

# LITERARY ARTS **ANNUAL REPORT** 2018-2019



# AT LITERARY ARTS, WE BELIEVE THAT STORIES CAN **CHANGE THE WORLD.**

Our programs help Oregonians of all ages find and share their stories. From concert hall events with acclaimed authors to open mic readings at our community space, we provide a platform for diverse voices to be heard. These shared experiences allow our audiences to gather and celebrate the power that words have in creating empowered, empathetic, and inclusive communities.



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



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## WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year our community gathered together in groups large and small looking for answers. Not the superficial or pre-meditated answers of our polarized times, but the deeper answers that can only come from fiction, nonfiction, poems, and stories. Far from being afraid of difficult, sometimes personal, questions, our community showed up in record numbers looking for the complex answers that come from some of the greatest writers working today and the dialogue that follows.

Literary Arts continues to evolve with our community by embracing literature in its many forms and presenting it in many formats, centering underrepresented voices, and fostering a new and more diverse group of young writers.

And though we live in challenging times, there's joy in this art, and in this work, and in being part of a community so engaged, supportive, and inspiring.

With appreciation,



Andrew Proctor, *Executive Director*  
andrew@literary-arts.org

## WHO WE ARE

### Literary Arts Staff

Andrew Proctor,  
*Executive Director*

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*An honorary society of  
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Sage Van Wing  
Lidia Yuknavitch  
Gail Zuro

“Literary Arts demolishes  
walls and builds bridges,  
clearing the way so that  
literature can work its  
special magic.”

— Tayari Jones, 2018/2019 Portland Arts & Lectures Author

**During our 2018/2019 season of events,** we inspired more than 20,000 people to explore books, stories, and the important ideas and issues they raise.



**Readers** heard from world-famous authors in the concert hall and local voices in our community space.



**Writers** honed their craft in our classrooms and celebrated their art with peers.



**The next generation** was inspired to write and perform their work during our creative writing residencies.

Explore how our year of work and dedication inspired our audiences across our communities, state, and nation.

# 20,000 READERS ENGAGED

Literary Arts brought world-renowned authors to engage with our local community in the concert hall and classrooms. Our season of events featured more than 150 authors whose lectures, readings, and discussions centered on important community issues—from the history of political partisanship in the United States to feminism in the 21st century.

## 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 through forum discussions with professional writers and visits with public high school students. For example, Jacqueline Woodson, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, met with students at Roosevelt High School.

**2,500** annual subscribers

**“Literary Arts is doing the work and I was so proud to be a part of it. There is a pulse in the communities they’re engaging with—a hunger, a deep gratitude, and so much talent finally getting seen and heard. It’s a force for change and wow, how amazing to see that change firsthand.”**

—Jacqueline Woodson,  
2018/2019 Portland Arts & Lectures author



**10% of adult attendees** received  
**free admission** to our concert hall events.



## PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL

The author lineup featured a mix of more than 100 local and national writers such as Elizabeth Acevedo, Patrick deWitt, Lauren Groff, Tom Hanks, Abbi Jacobson, Rachel Kushner, Tommy Orange, Gregory Pardlo, Justin Phillip Reed, and Luis Alberto Urrea.

More than **8,500 attendees**.

**940 youth** received free admission.

**“So many intelligent, communicative, kind people respectfully sharing thoughts, perspectives, and conversation about little and big topics. I felt at home. I felt connected—and, in today’s world that is an incredible gift.”**

—2018 Festival attendee



### Save the date:

November 9, 2019 at the  
Portland Art Museum

## THE ARCHIVE PROJECT

*The Archive Project* rebroadcasts a wide range of Literary Arts programming, including recordings from Portland Arts & Lectures, the Portland Book Festival, Everybody Reads, and Verselandia!. Tune in to OPB radio every Wednesday at 10:00 p.m., or stream episodes anywhere you get your podcasts.

**12,000 monthly listeners**  
on the radio and online.

**160+** episodes.

## EVERYBODY READS 2019

In partnership with the Multnomah County Library and the Library Foundation, this year’s Everybody Reads program featured Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. During her time in Portland, Adichie met with students at Gresham and Jefferson high schools before her sold-out lecture.



**2,315 attendees**—our largest Everybody Reads author event to date!

**“Thank you for bringing these cultural figures and works of literature to our community! It’s hard to overstate the positive impact the programs of Literary Arts have on our students and our school culture.”**

—Alethea Work, Gresham High School

## 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. Delve participants read literature by immigrant women writers, studied the television series *The Wire*, and engaged in lively conversation about the Federalist Papers, Tarot readings, Thomas Pynchon, and many other writers.

**226 participants** enrolled in **20 seminars**.

**“Delve gives me a greater sense of community and belonging and a lifelong commitment to literature and reading. It reinvigorated my love of literature and helped me with finding time to enjoy a few books.”**

—Delve participant

# 1,500 WRITERS SUPPORTED

Literary Arts connects with local writers and publishers through classes and events all year long. 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

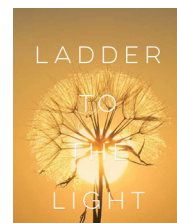
The 2019 Oregon Book Awards finalists included 31 writers in seven genres. An audience of more than 550 came to cheer on local authors during the annual Oregon Book Awards Ceremony on April 22, 2019 at Portland Center Stage. Hosted by Cheryl Strayed, the evening included music by The Hillbillies, a poetry reading by Samiya Bashir, and a special award presented to José González, co-founder of the Milagro Theatre.

**222 books** submitted.

**31 finalists** recognized and celebrated.

**“Matthew Minicucci opens depths inside us that we can sense long after we’ve closed his book.”**

—Forrest Gander, Oregon Book Awards Judge for Poetry



**520 books** by Oregon Book Awards finalists and winners were donated from publishers and distributed by Literary Arts to **25 libraries** in **13 counties** across the state.

## OREGON LITERARY FELLOWSHIPS

Fifteen Oregon Literary Fellowship recipients were awarded a total of \$52,500 this year. Out-of-state judges selected this year's diverse group of recipients from more than 400 applicants. For the fourth year, Literary Arts awarded the Writer of Color fellowship. Fellowship recipients were acknowledged at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony.

**13** writers and **2** publishers awarded fellowships of **\$3,500** each.

"Since the fellowships were announced, I've had the chance to meet many of the other fellows and Oregon Book Award finalists. Local reading series have reached out. Poets have invited me to join their writing groups. The fellowship has been an entrance into a world that felt distant, even though I'd been living right in the midst of it."

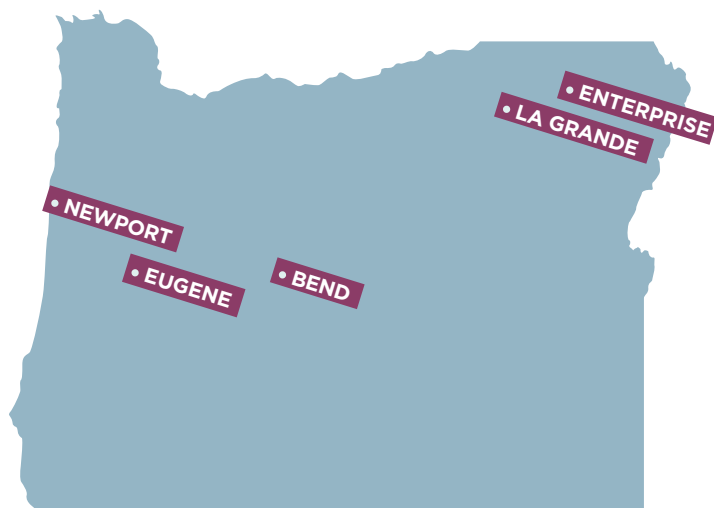
—Jennifer Perrine, 2019 Oregon Literary Fellowship recipient

## OREGON BOOK AWARDS AUTHOR TOUR

The Oregon Book Awards Author Tour brought authors to towns across the state to share their work, lead workshops, and engage rural communities. Eight Oregon Book Awards authors participated in this year's tour. Events included a workshop with local residents in Enterprise, a presentation on making graphic literature in Bend, and readings.



**190** people engaged in **5** towns across Oregon.



## 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.

**330** students participated in **40** classes.

"Natalie Serber's Bootcamp class has been revolutionary for my writing. It has helped me re-engage with my memoir project. I have more traction and confidence in my writing and this project than ever before."

—Writing student

## @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. Our partners program innovative events that give a platform to new voices and emerging writers, including Cave Canem's annual Fellows Reading and Ooligan Press's annual Writer of Color Spring Showcase. We also welcomed two new monthly resident series at Literary Arts: Slamlandia, a growing poetry slam event, and our own One Page Wednesday, an open mic where writers share their work.

**1,446** total audience attended  
**46** free events with **20** community partners  
and **254** presenting artists.



"It's rare for a venue to be as welcoming and accommodating when opening their doors to art as Literary Arts manages to be almost every day. We are grateful for the opportunity to foster poetry within their inviting walls."

—Julia Gaskill, co-founder of Slamlandia

# 4,000 YOUTH INSPIRED

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-renowned authors, students experienced first-hand the value literature can offer.

## WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS RESIDENCIES

We partnered with 26 educators at 11 public high schools throughout the year. While we worked in many English and writing classes, WITS also had writers in residence contribute to other subjects, such as ELL and theater. At Wilson High School, writer Damien Miles-Paulson worked in Norman Stremming's anthropology class, where they studied poetic forms from around the world to supplement their learning on world cultures.

**22** professional writers hired.

**855** students served.

"These past few weeks have really opened my eyes to writing. Working with Mr. Pomeroy has been one of the best and most memorable times I've had in school. I feel that I have many more options when it comes to creating a setting or character in my writing and that has made me feel more confident in my writing availability."

—Benson High School student



**111** students were published in the 2017/2018 WITS anthology, *Change Cannot Be Tamed*, and the chapbook, *Unexpected but not Unwelcome*.

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## 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. A group of 15 students performed their work on stage at the Portland Book Festival.



**96** students shared work.  
**189** attendees.

**"It really boosted my confidence about writing. I feel like I have opportunities that I didn't think I had before. Like sharing my poetry with other people. Also to write more from the heart."**

—Franklin High School student

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## AUTHOR VISITS AND STUDENTS TO THE SCHNITZ

More than 2,000 students engaged with seven award-winning authors in the concert hall and classrooms throughout the year. For example, students at Parkrose High School attended a Q&A session with Portland Arts & Lectures author Tayari Jones, where they discussed the craft and process of writing.

**797** books provided to students who attended lecture events and author visits.

**"I got to speak one-on-one with a well-known and wonderful author, which inspired me to write and learn more about the process behind the book."**

—Parkrose High School student

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## COLLEGE ESSAY MENTORSHIP

At Grant, Franklin, and Roosevelt high schools, we paired volunteer mentors with students working on their essays for college and scholarship applications. Special thanks to our partners at The Standard and Wieden + Kennedy for participating as volunteer mentors and hosting mentoring sessions for Benson and Gresham high schools. Over half of participating students reported that they are part of the first generation in their family heading to college.

**258** students served by  
**149** volunteer mentors.

**"They were honest and kind to me. I enjoyed our conversations and I loved that we got to learn about each other as people."**

—Roosevelt High School student



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## 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. The five finalists also visited Wieden + Kennedy, where they performed for staff and shared lunch with Dan Wieden and other agency creatives.

**22** students performed in front of **1,264** peers, parents, and poetry fans.

**"The kids were passionate, brilliant, inspiring, and so eloquent. Gives me hope for the future!"**

—Verselandia! attendee

The new Verselandia! East Side Slam took place on May 16, 2019 at the Mt Hood Community College Theater. Students from Centennial, Fir Ridge, Gresham, Parkrose, and Reynolds high schools competed, and Franklin High School teacher and slam poet Desmond Spann emceed.



## DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

# UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION IMPACTS OREGON'S READERS & WRITERS

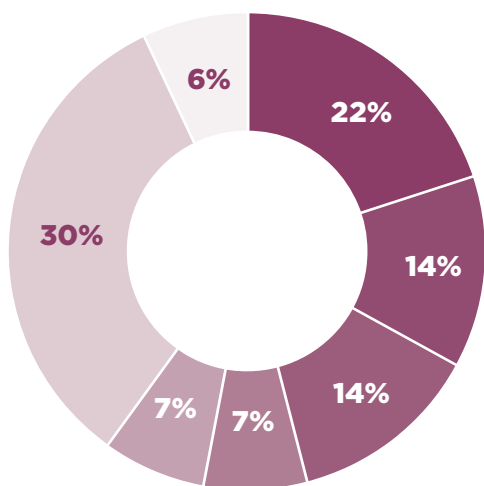
### INCOME

#### Earned income

- Ticket sales: 30%
- Classes: 6%

#### Contributed income

- Individual: 22%
- Corporate: 14%
- Foundation: 14%
- In kind: 7%
- Government: 7%

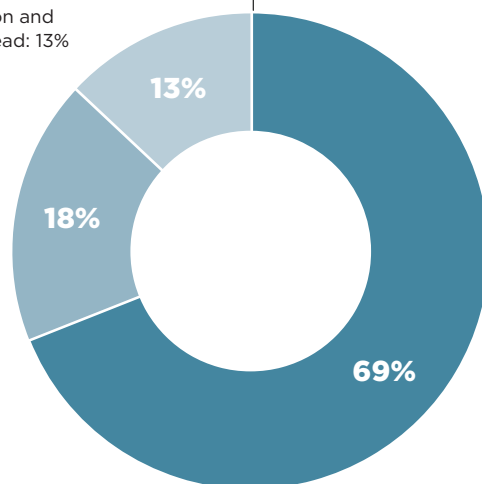


1,134 people contributed \$773,821 in gifts and pledges. THANK YOU!

20,000 individuals enjoyed Literary Arts programming.

### EXPENSES

- Programming: 69%
- Fundraising: 18%
- Administration and Office overhead: 13%



## WHY DO YOU GIVE TO LITERARY ARTS?

Tell us your story at [literary-arts.org/whyigive](http://literary-arts.org/whyigive)

# BOOK MARK

Presented by  The Standard

See you at Bookmark:  
A Benefit for Literary Arts

Thursday, September 26, 2019  
Portland Art Museum

Join us for our fundraiser benefiting all our literary programs that inspire Oregon's readers and writers.

For more information about purchasing a table or becoming a sponsor, please contact us at 503.227.2583 x118.

## THE BRIAN BOOTH WRITERS' FUND

# A PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FOR THE OREGON BOOK AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM

This year, Literary Arts awarded a total of \$52,500 to 15 diverse fellowship recipients and \$8,000 to Oregon Book Award winners. This program is made possible in part by the Brian Booth Writers' Fund.



**GOAL**  
**\$2,000,000**

**RAISED TO DATE:**  
**\$1,885,209**



## Leave a Legacy

To learn more about how to make a meaningful charitable gift through your estate, visit [literary-arts.org/legacy](http://literary-arts.org/legacy) or contact our **Deputy Director, Lydah DeBin, at 503-227-2583, x 106 or [lydah@literary-arts.org](mailto:lydah@literary-arts.org).**

## BRIAN BOOTH WRITERS' FUND CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

Thank you to 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, 2019.

Anonymous  
Ray & Jean Auel  
Jan Baross  
Gwyneth Gamble Booth  
Tom Booth & Megan Holden  
Nancy & Roderick Boutin  
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Carol Edelman  
Gale Family Trust  
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Bob Geddes  
Gray Family Fund  
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In memory of Dorothy D. Hirsch  
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Susheela Jayapal  
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Regional Arts & Culture Council  
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Dan Wieden & Priscilla Bernard Wieden  
Wyss Foundation

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## Literary Arts Leadership Circle

*Members of the Leadership Circle invest in Literary Arts by generously giving \$2,500 or more.*

### Director's Circle \$25,000 +

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### Sustainer's Circle \$10,000-24,999

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Amy Donohue & Paul McKean  
Bart & Jill Eberwein  
Ann & Ron Emmerson  
Bob Geddes  
Sarah & Kurt Gibbon  
Earl Hines  
David Johnson  
Richard & Patti Keller  
Amy Carlsen Kohnstamm & Kevin Kohnstamm  
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Andrew & Veronica Proctor  
Jon Raymond  
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Donald & Roslyn Sutherland  
Kristin & Nick Walrod  
Morton & Audrey Zalutsky

## Individuals

### \$1,000 +

Geri Abere  
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Phyllis Cast  
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Cheryl Strayed  
Darci & Charlie Swindells  
Sue Wright  
Steven & Deborah Hewitt Wynne  
Lidia Yuknavitch

### \$500 +

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Mona Westhaver  
Janet Williamson  
Merri Souther Wyatt  
David & Sharon Wynde  
Dr. Candace Young

### \$250 +

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Donald Andersen  
Kristin Anderson & Michael O'Brien  
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A LOOK AHEAD

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

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## THIS SUMMER:

We just announced our fall events, including an evening with **Margaret Atwood** on September 25 and **Ta-Nehisi Coates** on October 21. Our **Writing Classes** and **Delve Readers Seminars** will be announced in early August. Purchase tickets and register for classes on our website at [literary-arts.org](http://literary-arts.org).

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## COMING THIS FALL:

On September 5, we will announce this year's lineup for the **Portland Book Festival**. Passes and workshop registration will be on sale at this time. We hope to see you downtown at the Festival on November 9, 2019.

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING:

Plan to join our special events, including the 2020 Everybody Reads with **Tommy Orange**, the 2020 **Oregon Book Awards Ceremony**, and the annual **Verselandia! City-wide Youth Poetry Slam**.



Find a full calendar of events  
at [literary-arts.org](http://literary-arts.org)

## FIND YOUR STORY

# GET INVOLVED WITH LITERARY ARTS

## 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.
- 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 9, 2019.

Sign up at [literary-arts.org/volunteer](https://literary-arts.org/volunteer).

## STAY CONNECTED



Visit [literary-arts.org/calendar](https://literary-arts.org/calendar) for a full list of events and initiatives.



Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at [literary-arts.org/enews](https://literary-arts.org/enews).



Join our social network on [Facebook.com/literaryarts](https://Facebook.com/literaryarts) and on Twitter and Instagram @literaryarts.



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



Volunteer assists during Bookmark: A Benefit for Literary Arts.



DeRay Mckesson greets fans after his on stage event.



Tommy Orange poses with *The Believer's* Sara Ortiz during the 2018 Portland Book Festival.

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Matthew Minicucci  
from *Small Gods*, 2019 winner of the  
Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry

## A Whale's Heart

My  
grandfather once said you can hear  
a whale's heart from over two miles  
away. How much sound must dissipate  
through the wavering quiet; the medium. How  
large the ventricles must be.  
How, in the old country, his family distilled  
the petals pulled from their rose  
garden. As drink, or drug, or perfume  
applied to his own father's ears each  
night, before prayers; how the burns came  
in a blacksmith's fire; how small the scar  
left, how easy to see then  
what was lost.

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