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WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful to you all for being a part of Literary Arts this year. Your support and participation, whether in-person or online, helped us all feel in community at a time when we most needed it. I hope you found joy in our work, or perhaps some respite or solace. I hope you made a new connection with someone, or discovered a new writer, or a story of your own. As we continue to emerge from two years of isolation and shuttered theaters, classrooms, and concert halls, witnessing art and hearing deeply human stories, together once more, is essential for our collective connection and healing.

In this report, you will find details on our programmatic reach and information about the people and organizations who generously fund our work. New this year is how we are calling out our commitment to equity in each aspect of our mission. Over a decade ago, Literary Arts dedicated itself to becoming a more inclusive organization. Since then, we have approached that work with structure and discipline, and applied an equity lens to every program and administrative function. To hold ourselves accountable, we measure these efforts with 17 different metrics in addition to surveys and community feedback both formal and informal. In the last several years, we have begun to see lasting progress in several areas, and plan to begin communicating these outcomes more publicly. We share this progress with humility and in full knowledge that we still have much work to do and the work of becoming more inclusive will always be an ongoing effort.

As always, we encourage you to reach out anytime with your thoughts, reflections, comments, and questions.

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In gratitude,

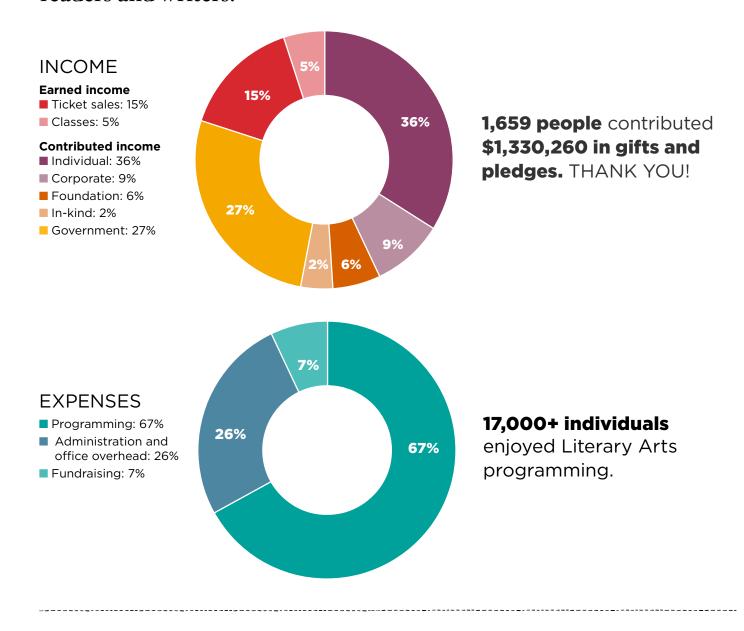
ANDREW PROCTOR, Executive Director andrew@literary-arts.org

66 After two years of working in a Covid unit and as an emergency department physician, being able to gather again and hear each other's stories, and be in the presence of other human beings, was nothing short of life-saving. Thank you for continuing to do the important work that you do. I have been a long-time Literary Arts subscriber and a long-time attendee of the Moth. It was good to be back! 99

— The Moth Mainstage in Portland attendee

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Understand how your contribution impacts Oregon's readers and writers.



66 Literary Arts maps to who I am as a person in the world, and I love the idea of creating experiences for readers and writers that support the whole house of rooms that is the literary experience.

- Literary Arts donor

OUR PROGRAMS

Our mission is to engage readers, support writers, and inspire the next generation with great literature.

12,000 READERS ENGAGED

From the concert hall to the classroom, world-renowned authors engaged with our communities both virtually and in person. Our season of events featured more than 150 authors in lectures, readings, and discussions. We were overjoyed to safely welcome audiences back to in-person events, and offered hybrid options for Portland Arts & Lectures and Portland Book Festival.





1,700 WRITERS SUPPORTED

We celebrated and recognized the remarkable work being created by local writers and publishers through awards and fellowships. We also hired local and national authors to teach classes, and partnered with artists and organizations to host free events in our space and in the community.

3,400 YOUTH INSPIRED

Our Youth Programs returned to classrooms and the concert hall this year. Our Writers in the Schools (WITS) writers-in-residence taught in person, readings took place in school libraries and on stage at Portland Book Festival, and the citywide youth poetry slam championship Verselandia! made its triumphant return to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. From meeting world-class authors to performing their own work, students across and beyond Portland engaged with inspiring and creative youth programming.



12,000 READERS ENGAGED

PORTLAND ARTS & LECTURES

The season began in October 2021 with a live remote presentation and ended in May 2022 with thousands of subscribers together in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. We offered the full season of lectures in a hybrid format, giving subscribers the option to attend in person or view from home. In addition to their lectures, our featured authors engaged with readers and writers of all ages in discussions with professional writers and meetings with public high school students.





2,544 annual subscribers • **1,385** students attended for free • **\$63,821** raised for Youth Programs during the subscription renewals period

THE ARCHIVE PROJECT



Our radio show and podcast *The Archive Project* broadcasts a wide range of Literary Arts programming, including recordings from Portland Arts & Lectures, Portland Book Festival, Everybody Reads, special events, and Verselandia! In our eighth

season, we also featured exclusive discussions, including a series of episodes with Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a discussion of Chinese cookbooks and the history of Chinatowns in America, and a conversation between writers with connections to Bosnia.



15,000 weekly listeners on the radio and online • **350+** episodes

EVERYBODY READS 2022



In partnership with Multnomah County Library and The Library Foundation, this year's Everybody Reads program featured Mira Jacob and her graphic memoir *Good Talk*. During her time in Portland, Jacob met with students at Lincoln and Reynolds High Schools.

6 I was overjoyed to speak at the outstanding Everybody Reads program, where Literary Arts invited me to talk to what felt like an entire city that had read my book *Good Talk*. Honestly, one of the most extraordinary experiences I've ever had. Thank you, Portland! It was so, so good to be there. 9 9

- Mira Jacob, author of 2022 Everybody Reads selection Good Talk



"I refer to the Portland Book Festival as 'my Christmas' to family and friends as shorthand for how important it is to me. My favorite part is getting to hear authors speak with such passion and integrity about their work... hearing others speak or perform live reminds me that they are human like me, and that gives me inspiration and permission to feel and reflect and create and be messy or articulate—or both—in my humanness, as well."

— 2021 Portland Book Festival attendee

PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL

Portland Book Festival (PBF) 2021, presented by Bank of America, was a hybrid event. We hosted five days of virtual programming, broadcast live from Literary Arts and from our partner bookstores around town. On Saturday, November 13, we returned to the Portland Art Museum and Portland'5 for an in-person Festival day. PBF 2021 featured a mix of more than 100 writers, including Rita Dove, Omar El Akkad, Louise Erdrich, Lauren Groff, Ruth Ozeki, Kristen Radtke, Gary Shteyngart, Dao Strom, Brandon Taylor, and Willy Vlautin. The in-person Festival day featured food trucks, a book fair, and pop-up readings in the Portland Art Museum galleries.



DELVE READERS SEMINARS

We continued to offer most of our Delves online, but in the spring of 2022, we held our first in-person Delve in over two years. Delve participants read and discussed literature by Brit Bennett, Edwidge Danticat, George Eliot, Herman Melville, Arthur Schopenhauer, and others.



120 readers participated in **15** online and **2** in-person Delves

"The value for me is getting to read and discuss great books with others in a structured setting, but not too structured. I have to be prepared, so I read more carefully. Other people bring such a wide range of insights into the works we are discussing."

— Delve participant



COMMITTED TO EQUITY

- Portland Book Festival lineup featured more than 40% Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) presenters (authors, moderators, and pop-up authors)
- Free and reduced-price tickets were offered for all programs, including through Arts for All and the Multnomah County Library's Discovery Pass program
- Portland Book Festival featured a bilingual storytime in partnership with Multnomah County Library

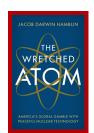
1,700 WRITERS SUPPORTED

OREGON BOOK AWARDS

The 2022 Oregon Book Awards (OBA) finalists included 35 titles in seven genres, selected from 202 submissions. For the first time since 2019, the annual Oregon Book Awards ceremony was held in person, on April 25, at Portland Center Stage at The Armory. Hosted by Kesha Ajose-Fisher, the evening included music by The Fionnghal Trio from Corvallis, a poetry performance by Oregon's Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani, the announcement of the Oregon Book Award winners in seven categories, and a special award presented to writer and teacher Cynthia Whitcomb.















Ken Kesev Award for Fiction: Omar El Akkad, What Strange Paradise: A Novel (Alfred A. Knopf)

Stafford/ Hall Award for Poetry:

Dao Strom of Portland, Instrument (Fonograf Editions)

Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction: Jacob Darwin Hamblin of Corvallis, The Wretched Atom: America's Global Gamble with Peaceful Nuclear Technology (Oxford University Press)

Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction: Allison Cobb of Portland, *Plastic: An Autobiography* (Nightboat Books)

Award for Graphic Literature:
Breena Bard of Portland, *Trespassers: A Graphic Novel* (Graphix, Scholastic) Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Adult Literature:

Courtney Gould of Salem, The Dead and the Dark (Wednesday Books)

Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature: Jennie Englund of Ashland, Taylor Before and After (Square Fish, Macmillan)

OREGON BOOK AWARDS AUTHOR EVENTS

In March and April, we hosted online readings featuring the 2022 Oregon Book Awards finalists, and posted the recordings afterwards on our YouTube channel. We also hosted an in-person reading at Literary Arts with the fiction and poetry finalists. In April, we partnered with the Springfield Public Library for an in-person hybrid event in Springfield with two of the finalists in creative nonfiction.





202 books submitted • 35 finalists recognized and celebrated

66 In a lonely year, the award was a welcome ray of 'fellowship,' in the communal sense of the word. ??

— Jamie McPartland, Laurell Swails and Donald Monroe Memorial Fellowship recipient

OREGON LITERARY FELLOWSHIPS

We received 479 applications from writers and 23 applications from publishers for the 2022 fellowships. Out-of-state judges spent several months evaluating these applications, using literary excellence as the primary criterion.



9 Oregon writers and 2 Oregon publishers awarded fellowships of \$3,500 each • 2 writers were awarded Oregon Literary Career fellowships of \$10,000 each, for a total of \$58,500 fellowships awarded

@LITERARYARTS EVENTS

We continued to offer online events through much of the year, but were delighted to also return to some inperson events at our downtown center. These events included our ongoing resident series: INCITE, One Page Wednesday, Slamlandia, and the BIPOC reading series. We also partnered with Tin House, The Bagley Wright Lecture series, and local and national authors for events. In May, in partnership with Ooligan Press, we offered a BIPOC publishing event that included virtual and inperson components, with opportunities for writers to have face-to-face meetings and ask questions with representatives from Microcosm Publishing, Ooligan Press, Pomegranate, and Tin House.



1,151 total audience members attended **46** events (41 online and 5 in person), with **11** community partners and **105** presenting artists

WRITING CLASSES

Students took classes that ranged in length from one afternoon to nine months, in genres that included memoir, novel, fiction, publishing, and the lyric essay. In addition to Portland participants, students attended online from Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Hood River, McMinnville, Salem, and other Oregon towns, as well as towns in California, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Canada. Many of our classes were online, but we offered two in-person classes as part of Portland Book Festival in November 2021 and another in-person class in May 2022.



557 students participated in **70** classes



COMMITTED TO EQUITY

- 41% of 2022 OBA judges are BIPOC
- 30% of writing teachers are BIPOC
- 50% of 2022 OLF judges are BIPOC
- 81 writing class and Delve students received an access tuition scholarship, which covers 60% of the class tuition



SAGO TOUTH INSPIRED

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS RESIDENCIES

We partnered with 23 educators at 11 public high schools throughout the year. While we worked in many creative writing and Language Arts classes, WITS also had writers-in-residence contribute to other classes, such as Communications, English Language Development (ELD), Journalism, and Radio Broadcasting. At Woodburn's Wellness, Business, and Sports School (WEBSS), poet and essayist Jennifer Perrine worked in Charles Sanderson's Language Arts and Creative Writing classes, and used their publishing experience to help create broadsides of students' poetry, which were displayed at WEBSS' on-campus reading. Fiction writer Matt Smith piloted five mini-residencies at Grant High School, which focused on world building in science fiction.

"I enjoyed the writer's presence itself and the advice she gave. It was very helpful and she opened up new ideas of creativity for me and unlimited ways to write. This guest specifically made me feel very welcome, accepted, and comfortable to write about whatever."

-Gresham High School student





852 students served in 32 classes • 25 professional writers hired, including 1 apprentice • 69 students were published in the 2020-21 WITS anthology Curiosity in Ones and Zeros

AUTHOR VISITS, EVERYBODY READS, AND STUDENTS TO THE SCHNITZ

Thousands of students engaged with six world-class authors in the concert hall and classroom throughout the year for the 2021–22 Portland Arts & Lectures season and Everybody Reads. There were 1,533 students in attendance for virtual lectures, and 380 students attended author visits. This year Youth Programs partnered with OPB's *Think Out Loud* to combine the live interviews with author visits, giving students the opportunity to participate in the radio program. We held *Think Out Loud* interviews at McDaniel, Grant, Lincoln, Parkrose, and WEBSS.

"Thank you so much for the Cathy Park
Hong event. It was deeply meaningful to
me, personally, and I know many of our
students felt the same way. Representation
really matters and we all appreciate the
time and effort that goes into making these
author visits happen."

— Nancy Sullivan, McDaniel High School librarian



VERSELANDIA!

We were absolutely thrilled to return to an in-person format for the city-wide youth poetry slam Verselandia! Students finally returned to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall to share their poetry with the larger community. A crowd full of peers, educators, parents, and friends cheered on poets from Portland and east Multnomah County high schools. Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani hosted the evening and McDaniel High School student Nykole Jackson (pictured below) was our Grand Slam Champion.



19 finalists from 11 schools performed to an audience of 750 for a top prize of \$1,000



WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

We offered both virtual and in-person events at Portland Book Festival 2021 for grades 6 through 12, as well as for educators. Our sold-out in-person Science Fiction workshop was led by WITS writer Matt Smith, where students worked to hone their world-building skills. Students from across Portland, east Multnomah County, and Woodburn read their published work in front of an audience of nearly 200 at the WITS anthology launch.



21 students and 5 educators attended our virtual and in-person workshops • 19 students attended 7 events and 2 youth-facilitated workshops • 15 students from 6 schools read at the WITS student anthology launch



COMMITTED TO EQUITY

- Continued deepening our relationship with schools outside of Portland, namely Woodburn's Wellness, Business, and Sports school, where we provide all our youth programming
- Further developed our Writers in the Schools Apprenticeship for Writers of Color with author Cecily Wong

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTERS

Gifts made between 06/01/2021-05/31/2022

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Emi & Brett Donis

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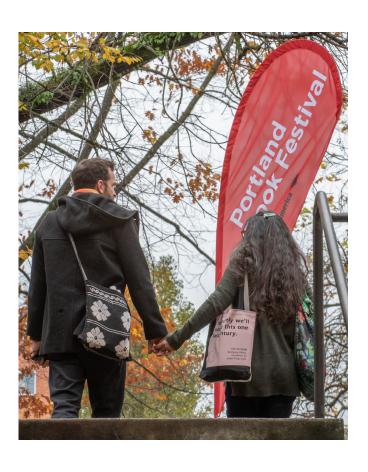








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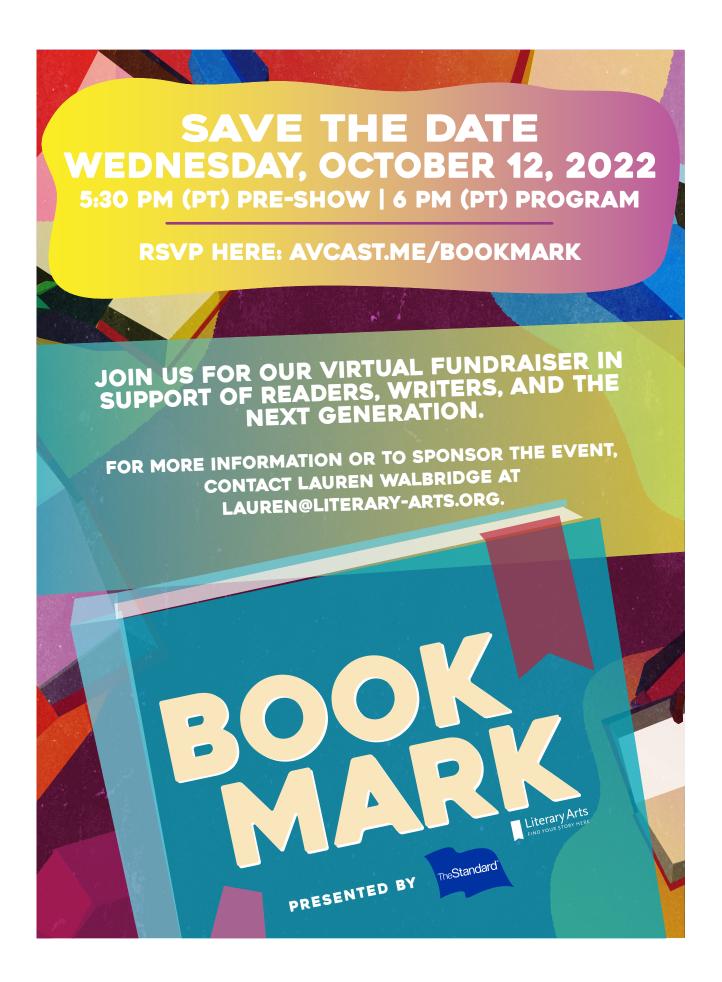


















Heidegger would not consider the car part, an object of technology, worthy of meditation. I decided to try it anyway. From studying its shape and looking at my own car, I determined it is a liner for the inside of the fender. The word fender is short for "defender," and it first referred to a piece of woven rope that kept the hull of a ship from smashing against the wharf. People added fenders to early cars because fast-turning wheels tossed up dirt and stones hazardous to other cars and people.

The fender liner acts like a shield. It keeps dirt and water out of the engine and deadens the impact of stones striking the body. It is curved like that, shaped like a shield, for protecting. It has an aesthetic function also. Matte black, it gives the base of the car a finished look, maybe not something you even notice as your eye runs over it, just a smooth surface, something pleasing, complete.

It fulfills, in a small and specific way, two human needs, this piece of plastic: for protection, and for beauty. Not the beauty that Pythagoras admired, arising from a harmony of parts. This is beauty as a mask for something ugly. It covers the car's raw metal underbelly, which betrays its brute machine birth and pierces the illusion of speed and ease the shining surfaces impart.

From *Plastic: An Autobiography* (Nightboat Books), by Allison Cobb, 2022 Winner of the Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction