri Kadetsky
Nancy Gendron & Ronald Gendron
Cecilia Hagen & Craig Spalding
Bar Hall
William & Martha Hall
Nancy Harrower & Larry Morgan
David Herrmann
Natalie Hirt
Molly Hobbs
Rob & Jodi Holzman
Tori & Robert Hopkins
Rhonda Houghs
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Nona & Michael Hurley
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G Drawing & Sharon Iaconetti
Patricia & Ward Jones
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Donald & Suzanne Krupper
Linda & Steve Leslie
F.J. & Nancy Lewis
Cristal Lippett
Mark & Longis Schlesinger
David & Susan Maddocks
Amy & Neil Malagutti
Barbara & Michael Malagutti
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John Olszak
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Ann Strom
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Sara van Tonder
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Stephanie & John Voltz
Robert & Margaret Wartman
Margaret & Ward Wills
Jen & Tyler Wilson

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Jim Balles & Mary Louise Mc Cleman
Lynne Bannister & Kevin Blacker
Stevie & Gene Bass
Kim & Ron Bemis
Robert Bentley
Gary & Barbara Brandt & Gary Grand & Dennis Dick & Renee, Butterfield
Eloise & Ron Borek
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Kevan & Allyson Brown
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Barbara Budish
Raquel Cadel
Tanya Carlson
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Patricia & Ward Jones
Benny & Susan Kovetsky
Donald & Suzanne Krupper
Linda & Steve Leslie
F.J. & Nancy Lewis
Cristal Lippett
Mark & Longis Schlesinger
David & Susan Maddocks
Amy & Neil Malagutti
Barbara & Michael Malagutti
Tina Martino
Bonne & Peter Reigan
Ellie & Rhodes
Robbin & Tom Obrecht
John Olszak
Pattie & William Smirkoff
Ann Strom
Barbara & Van Summers
Mary & Michael Sullivan
Sara van Tonder
Wynn & Saley Vandenbosch
Stephanie & John Voltz
Robert & Margaret Wartman
Margaret & Ward Wills
Jen & Tyler Wilson

$10,000+

$1,000+

$500+

$250+

$100+

$50+

$10+

$5+

$1+
Get involved with Literary Arts and help us engage readers, support writers, and inspire the next generation with great literature.

VOLUNTEER

Our programming is made possible with the help of those who generously donate their time to Literary Arts. Here are some ways to join our community of volunteers:

• Offer support at Portland Arts & Lectures and our special events as a volunteer or intern.
• Assist high school students in preparing their college and scholarship application essays through the College Essay Mentoring project.
• Help out at the Portland Book Festival before and during the event on Saturday, November 10, 2018. More than 300 volunteers make this event possible.
• Be a part of our annual fundraiser, Bookmark: A Benefit for Literary Arts on September 28, 2018 and help ensure our guests enjoy a memorable evening.

Sign up at literary-arts.org/volunteer.

Visit literary-arts.org/calendar for a full list of events and initiatives.

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at literary-arts.org/enews.

Join our social network on Facebook.com/literaryarts and on Twitter and Instagram @literaryarts.

Stop by our community center at 925 SW Washington Street in Portland.

FIND YOUR STORY

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

A LOOK AHEAD

THIS SUMMER:
We just announced our 2018-2019 season of Writing Classes and Delve Readers Seminars, featuring more than 30 classes and 25 seminars. Register for classes on our website and sign up to receive our class brochure.

COMING THIS FALL:
On September 6, we will announce this year’s lineup for the Portland Book Festival. Tickets and workshop registration will be on sale at this time. We hope to see you downtown at the Festival on November 10, 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING:
Plan to join our special events, including Everybody Reads, the 2019 Oregon Book Awards Ceremony, and the annual Verselandia! City-wide Youth Poetry Slam.

Find a full calendar of events at literary-arts.org

Find your story

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS
Zeroth law

When leaning on the backyard beam beneath a full wolf moon and my slippers shiver under my nightdress as I happen upon a reason for waking—call it a snowflake a belly-flop blue jay or even my own small toe peaking through a not-yet hole as it fissures into my slipper’s future and I’m not out for a jog or to find a misplaced piece of scoundrel lover but to marry my morning coffee to an old cigarette to the new blue-gray light of an icy pacific year in mid-set

See how they swinghold hands and raise the sun? Hey, you! Bluebird! Whatever will we do—exhale—with all these merciful gifts?

Samiya Bashir
2018 Oregon Book Award Winner in Poetry for Field Theories