

# Poetry Foundation Annual Report

2022

## About the Poetry Foundation

The Poetry Foundation recognizes the power of words to transform lives. We work to amplify poetry and celebrate poets by fostering spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry.

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## 2022 in Review

### Mission Into Action

The Poetry Foundation defined 2020–2021 as a *time for transformation*. Transformation does not have a clear endpoint but is an ongoing process key to our organization's future relevance and sustainability. The Foundation's effectiveness requires a guiding light—a collective mission.

In partnership with Lord Cultural Resources, members of poetry communities, and the Poetry Foundation Board of Trustees and staff, we reflected on who we were and are as an organization to determine who we wanted to be. The result was a new strategic plan grounded by a new mission, vision, and defined set of values. This strategic plan is not the end of our work but a new beginning, and the new mission allows us to embrace and celebrate the Poetry Foundation's legacy while reimagining our impact and future:

"The Poetry Foundation recognizes the power of words to transform lives. We work to amplify poetry and celebrate poets by fostering spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry."

2022 was a year of putting this mission into action. Reopening our doors in April allowed us to foster spaces for all through poetry readings, exhibitions, workshops, our library collections, and more with continued opportunities to connect from anywhere online. We celebrated the *power of words to transform lives* with the 110th anniversary of *Poetry* and a celebration of the lifetime achievements of 12 remarkable poets and one poetry criticism writer at the annual Pegasus Awards. We launched our first-ever grantmaking strategy that, among other goals, seeks to *amplify poetry and celebrate poets* by investing in building and strengthening the capacity of BIPOC leadership at nonprofit literary arts institutions, publishers, and programs associated with poetry. And finally, we furthered our mission to *create, experience, and share poetry* by hiring accomplished poet Adrian Matejka to serve as *Poetry's* new editor—the first editor of color in the magazine's 110-year history. Under Matejka's direction, many emerging poets are being published for the first time.

The past few years were challenging, but our organization emerged wiser, our connections to the communities we serve deepened. We are invigorated and revitalized by this renewed focus that enables us to continue fostering spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry.

We hope you share our excitement about what we accomplished in 2022. With your continued support, we look forward to living out our new mission, achieving our vision, and embodying our values alongside our community.

Yours in poetry,

Michelle T. Boone  
Poetry Foundation president

Caren Yanis  
Poetry Foundation chair

## 2022 in Review

— continued

### 2022 Key Updates

- Rolled out and adopted the [new strategic plan](#), mission, vision, and organizational values.
- Increased diversity in leadership with new staff promotions and hires, including Adrian Matejka as editor of *Poetry* magazine, the first editor of color in the magazine's history.
- Welcomed five new board members: Deborah Gillespie, Marguerite Griffin, Andy Jacobs, Parneshia Jones, and Marc Bamuthi Joseph.
- For the first time ever, two poets joined the board: Parneshia Jones and Marc Bamuthi Joseph.
- *Poetry* hosted several poets as guest editors, including Esther Belin, Suzi F. Garcia, and Srikanth Reddy, who edited eight issues.
- Staff returned to the office in April, and the Poetry Foundation opened its doors to the public shortly after, welcoming guests from Chicago and beyond to enjoy in-person events, exhibitions, library workshops, and more.
- Awarded \$3 million in grants, including \$1 million in continued pandemic relief funds, the largest amount the Poetry Foundation ever awarded to the literary community.
- Michelle T. Boone, Adrian Matejka, and Fred Sasaki appeared on the cover of *Newcity* when the Foundation was included in the publication's "Lit 50" issue.
- *Poetry* celebrated its 110th anniversary!
- Hosted the biggest Pegasus Awards ceremony ever, with 300 guests celebrating the Pegasus Award for Criticism winner, Young People's Poet Laureate, and in honor of the 110th anniversary of *Poetry*, 11 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize honorees instead of the usual one each year.
- Awarded more than \$1.1 million in prizes to the Ruth Lilly honorees.

### 2022–2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

Strategic Goal #1: Accountability

- Improve transparency through evidence-based evaluation and open communication.

Strategic Goal #2: Purpose

- Establish a clear organizational purpose that supports an equitable and sustainable future for poets and poetry.

Strategic Goal #3: Focus

- Focus on collaborating with poets and creative communities.

## **Our Vision**

The Poetry Foundation supports poetry in all its diversity. We envision a world where poetry is vital to building a better future for everyone.

[View the Plan](#)

## 2022 in Review

— continued

*“... we have smashed sound barriers between us.  
we have dared again and again and yet again to dream,  
and our dreams have finally taken material form.  
we have changed our hearts.  
we have altered and changed our minds,  
and because of this, we now have some  
    valor and strength,  
and we are threatening to change the world ...”*

Excerpt from “Such Beauty from Ashes” by Carolyn Marie Rodgers, featured in *Poetry*,  
October 2022

# Poetry Magazine

**Founded in Chicago by Harriet Monroe in 1912, *Poetry* continues to be recognized as an influential space for verse.** As the oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English-speaking world, in 2022 *Poetry* supported the Foundation's Commitment to the Community by welcoming several poets as guest editors, including Esther Belin, Suzi F. Garcia, and Srikanth Reddy.

## **In 2022, *Poetry* published:**

- 444 poems
- 366 poets
- 11 issues, including eight by guest editors
- 29 visual/multimedia poems
- 77 prose pieces
- 27 episodes of the *Poetry Magazine Podcast*

## **Additionally, *Poetry*:**

- Received more than 15,100 submission packets
- Paid \$344,588 to poets\*
- Donated more than 3,500 issues
- Published 256 first-time contributors, which is 70% of poets published
- Shared poetry with 27,568 subscribers

\*This does not include the salaries paid to *Poetry* guest editors, monthly payments to the podcast producer, or the fellows, all of whom are poets

## **2022 Best American Poetry anthology selections published in**

### ***Poetry*:**

- Ilya Kaminsky, "I Ask That I Do Not Die," from the April 2022 *Exophony* issue
- Dunya Mikhail, "Tablets VI," from the April 2022 *Exophony* issue
- Valzhyna Mort, "Extraordinary Life of Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Several Invoices," from the April 2022 *Exophony* issue
- Carolyn Marie Rodgers, "Poem No. 2: My Kind of Feminism," *Poetry*, October 2022

We poets are a capacious, hungry crew, and this incarnation of *Poetry* will be in service both to those needs and the needs of our readers. —Adrian Matejka, *Poetry*, October 2022

## Awards Poetry Administered

- The **Bess Hokin Prize** was awarded in 2022 to Jan Dennis Destajo and Kabel Mishka Ligot for their poem “The root of our shared word for ‘home’ is ‘to be consoled,” *Poetry*, November 2021
- The **Friends of Literature Prize** was awarded to Gabriel Townsell for his poem “Street Mythology,” *Poetry*, December 2021
- The **Frederick Bock Prize** was awarded in 2022 to Muna Abdulahi for her poem “ESL,” *Poetry*, February 2022
- The **John Frederick Nims Memorial Prize for Translation** was awarded to Irma Pineda and Wendy Call for their translations “No duelen las heridas” (“No wound hurts”), “La guerra nos declaraste” (“You declared war on us”), and “Te pesará mi voz” (“My voice will weigh on you”) from the Isthmus Zapotec and Spanish, *Poetry*, February 2022
- The **Editors Prize for Feature Article** was awarded to two authors this year: Sasha Pimentel for her essay “To Cross the Distance” in the April 2022 issue and Raymond Antrobus for his essay “Poetry, Disability, and Vigilance,” *Poetry*, September 2022
- The **Levinson Prize** was awarded to Patricia Jabbeh Wesley for her poems “Black Woman Selling Her Home in America” and “Healing Will Come: Elegy after Natural Disaster,” *Poetry*, June 2022
- The **J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize** was awarded to Janelle Tan for her poems “Section 267C [Ars Poetica]” and “Section 377A [America],” *Poetry*, September 2022
- The **Editors Prize for Visual Poetry** was awarded to Keith S. Wilson for his poem “Processing Emmett Till (Uncanny Emmett Till #2),” *Poetry*, September 2022

## Content Highlights

- Folios on Will Alexander (November), Margaret Danner (March), Carolyn Marie Rodgers (October), and Diana Solís (December)
- Special folios on Flyover Country (January) and Translation in the 21st Century (February)
- Special issues: *Exophony* (April), *Make It Old* (May), *Land Acknowledgments* (July/August), and *On Monuments* (September)
- October 2022 kicked off the 110-year anniversary of *Poetry* and a year of special anniversary issues

## POETRY Magazine App

A new version of the POETRY Magazine App was released in November 2022. The updated app includes dark mode, updated fonts, and an improved audio experience allowing users to queue and play podcasts along with poem recordings in the background. There’s also a new podcast tab, so users can scroll through all the recent episodes of the *Poetry Magazine Podcast*.

- 33,400 POETRY Magazine App users

Love the downloadable issues! They've perfected the format of monthly publication on a phone. 10/10 excellent work!

—POETRY Magazine App user

## **Adrian Matejka Joins *Poetry* as New Editor**

Adrian Matejka joined *Poetry* as the new editor on May 16, 2022. Matejka, who was selected through a national search, is the first Black editor to lead *Poetry*.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany, Matejka grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, and served as 2018-2019 Poet Laureate of Indiana. A seasoned professor and writer, Matejka has authored several collections of poetry, including his most recent collection, *Somebody Else Sold the World*, which was a finalist for the 2022 UNT Rilke Prize, and his first graphic novel, *Last On His Feet*.

Matejka's honors include a Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, Pushcart Prize, Julia Peterkin Award, and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. Matejka earned an MFA at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and graduated from Indiana University Bloomington, where he served as a Ruth Lilly Professor of Poetry.

### **Coverage of the Announcement of Matejka's Installment as Editor**

- *Chicago Tribune*
- *Chicago Sun Times*
- *Poets & Writers*
- *Publishers Weekly*
- *Pride Index*
- *The 21st* (NPR Radio)

# Events

**Reopening the Poetry Foundation building to the public in April meant the return of in-person events!** For those who wished to connect from beyond Chicago, events included a virtual option, and event recordings were made available on the Poetry Foundation website. All events continued to include live captioners (CART) and/or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

- 1,991 Poetry Foundation visitors\* \*Not including event attendees
- 41 free public events hosted at the Poetry Foundation\* \*Not including events hosted by the library
- 29 in-person events with virtual option
- 5 virtual events
- 7 virtual Teacher's Institute presentations

I felt the environment was so much more inclusive than I remember it being! Bravo.  
—*To Turn the World Around* attendee

- 1,846 event attendees
- 932 virtual attendees
- 914 in-person attendees
- \$221,931 paid to performers and program facilitators, such as VS podcast hosts and guests

First experience with any poetry-related event. That was wonderful. Beautiful space. Excellent presenters. Thanks for having a place for me to feel inspired on a Thursday night! I'll definitely be back asap.  
—*Respect the Mic* attendee

## Partner and Off-Site Events

- American Writers Festival: Michael Warr and Friends, Chicago
- Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference and Book Fair (AWP), Philadelphia
- EXPO Chicago
- Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards, Chicago
- Printers Row Lit Fest, Chicago

## Printers Row Lit Fest Chicago

- 1 poetry stage
- 2 days
- 41 poets

- 10 readings
- 5 partner organizations

The joy of returning to live poetry performances was immediately ignited with our first in-person event in more than two years, April's electric celebration of the anthology *Respect the Mic: Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry from a Chicago High School*. This nourishment deepened through dozens of hybrid events where we returned to the joy of experiencing poems together.

—Ydalmi Noriega, vice president of programs and engagement

# Library

**The Poetry Foundation library is the only library in the Midwest dedicated to poetry.** Library visitors may browse a collection of 30,000 volumes, experience audio and video recordings in private listening booths, and view exhibits of poetry-related materials. In addition to providing public access to its collections in the form of a reading room, the library hosts interactive programs to inspire a wider poetry readership in people of all ages.

## Book Clubs

Library staff moderate an online book club featuring works by a wide range of classic and contemporary poets. Continuing with the virtual format established in 2020 allows guests to join from anywhere. Participants in the US receive copies of the discussion book free of charge.

- 12 book clubs (one each month)
- 166 participants
- 11 of the 12 books discussed were by BIPOC poets
- 12 of the 12 books discussed were by living poets

## Writing Workshops

Forms & Features, the library's longstanding writing workshop, has been offered online since 2020. Participants come together to learn about different poetic forms and aspects of poetry from the work of a wide variety of poets, teaching artists, and each other. *Celebrating the Poets of Forms & Features*, an event held seven times a year, provides past participants with the opportunity to share work they have developed in Forms & Features workshops. Two readings featured the 12 poets of the Visiting Teaching Artists series.

- 113 sessions
- 1825 attendees

I struggle to express how vital your workshop sessions have been to my education as a reader of poetry—all those hours of discussing and listening and considering together (in a sensitively led space) have flowed directly into my first attempts at criticism.

—Forms & Features workshop participant

## **Books Most Consulted** (in descending order)

*The Collected Poems of William Alexander Percy*

*The Complete Poems*, Philip Larkin

*Collected Poems*, C.P. Cavafy

*If They Come for Us: Poems*, Fatimah Asghar

*My Wicked, Wicked Ways*, Sandra Cisneros

*The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde*

*77 Dream Songs*, John Berryman

*B Jenkins*, Fred Moten

*Post Meridian: Poems*, Mary Ruefle

*Rome: Poems*, Dorothea Lasky

*Sharks in the Rivers*, Ada Limón

*Silent Anatomies: Poems*, Monica Ong

*Sylvia Plath: Poems (selected by Ted Hughes)*

*The Cantos of Ezra Pound*

*Waiting for My Life: Poems*, Linda Pastan

## **Youth Programming**

The library's collection includes a variety of poetry books for younger audiences. Local school groups visit the library for field trips and develop or broaden their love for poetry through reading, discussing, and writing poems.

### **Field Trips**

- 28 sessions
- 546 attendees

Thank you very much for planning and teaching our second grade students about poetry and spring. It was a great learning experience, but more importantly, it was fun.

—Chicago Public School teacher

## **PoemTime**

PoemTime is a Saturday morning storytime that introduces children ages two to five to poetry through fun, interactive readings, songs, and art projects. PoemTime ran through November 2022.

## Exhibitions

Reopening meant that the Poetry Foundation could welcome people back not only with poetry and events but also **artist exhibitions celebrating poetry and poets**. Two special exhibitions did just that.

### ***Planetaria* Monica Ong**

*Planetaria*, an exhibition of visual poems by Monica Ong, used the visual language of astronomy to explore the precarious territories of motherhood, women in science, and diasporic identity. Playfully taking poetry off the page as handheld volvelles, broadsides, and vinyl installations, this series sought to imagine the sky from a female perspective.

If poetry and astronomy were to throw an art party, this one invites audiences across disciplines and cultures to imagine new cosmographies where everyone belongs.  
—Fred Sasaki, creative director and exhibitions co-curator

### **Diana Solís: *Encuentros***

Diana Solís: *Encuentros* presented photographs by queer Mexicana Chicana feminist artist Diana Solís, documenting poetry communities in Chicago—including the Guild Complex, La Decima Musa, Weeds, and Hothouse—throughout the 1970s–1990s. Curated with Oscar Arriola and Nicole Marroquin, this exhibition featured books, photographs, and ephemera exploring a unique moment in Chicago's literary history, illuminating the legacy of Solís's life in arts and literature.

This living archive is a visual treasure that was nearly lost to history. These photos are like star maps providing connections between generations of poets, as well as across art forms like music, painting, and poetry.  
—Fred Sasaki, creative director and exhibitions co-curator

# Community, Educators & Student Programs

## Summer Poetry Teachers Institute

In July 2022, we hosted **302 kindergarten through 12th-grade and community college educators** for two days of invigorating performances, breakout sessions, and virtual panels led by 20 poets. Participants were invited to consider how poetry plays a central role in one's ability to transform oneself and the world, and what practices educators can engage to use poetry to transform the classroom. The Poetry Foundation worked with longtime partner O, Miami to plan and facilitate the Institute.

I know "in person" is awesome, but a shout-out for the amazing Zoom learning. I am not able to travel for an institute, but I have loved every moment of the 2022 conference. Thank you.  
—2022 Summer Poetry Teachers Institute participant

Fantastic institute! The enthusiasm and the positivity around education; all the shared resources and links; the variety of student ages addressed by different presenters; the ability of all presenters to take concepts like transformation and joy and make them tangible for the classroom—so many good things.  
—2022 Summer Poetry Teachers Institute participant

## Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the US. A partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and state and jurisdictional arts agencies, this program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history as it relates to contemporary life. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than **4.1 million students and 68,000 teachers from 17,000 schools** and organizations in every state, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

### 2021–2022 School Year

- 139,028 participating students
- 1,448 schools
- **\$45,500 in prize money was awarded to competing students and their schools**
  - Six national finalists each received a \$1,000 prize
  - The schools of each of the top nine finalists received \$500 to purchase poetry materials

## 2022 Champions

- First place: Mia Ronn, junior at the Archer School for Girls in Los Angeles, California, received a \$20,000 prize.
- Second place: Aidyn Lorin Jai Reid, senior at Fountain Valley School of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Colorado, received a \$10,000 prize.
- Third place: Oscar Manuel Landa Samano, a senior at Coconino High School in Flagstaff, Arizona, received a \$5,000 prize.

Performing a piece of writing can kind of connect you to it, to the text and to the poet themselves. You just can't get the same understanding from reading a poem, no matter how many times you do, as you can from when you bring it to life.

—Mia Ronn, 2022 Poetry Out Loud National Champion

# Poetry, Prose & Podcasts Online

**In 2022, we continued to see robust engagement with website content**, which serves as an evolving resource for educators, students, and poetry lovers across the world.

- 4.2 million+ average monthly website visitors
- 370 new poet bios added
- 641 new poems added
- 46,595 poems in the archive
- 42 new feature articles
- 135,000 newsletter subscribers
- 5 active poetry podcasts: *Audio Poem of the Day*, *Poetry Magazine Podcast*, *Poetry Off the Shelf*, *Poem Talk*, and *VS*
- 28 million+ podcast listeners

## ***Poetry Off the Shelf* Updates**

The *Poetry Off the Shelf* podcast, in which producer Helena de Groot talks to poets about language, dreams, love and loss, identity, connection, anger, discomfort, the creative process, the state of the world, and the world of the soul, became a Webby Honoree in the Podcasts - Interview/ Talk Show category.

## **VS Updates**

After five fabulous seasons, Franny Choi and Danez Smith stepped aside as the cohosts of the *VS* podcast. In their place, friends Brittany Rogers and Ajanaé Dawkins took over to kick off the sixth season in fall 2022. Cin Pim served as producer for the 2022 *VS* season.

## **Harriet Books**

Harriet Books publishes weekly micro-reviews written by a rotating team of poets. Harriet Books focuses on new and forthcoming poetry titles published by small and independent presses, books authored by poets from marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds, poetry in translation, and chapbooks. For the blog component of Harriet, every quarter, several poets are invited to contribute posts on a theme related to contemporary poetry and poetics. The themes for 2022 were "Poetry and Translation," "Poetry and Publishing," "Poetry and Politics," and "Poetry and Criticism."

- 160 Harriet Books reviews featured
- 12 featured bloggers published a total of 35 posts
- 50+ news roundups published
- 3 Open Door posts published

## **New Collections**

- Alliterative Verse/Avant Garde
- 110 Years of Poetry Magazine

## **New Poem Guide**

- Anne Carson: "Red Meat: Fragments of Stesichoros"

## **Online Exhibit**

- Better Craftsmen, Not Gods: An Online Exhibit on the Editing of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"

## **Longest Feature to Date**

- "Dig It Up Again," authored by Ryan Ruby, who won a 2023 Silvers Prize for Literary Criticism

# Media Partnerships

**Through a variety of collaborations, the Poetry Foundation invests in poetry programming to reach audiences across the full media spectrum.** Our current partners help extend our efforts to foster spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry through podcasts, video, print, digital publications, and beyond.

Podcast listeners continued to love connecting with poetry every weekday via *The Slowdown*, pushing it to the top one-percent of podcasts with more than 200,000 tuning in to each episode. Produced in partnership with American Public Media, season three of *The Slowdown* was downloaded nearly four million times. In 2022, host Ada Limón became the new US Poet Laureate, which kicked off a search for her replacement. Before the end of the year, award-winning poet Major Jackson was selected to carry on the tradition of offering listeners the opportunity to find calm through poetry.

I've been using [*The Slowdown*] in class, and it's been really successful at getting kids to engage with new types of poetry.

—Teacher and *The Slowdown* listener

***Ours Poetica***, an online video series hosted on a dedicated YouTube channel, captures the intimate experience of holding a poem in one's hands and listening as it is read by a distinctive voice. *Ours Poetica* features poets, writers, artists, and sometimes unexpected—yet familiar—guests who have an interest in poetry. Curators include Charlotte Abotsi, Sarah Kay, and Paige Lewis. *Ours Poetica* is presented by the Poetry Foundation in partnership with Complexly.

The Poetry Foundation has partnered with the *Chicago Reader* since 2020 to bring poetry to a local audience via **Poetry Corner**. Every other week, the free print and digital publication shares a poem from a Chicago poet, providing emerging local writers with a platform and readers with a chance to engage with new poetry. The poems for this section are selected by acclaimed Chicago poets with regularly rotating curatorships.

After 17 years of bringing weekly poems to people around the US as a free weekly column for newspapers and online publications, we bid farewell to ***American Life in Poetry***. The online archive of contemporary poems selected by founder Ted Kooser and editor Kwame Dawes remains available for all to enjoy on the *American Life in Poetry* and Poetry Foundation websites.

# Awards

**The administration of awards is one of the ways we celebrate and support past, present, and future poets from all walks of life.** 2022 saw a return to an in-person Pegasus Awards after hosting the event virtually in 2021. The Pegasus Awards also included an extended slate of winners in honor of *Poetry's* 110th anniversary.

## The Pegasus Awards

The Pegasus Awards is a family of prizes that includes the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, Young People's Poet Laureate, and the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. To celebrate the 110th anniversary of *Poetry*, an expanded event was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. More than 300 guests enjoyed a special ceremony that included performances and remarks from Dee Alexander & Trio, Melody Angel, Nora Brooks Blakely, Kurt Elling, Rick Kogan, Erika L. Sánchez, Jamila Woods, avery r. young, and *Poetry's* new editor, Adrian Matejka.

## Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize

The annual **Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize** is typically awarded to one living US poet for outstanding lifetime achievement. In 2022, in honor of *Poetry's* 110-year anniversary, the Poetry Foundation awarded **10 additional Ruth Lilly Poetry Prizes**, resulting in a total of \$1,132,500 in prizes to the 2022 Pegasus Awards winners. It is the largest prize that the Poetry Foundation has ever awarded to a cohort of living poets at one time.

### 2022 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize Winners

- CAConrad
- Sandra Cisneros
- Rita Dove
- Nikki Giovanni
- Juan Felipe Herrera
- Angela Jackson
- Haki Madhubuti
- Sharon Olds
- Sonia Sanchez
- Patti Smith
- Arthur Sze

## Young People's Poet Laureate

### **\$25,000 prize for a two-year term**

The Young People's Poet laureateship and \$25,000 prize are awarded every two years to a living writer in recognition of a career devoted to writing exceptional poetry for young readers. Naomi Shihab Nye served an extended tenure due to the cancellation of many of her readings and programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, Elizabeth Acevedo, the bestselling author of *The Poet X*, was named the 2022–2024 Young People's Poet Laureate. Acevedo will promote poetry to children and their families, teachers, and librarians throughout her two-year tenure.

## Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism

The Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism annually honors one book-length work of criticism published in the prior calendar year and includes a \$7,500 prize. Kevin Quashie was the 2022 recipient for his book *Black Aliveness, or A Poetics of Being*, which draws on Black feminist literary texts, including work by poets Lucille Clifton, Audre Lorde, and June Jordan.

### **2022 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism Finalists**

- Anahid Nersessian for *Keats's Odes: A Lover's Discourse*
- Syd Zolf for *No One's Witness: A Monstrous Poetics*

## Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship

Every year, the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship recognizes five outstanding young poets, providing support early in their careers to encourage the further study and writing of poetry. In 2022, Tarik Dobbs, Diamond Forde, Alan Pelaez Lopez, Tariq Luthun, and Troy Osaki each received \$25,800. The \$129,000 awarded makes the fellowships among the largest, most prestigious awards available for young poets in the US.

# Grants

**The grants program is part of the Poetry Foundation's commitment to supporting the field of poetry and the literary arts more equitably and transparently.** In 2022, the Poetry Foundation instituted a new grants program with an initial commitment of \$9 million over the first three years. Grantees are selected through a community-based grant proposal review process consisting of 23 external reviewers from the arts and culture community. The reviewers then make funding recommendations to an internal committee at the Poetry Foundation.

## 2022 Grants Priorities

- Relief funding to nonprofit poetry and literary arts organizations impacted by the pandemic
- Investing in building and strengthening the capacity of BIPOC leadership at literary arts and publishing organizations and in nonprofit programs in poetry
- Cultivating and engaging new, diverse audiences for poetry
- Fostering new collaborations, partnerships, innovations, and technologies in the field

## 2022 Grants

- 127 grants awarded
- 104 organizations that received grants
- \$3,000,000 amount awarded

It is exciting to end 2022 having launched the Poetry Foundation's new public grants program and awarding \$3 million in grants in support of poetry across the US. Our 2022 cohort of grantee-partners are doing phenomenal work to increase access to poetry for all, and we are proud to be supporting each of them. Given that the literary arts receive the least amount of funding among the five major art forms, the Poetry Foundation is hopeful that the new grantmaking program encourages others to invest in poets and poetry more robustly.

—Chris Guzaitis, director of grants and awards

## Grant Recipients

### Equity in Verse

826 New Orleans – \$20,000

African Poetry Book Fund at University of Nebraska-Lincoln – \$112,500

Artes de México en Utah – \$15,000

CantoMundo – \$20,000

Cave Canem – \$75,000  
CityLit – \$50,000  
Community Literature Initiative – \$50,000  
Furious Flowers/James Madison U – \$50,000  
In-Na-Po, Indigenous Nations Poets – \$65,000  
KUNDIMAN INC – \$50,000  
Letras Latinas at University of Notre Dame – \$40,000  
Mizna – \$35,000  
Motor City Sings – \$20,000  
*Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora* (Illinois State University) – \$50,000  
Puha Hubiya – \$20,000  
Radical Reversal – \$65,000  
Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center – \$65,000  
Stomping Grounds Literary Arts Initiative – \$35,000  
Teachers and Writers Collaborative – \$30,000  
The Diatribe Inc. – \$65,000  
Third World Press Foundation – \$50,000  
Twelve Literary Arts Inc – \$20,000  
University of Guam Press – \$65,000  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee – \$25,000

## **Poetry Programs, Partnerships, and Innovation**

916 Ink – \$10,000  
Black Arts District – \$50,000  
Blue Stoop of CultureWorks – \$35,000  
Brick Street Poetry Inc. – \$10,000  
California Poets in the Schools – \$50,000  
ChiArts Foundation – \$50,000  
Gwendolyn Brooks Collection University of Illinois – \$50,000  
Kitchen Table Literary Arts – \$10,000  
MacDowell – \$12,500  
MAKE Literary Productions – \$20,000  
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop – \$50,000  
O, Miami – \$50,000  
Parachute Literary Arts Inc – \$20,000  
Path with Art – \$20,000  
Poetic Justice – \$50,000  
Poetry Center of Chicago – \$50,000  
Poetry@Tech, Georgia Tech University – \$24,000  
Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project – \$15,000

Ragdale – \$50,000  
Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, 2023 – \$50,000  
Southern Word – \$25,000  
Steppenwolf Theater – \$25,000  
Sundress Publications – \$10,000  
Zoeglossia – \$10,000

### **Special Opportunity Grants + Sponsorships**

826CHI – \$2,400  
American Writers Museum – \$10,000  
Bay Area Book Fair – \$10,000  
Before Columbus Foundation/ American Book Awards – \$10,000  
Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy – \$10,000  
National Book Foundation/National Book Awards – \$25,000  
National Poetry Series – \$25,000  
Near South Planning Board/Printer's Row Lit Fest – \$25,000  
Poetry Coalition/Academy of American Poets – \$40,000  
Pongo Poetry Project – \$5,000

### **Renewal and Recovery Grants**

826 New Orleans – \$15,000  
826CHI – \$15,000  
826michigan – \$15,000  
*Alaska Quarterly Review* – \$5,000  
Alice James Poetry Cooperative – \$15,000  
American Poetry Museum – \$7,500  
Art from Ashes Inc. – \$15,000  
ArtistYear – \$10,000  
Arts & Literature Laboratory – \$10,000  
Asian American Writers' Workshop – \$15,000  
Autumn House Press – \$15,000  
Bamboo Ridge Press – \$5,000  
Beyond Baroque Foundation – \$15,000  
Blue Stoop of Culture Trust – \$15,000  
BOA Editions, Ltd. – \$10,000  
BreakBread Literacy Project – \$10,000  
California Poets in the Schools – \$20,000  
CantoMundo (fiscally sponsored by CLMP) – \$20,000  
CavanKerry Press – \$10,000

Cave Canem Foundation, Inc. – \$20,000  
Chicago Poetry Center – \$20,000  
City of Asylum Pittsburgh – \$12,500  
Community Literature Initiative – \$15,000  
ConTextos, NFP – \$10,000  
Copper Canyon Press – \$20,000  
D.C. Creative Writing Workshop – \$15,000  
Deep Center – \$15,000  
Desert Island Supply Co. – \$15,000  
DewMore Baltimore – \$15,000  
DreamYard Project, Inc. – \$10,000  
Fonograf Editions – \$10,000  
Free Verse Writing Project – \$12,500  
Gemini Ink (The Gemini Series, Inc.) – \$10,000  
Girls Write Now, Inc. – \$10,000  
Good Journey Development Foundation – \$5,000  
Hope at Hand Florida – \$15,000  
InsideOut Literary Arts – \$10,000  
Just Buffalo Literary Center – \$10,000  
Kearny Street Workshop – \$20,000  
Kundiman, Inc. – \$15,000  
Kuumba Lynx – \$15,000  
Letras Latinas at University of Notre Dame – \$15,000  
Maine Inside Out – \$15,000  
Massachusetts Poetry Outreach – \$17,500  
*Michigan Quarterly Review* University of Michigan – \$10,000  
Mizna – \$7,500  
Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop – \$10,000  
Nebraska Writers Collective – \$7,500  
Noemi Press, Inc. – \$10,000  
Northwest New Mexico Arts Council – \$7,500  
Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Inc. – \$20,000  
NY Writers Coalition Inc. – \$15,000  
O, Miami, Inc. – \$15,000  
Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora at Illinois State University – \$12,500  
Poet Lore – \$5,000  
Poetry Society of America – \$15,000  
Poetry Society of New York – \$17,500  
Saint Louis Poetry Center – \$10,000  
Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center – \$15,000  
Snow City Arts – \$15,000

Sundress Publications – \$5,000  
The Diatribe Inc. – \$10,000  
The Lab SF – \$7,500  
The Lambda Literary Foundation – \$15,000  
The Poetry Forum, Inc./RHINO – \$7,500  
The Poetry Project, Limited – \$20,000  
Ugly Duckling Presse – \$7,500  
University of Arizona Poetry Center – \$15,000  
Urban Word NYC Inc. – \$15,000  
Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University – \$7,500  
Woodland Pattern, Inc. – \$15,000  
WordPlay Cincy – \$10,000  
Words Beats and Life Inc. – \$10,000  
Writer’s Center of Indiana dba Indiana Writers Center – \$5,000  
Writers in Baltimore Schools – \$15,000  
Writers Without Margins, Inc. – \$10,000  
Youth Speaks, Inc. – \$15,000  
Zoeglossia – \$10,000  
Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation – \$17,500

**For more information about the Poetry Foundation’s financial status, please visit**  
**[PoetryFoundation.org/Foundation/Financials](https://PoetryFoundation.org/Foundation/Financials)**

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