

LITERARY ARTS

ANNUAL

REPORT

2022-2023

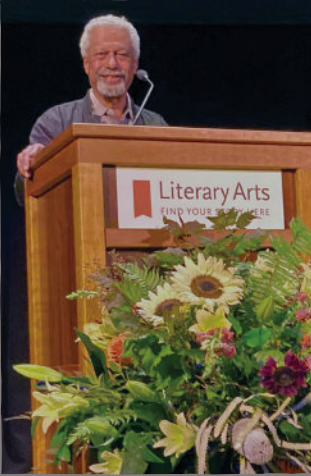


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WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Sitting in my office on the day of her Portland Arts & Lectures event, Ada Limón, the 24th poet laureate of the United States, casually mentioned that her poetry would be engraved on the side of a spaceship that would travel 1.8 billion miles to Europa, a moon of Jupiter. Her biggest concern? The quality of her handwriting. It was an astonishing conversation that we continued onstage at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, one that unpacked the enduring persistence of poetry in the big moments of our lives (weddings, funerals, graduations, spaceships, etc.) and in the small but important moments of our daily lives.

During her visit, Limón inspired students from Woodburn High School, held a writers forum at Literary Arts with a small group of professional writers, met with Oregon’s poet laureate Anis Mojgani, spoke to thousands at the concert hall, and reached thousands more across the state through our partnership with OPB radio.

It is a singular joy for us at Literary Arts to bring writers of all disciplines, walks of life, backgrounds, and ages to you, and hear them share their stories, insight, and light. This year we presented writers like Limón, but also elevated Kennedy Phillips, the Parkrose High School junior who won our annual youth poetry slam championship Verselandia!; we lifted the voices of 51 writers through the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships, and helped hundreds of writers, young and old, craft their stories and find community. We brought together thousands not only at the concert hall, but also at Portland Book Festival—the largest festival of its kind in the Pacific Northwest—which returned to its full footprint across multiple venues in downtown Portland’s arts district.

As you can see from the faces in this annual report, it was a joyful year, one that felt like a prolonged reunion. It was a year in which many of us rediscovered the power of community. We listened to each other and we spoke our truths. The joy could be found in difficult work that could be hard to sit with. The joy could be found in being seen and heard with work that spoke to our experience, or finally saying the thing you needed to say. Real joy is the result of deep connection and revelations, large and small, on spaceships, in new hardcovers and worn paperbacks, in notebooks, and sitting together in community listening to stories as they unfold.



Literary Arts Executive Director Andrew Proctor on the Park blocks at Portland Book Festival 2022

The names listed in the back of this report are the ones that make this happen, through their work, support, and donations. We are so grateful to everyone that is able to support our mission and who gives us the privilege to serve our community.

In gratitude,

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

“ For 15 years it was my honor and my pleasure to introduce some of the greatest writers in the world to Portland. . . . this organization grew mainly because of the city we live in. Portland grew this organization. . . . [Literary Arts is] building a true literary center. ”

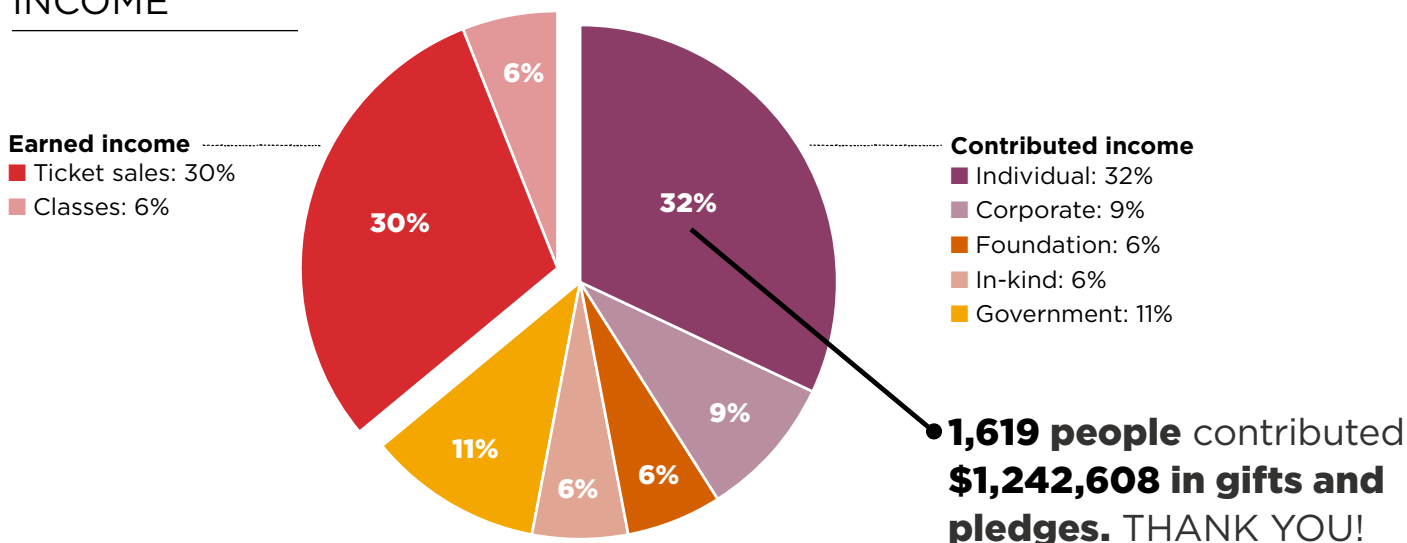
— Julie Mancini, at Literary Arts’
30th Anniversary Celebration



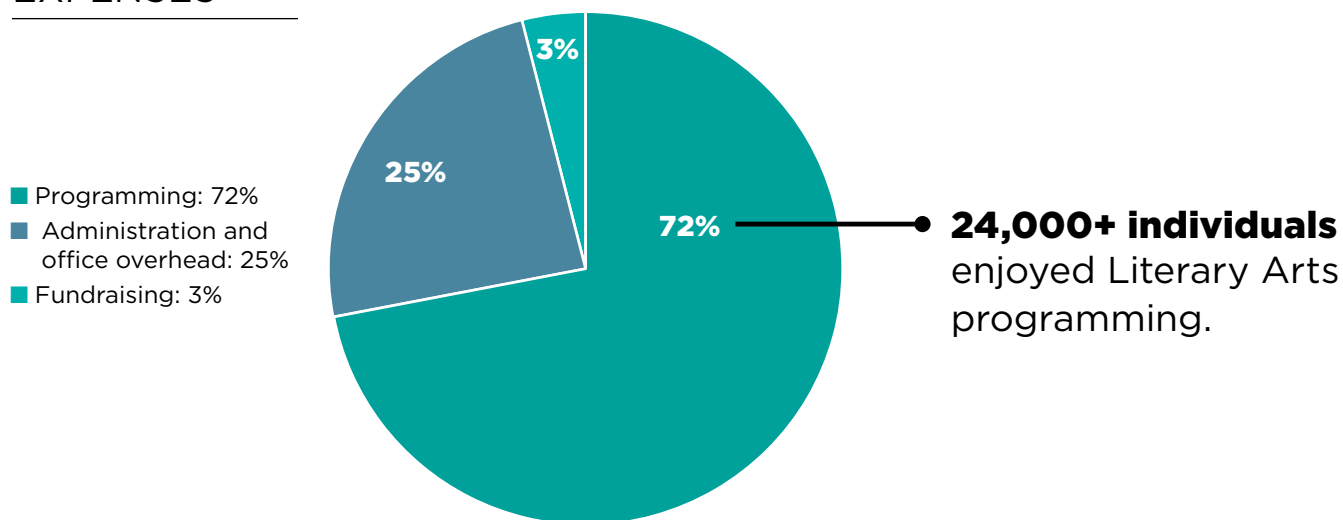
DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

INCOME



EXPENSES



“ Every year instead of exchanging holiday gifts, my siblings and I donate to our favorite charities. Like most years, I picked the Oregon Food Bank. Then, when I saw a tweet about the raffle, I realized that one can also be hungry for books and the community of writers and readers. Food and books; both are vital for life. ”

— Give!Guide donor

OUR PROGRAMS

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

24,000 READERS ENGAGED

From the concert hall to the classroom, world-renowned authors engaged with our communities. Our season of events featured more than 150 authors in lectures, readings, and discussions. We were overjoyed to see our audiences back in the concert hall, at the festival stages, at the Literary Arts event space, and more.



Literary Arts board member Chabre Vickers & her daughter Laila at Portland Book Festival's exhibitor fair



Oregon Book Awards finalists, award recipients, and guests at the 2023 Oregon Book Awards Ceremony

2,000 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.

4,000 YOUTH INSPIRED

Our Writers in the Schools (WITS) writers-in-residence taught across many classes, including anthropology and biology. Readings took place in coffee shops and bookstores around Portland, and on stage at Portland Book Festival. We reintroduced the East Side Slam and the finalists advanced to our citywide youth poetry championship Verselandia!, and the College Essay Exchange returned to eight schools across two districts. We are grateful and excited to have all of our programs back and available to our community.



A volunteer assists a high school student during an installment of the College Essay Exchange

24,000 READERS ENGAGED

PORTLAND ARTS & LECTURES

Our season began in September 2022 with a Nobel laureate and ended in April 2023 with the US poet laureate. Thousands of subscribers and hundreds of high school students gathered in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall to hear from some of our greatest contemporary writers and thinkers: Abdulrazak Gurnah, Anthony Doerr, Lauren Groff, Patrick Radden Keefe, and Ada Limón. In addition to the lectures, authors engaged with readers and writers of all ages in sessions with professional writers and meetings with public high school students.



Ada Limón speaks with Literary Arts Executive Director Andrew Proctor



2,624 annual subscribers • **1,553** students attended for free • **\$46,354** raised for Youth Programs during the subscription renewals period

THE ARCHIVE PROJECT



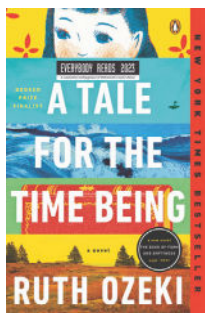
Our radio show and podcast *The Archive Project* broadcasts a wide range of Literary Arts programming, including recordings from Portland Arts & Lectures, Portland Book Festival, Everybody Reads, special events, and Verselandia! Our ninth season premiered in November 2022.

Listen every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on OPB radio, and subscribe wherever you get your podcasts.



8,947 weekly listeners on the radio and online • **431+** episodes

EVERYBODY READS 2023



In partnership with Multnomah County Library and the Library Foundation, this year's Everybody Reads program featured Ruth Ozeki and her novel *A Tale for the Time Being*. The library distributed over 17,000 paperback, ebook, and audio copies of the book as part of the program, and during her time in Portland, Ozeki met with students at Franklin and Parkrose high schools.

“Portland Literary Arts is a bright light. They are generous, organized, and forward-thinking. I wish every city had a literary arts organization with this much heart.”

— Ada Limón, 24th US Poet Laureate

“ My favorite thing about Portland Book Festival was the effect of listening to a number of different speakers . . . and taking breaks to walk around PAM to let it all settle. I love being overwhelmed by it, and then retreating, and then going back for more, multiple times. Next year, I’m going to plan the whole week around events, so I can just be engulfed. It’s the perfect way to kick off the winter season. ”

— 2022 Portland Book Festival attendee

PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, Portland Book Festival, presented by Bank of America, returned to its full in-person size on the South Park Blocks. The festival featured more than 100 presenters in conversation about new books, from bestselling authors to exciting debuts. Presenters included cross-genre superstar Kwame Alexander (*The Door of No Return*), actress and disability advocate Selma Blair (*Mean Baby*), modern romance novelist Casey McQuiston (*I Kissed Shara Wheeler*), culinary activists Ghetto Gastro (*Black Power Kitchen*), former Oakland youth poet laureate Leila Mottley (*Nightcrawling*), mega-bestselling novelist Taylor Jenkins Reid (*Carrie Soto Is Back*), literary legend George Saunders (*Liberation Day*), Portland’s own Lidia Yuknavitch (*Thrust*), and many more. The day also featured food trucks, a book fair, and pop-up readings in the Portland Art Museum galleries.



Moderator Gregory Gourdet speaks with Jon Gray, Pierre Serrao, and Lester Walker at Portland Book Festival 2022 on Ghetto Gastro Presents Black Power Kitchen



138 presenters • **250+** volunteers •
9 stages • **6** venues

DELVE READERS SEMINARS

Delve participants read and discussed *Vanity Fair*, *Remembrance of Things Past*, *White Teeth*, *Station Eleven*, and many other books. We also launched Delve for Writers, with a fall seminar on Joan Didion and Durga Chew-Bose.



213 readers participated in Delves

“I have taken three seminars (two in-person and one virtual) and they have all been very different but equally excellent. Variety of group leaders keeps it interesting and I like meeting local writers, teachers, and enthusiasts in such an intimate and engaging setting.”

— Delve participant



Award-winning actor, producer, director, and writer Tom Hanks speaking with author and screenwriter Jon Raymond

SPECIAL EVENTS

Literary Arts is honored to have hosted special events with many remarkable authors and organizations. Frequently, writers appearing in our special events were requested by our audience in surveys. In 2022/23, Literary Arts hosted *Pop-Up Magazine: Love Stories*, *The Moth Mainstage* in Portland, *Amor Towles*, *Everybody Reads 2023* with Ruth Ozeki, and Tom Hanks in conversation with Jon Raymond.

COMMITTED TO EQUITY



- Portland Book Festival’s lineup featured more than 50% 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 with Portland Early Learning Project and a bilingual conversation for adults featuring authors Ingrid Rojas Contreras and Rafael Agustin.
- Youth 17 and under attend Portland Book Festival free!

2,000 WRITERS SUPPORTED

OREGON BOOK AWARDS (OBA)

The 2023 Oregon Book Awards finalists included 34 titles in seven genres, selected from 202 submissions. The annual Oregon Book Awards ceremony was held in-person, on April 25, at Portland Center Stage. Hosted by Luke Burbank, the evening included a music performance from Dao Strom, the announcement of the Oregon Book Award winners in seven categories, and special awards presented to Dawn Babb Prochovnic and Gary Miranda.



Oregon Book Award finalist Carrie Tillotson visiting a classroom

OBA AUTHOR EVENTS

The Oregon Book Awards Author Tour visited Enterprise, Monmouth, Springfield, Grand Ronde, McMinnville, and Corvallis for readings and classroom visits.



7 authors visited **6** towns for **4** readings and **2** classroom visits

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED TO LIBRARIES

Literary Arts shipped books by Oregon Book Awards authors, donated by their publishers, to 18 libraries across the state.

OBA FINALISTS READINGS

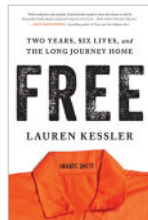
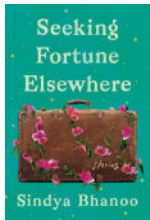
In March 2023, we hosted online readings featuring the 2023 Oregon Book Awards finalists, and posted the recordings afterwards on our YouTube channel. We also hosted an in-person reading with poetry and fiction finalists.



32 Oregon Book Awards Finalists featured in **6** online events and **1** in-person event



202 books submitted • **34** finalists recognized and celebrated • **306** books donated to **18** libraries across Oregon



- Ken Kesey Award for Fiction: Sindya Bhanoo, *Seeking Fortune Elsewhere: Stories* (Catapult)
- Stafford/ Hall Award for Poetry: Eric Tran, *Mouth, Sugar, and Smoke* (Diode Editions)
- Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction: Lauren Kessler, *Free: Two Years, Six Lives, and the Long Journey Home* (Sourcebooks)
- Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction: Casey Parks, *Diary of a Misfit: A Memoir and a Mystery* (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Angus L. Bowmer Award for Drama: Sara Jean Accuardi, *The Storyteller*
- Leslie Bradshaw Award for Middle Grade and Young Adult Literature: Waka T. Brown, *Dream, Annie, Dream* (HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books)
- Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature: Dane Liu, *Friends Are Friends, Forever* (Henry Holt and Company)
- The Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award: Gary Miranda
- The Walt Morey Young Readers Literary Legacy Award: Dawn Babb Prochovnic

“The fellowship feels like a big hug from my home state. It’s an energizing affirmation in a career that can feel like yelling into the sky.”

— Cecily Wong, Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship recipient

OREGON LITERARY FELLOWSHIPS

We received 536 applications from writers and 27 applications from publishers for the 2023 fellowships. Out-of-state judges spent several months evaluating these applications, using literary excellence as the primary criterion.



2 writers were awarded Oregon Literary Career fellowships of **\$10,000** each • **13** Oregon writers and **2** Oregon publishers awarded fellowships of **\$3,500** each, for a total of **\$72,500** fellowships awarded • **4** fellowships were funded by the Oregon Arts Commission

@LITERARYARTS EVENTS

We continued to offer our ongoing resident series: INCITE, One Page Wednesday, Slamlandia, and the BIPOC reading series. We also partnered with the Alano Club, Chin Music Press, Kundiman, PEN America, Portland Opera, and local and national authors for events. In November and May, in partnership with Ooligan Press, we offered BIPOC publishing events that included virtual and in-person components. The panel in November featured local editors and grantors, discussing creating a successful pitch, submission, and grant proposal. The BIPOC panel in May featured literary agents DongWon Song and Melanie Figueroa.



1,845 total audience members attended **58** events with **14** community partners and **130** presenting artists

“Literary Arts teachers, in my experience, are very well prepared and knowledgeable.”

— Writing class student

WRITERS FORUMS WITH PORTLAND ARTS & LECTURES AUTHORS

As part of their participation in this year’s series, Portland Arts & Lectures authors met with current and former fellowship recipients and book awards authors for a one-hour Q&A session.



Ada Limón speaks with writers at Literary Arts



36 Oregon writers met with **5** Portland Arts & Lectures authors

WRITING CLASSES

Students expanded their writing knowledge with classes in memoir, the novel, short story, lyric essay, longform journalism, and other topics. We also offered classes in screenwriting for the first time. Classes met in-person and online. Over half of our students were from outside Portland.



544 students participated in **65** classes



COMMITTED TO EQUITY

- 30% of 2023 OBA judges are BIPOC.
- 25% of writing teachers are BIPOC.
- 65% of 2023 OLF judges are BIPOC.
- 74 writing class and Delve students received an access tuition scholarship, which covers 60% of the class tuition.

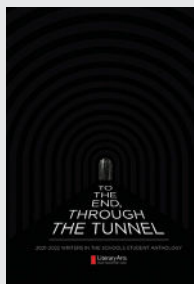
4,000 YOUTH INSPIRED

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS RESIDENCIES

We partnered with 28 educators at 13 public high schools throughout the year. While we worked in many creative writing and Language Arts classes, Writers in the Schools (WITS) also had writers-in-residence contribute to other classes, such as Chemistry, Biology, Anthropology, Mass Communications, and Health. At McDaniel High School, writer Dey Rivers piloted five mini-residencies which focused on mental health and storytelling. Journalist Bruce Poinsette helped students in Franklin High School's Hip Hop Lit classes create content for their class Instagram.

“I really liked the creative freedom. Often English class is stressful because of constrictions, this allowed me to spread my wings.”

—Benson High School student



1,438 students served in **55** classes • **25** professional writers hired, including **2** apprentices • **52** students were published in the 2021-22 WITS anthology *To the End, Through the Tunnel* • **33** more were published in the 2021/22 WITS chapbook *Keep Moving Forward*



Students speak with Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah at a Think Out Loud recording

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 2022-23 Portland Arts & Lectures season and Everybody Reads. 351 students attended lectures, and 393 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 Ida B. Wells, Grant, McDaniel, Lincoln, Parkrose, Franklin, and the Literary Arts office.



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

“ They gave me good insight on how I can write a supplemental essay and where to approach it. Now I am able to have a greater understanding of what I should write. ”

—Franklin High School student

VERSELANDIA! AND EAST SIDE SLAM

Verselandia! brought together poets from Portland and east Multnomah County high schools to compete for the title of Grand Slam Champion. Educators, friends, and family came out to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall to hear the students perform. Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani hosted the evening.



22 students from **12** schools performed to an audience of **913** for a top prize of **\$1,000**

The East Side Slam returned after a brief hiatus, giving students from east Multnomah and Clackamas counties the chance to compete for the night's top prize of \$500. Seven poets from Gresham, Parkrose, and Nelson High Schools participated, and two finalists advanced to compete in Verselandia! The slam was held at Adrienne C. Nelson High School for an audience of educators, family, friends, and even the school's namesake, Justice Adrienne C. Nelson. Poet Christopher Diaz hosted the evening.



Grand Slam Champion Kennedy Phillips performs her poem at Verselandia! 2023

COLLEGE ESSAY EXCHANGE

The College Essay Exchange (formerly the College Essay Mentoring Project) offered in-person sessions for the first time since 2019. 290 students from 8 Portland area high schools received help from 50 volunteers in the fall and 74 volunteers in the spring to write and edit their college application materials.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

We offered events at the 2023 Portland Book Festival for grades 6-12, as well as for educators. Our middle school poetry workshop was led by WITS writer Dey Rivers, where students wrote creative responses to other poems and even some of the art at the Portland Art Museum. 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.



30 students attended our workshops
• **10** students from **6** schools read at the WITS student anthology launch

COMMITTED TO EQUITY



- Continued deepening our relationship with schools outside of Portland and with culturally specific institutions, placing WITS at Many Nations Academy for the first time
- Further developed our Writers in the Schools Apprenticeship for Writers of Color with writers Jen Shin and Jeremy Husserl.
- 48.8% of students served identify as BIPOC, and 40% receive free and reduced lunch.



“I enjoy Literary Arts as a reader, Delve seminar participant, Portland Arts & Lectures subscriber, past board member, and current volunteer. When I did my estate planning, I included a bequest to the organization to show my appreciation for their important work. I am happy to give a gift both now and in the future, and I am proud that Literary Arts will be a mainstay in the community for years to come.”

— Amy Prosenjak

LEGACY SOCIETY

THANK YOU to the members of Literary Arts' Legacy Society who have named Literary Arts in their estate plans.

Anonymous	Nancy & Ron P. Gronowski	Bob Scanlan
Jan Baross	Sara Guest	Joseph A. Soldati*
C. B. Bernard	Susan Hammer*	Ann Stinson
Betty Bradshaw*	Dorothy D. Hirsch*	Dennis Steinman
Rick W. Comandich*	Susheela Jayapal	Victor Trewlawny
Ginnie Cooper & Rick Bauman	Ursula* & Charles Le Guin	Renée Watson
Joseph & Lydah DeBin	Katherine O'Neil & Toby Graff	Carl Wilson
Jodi Delahunt Hubbell & Todd Hubbell	Diane Ponti	Tom & Marcia Wood
Gale Family Trust	Amy Prosenjak	
Barbara Engel*	Halle M. Sadle	



LEAVE YOUR LITERARY ARTS LEGACY

For more information about joining Literary Arts' Legacy Society or to schedule a confidential consultation, please contact Bethany Byrd-Hill, Director of Development, at bethany@literary-arts.org or 503-227-2583 x 115.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTERS

Gifts made between 06/01/2022–05/31/2023.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Director's Circle \$25,000+

Joan Cirillo & Roger Cooke
Rocky & Julie Strasser Dixon
Josie G. Mendoza & Hugh Mackworth
Jan & Steve Oliva
Priscilla Bernard Wieden

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

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Corrine Oishi & Lindley Morton
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Jackie & William Willingham

Carl Wilson & Evan Boone
Tom & Marcia Wood

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Anne Mendel & Mark Henry
Lora Meyer
Philip Miller & Colleen Cain
Ramón & Sandy Pagán
Michelle & Warren Tubbs
Christine Vernier
Susan Winkler

*Deceased

INDIVIDUALS

\$1,000+

Geri Abere
Karin Barber
Adriane Blackman
Nancy & Roderick Boutin
Shelly & Paul Buchanan
Lisa & Royce Bullock
Connie Christopher & Kermit Chamberlin
Marian Creamer
Joseph & Lydah DeBin
Dave Depper
Ellen Fader
David & Kendra Farris
Bennett & Patricia Garner
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Sara & Andrew Guest
Kristin & Avery Guest
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\$500+

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Wally Van Valkenburg & Turid Owren
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Kim Weyler
Julie R. Wilson
Merri Souther Wyatt

\$250+

Joan & Brian Allen
Anonymous
Tim & Lisa Bazemore
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Colleen & Richard Blohm
Larry & Marie Bringham
Elizabeth Brown
Pamela Brown & Wayne Potter
Brian Bruman
Joy Bullen
Rachel Bullock
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Lynn Burditt
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Jane Maland
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Jane Mason
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Programs for Writers council member Armin Tolentino uses American Sign Language for applause at the 2023 Oregon Book Awards Ceremony

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THROUGH THE FIELD

sunflowers yellow the field
slow dusk skyline bleed

my mother's small body struggles to kick over the truck ignition
she prostrates against bench seat pressing down the clutch

stalled in the road's shoulder
gas gone we wait for refill

clear pop bottles pinwheel out the window

gray smoke puff from rusted muffler
cloud thrust in rearview

splintered side mirror
green bales burst from the hill

she punches the cracked dashboard
fueled truck roars alive

mono stereo creases the wind

my hand slices horizon gleam
highway stapled to the prairie