

# ANNUAL REPORT

## **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.

# 2022

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2022 issues of Poetry

# 2022 IN REVIEW



\$5.95 USA  
\$8.75 CAN  
£6.75 UK

## 2022 in Review



Michelle T. Boone  
Poetry Foundation president



Caren Yanis  
Poetry Foundation chair

### 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.

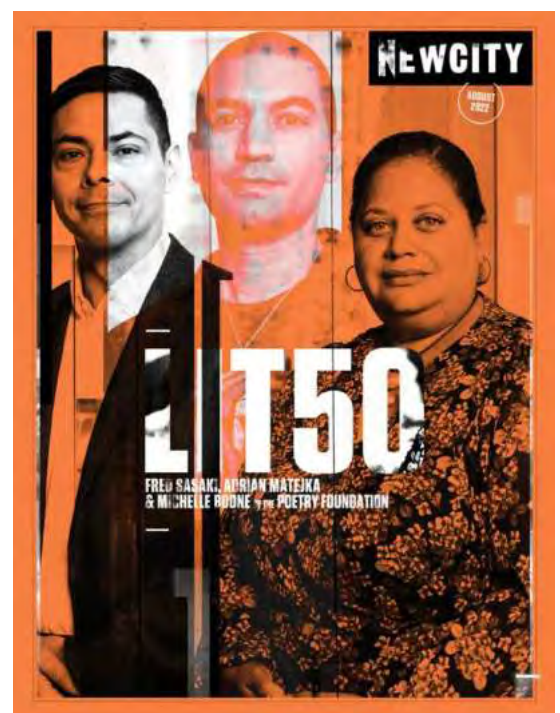
### Strategic Goal #3: Focus

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](#)



*Newcity* "Lit50" Issue

## 2022 in Review

— continued

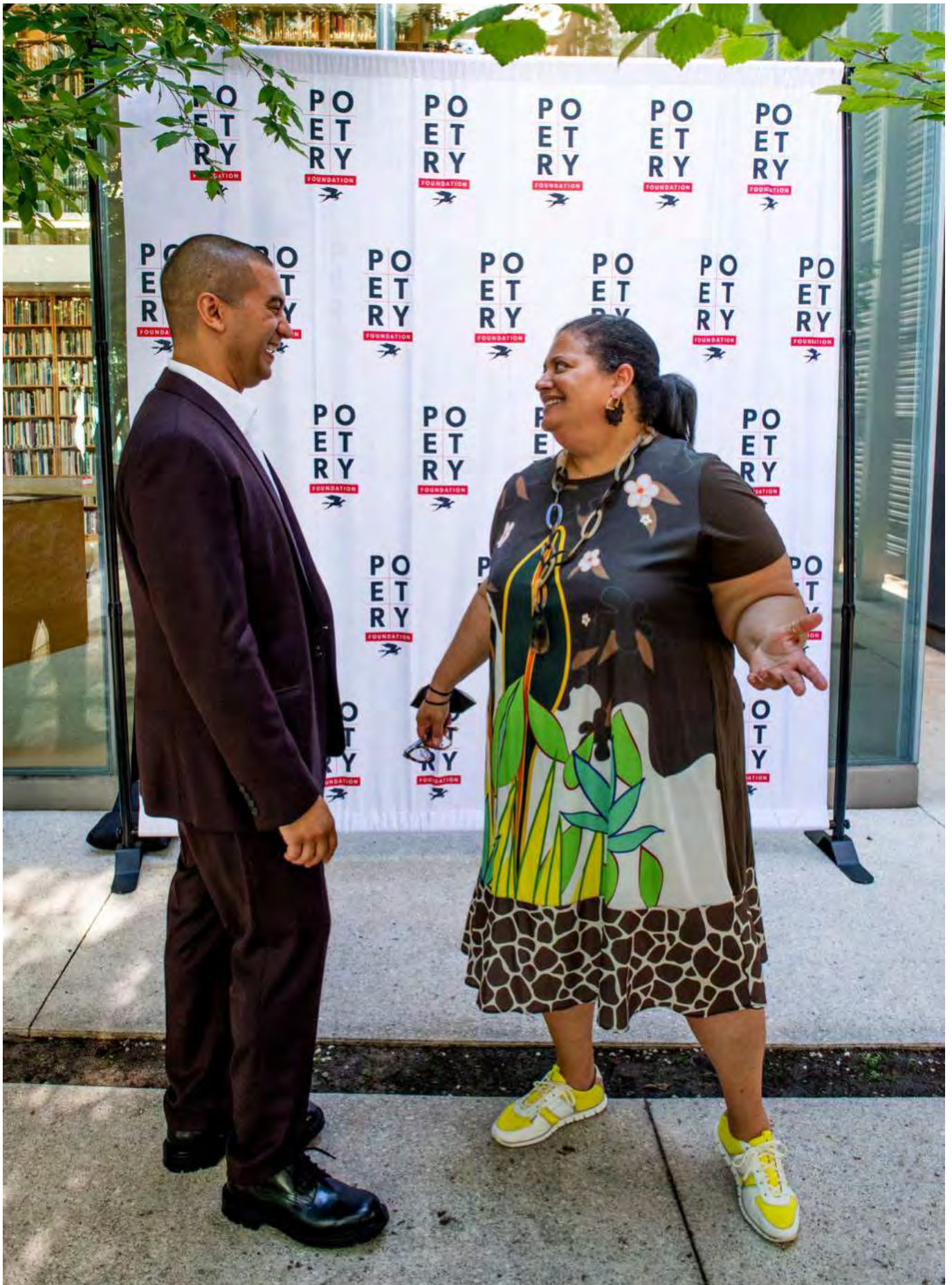
*... we have smashed sound barriers between us.  
we have dared again and again and yet again to dream,  
and our dreams have finally taken material form.  
we have changed our hearts.  
we have altered and changed our minds,  
and because of this, we now have some  
    valor and strength,  
and we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

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



Carolyn Marie Rodgers, 1967. Photographer unknown.  
Margins of image inscribed with the words "Before Blackness."





Adrian Matejka and Michelle T. Boone at the June 2022 Open House



# POETRY MAGAZINE



Art by Rob Dobi for online feature essay,  
"2022: Poetry's Year in Prose"



# 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.

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

## 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



*Poetry*, January 2022

\*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.

## Poetry's Honors



*Poetry*, April 2022

## 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

# Poetry Magazine

— continued



Margaret Danner, *Ming Blue, Lace and The Painted Lady* by Wangari Mathenge

## 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*.

POETRY Magazine App users

# 33,400

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

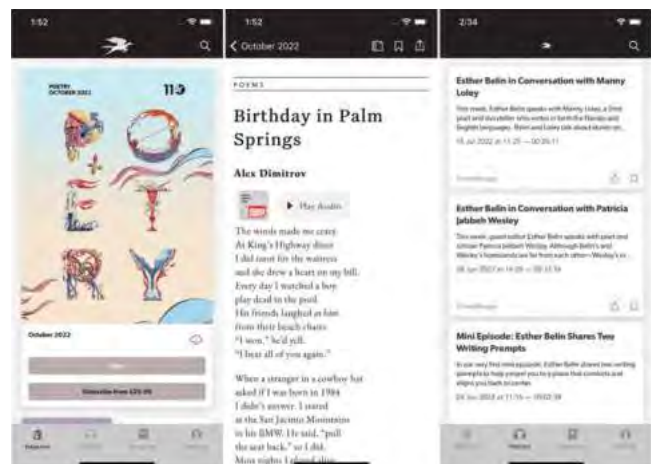
—POETRY Magazine App user

## 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



Preview of the October 2022 issue in the newly launched mobile app

# Poetry Magazine

— continued



Adrian Matejka, editor, *Poetry* magazine

## 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*.

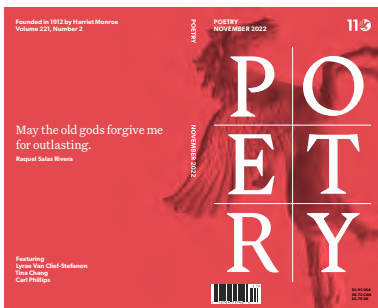
Born in Nuremberg, Germany, Matejka grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, and served as 2018-2019 Poet Laureate of Indiana. A seasoned professor and writer, Matejka has authored several collections of poetry, including his most recent collection, *Somebody Else Sold the World*, which was a finalist for the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

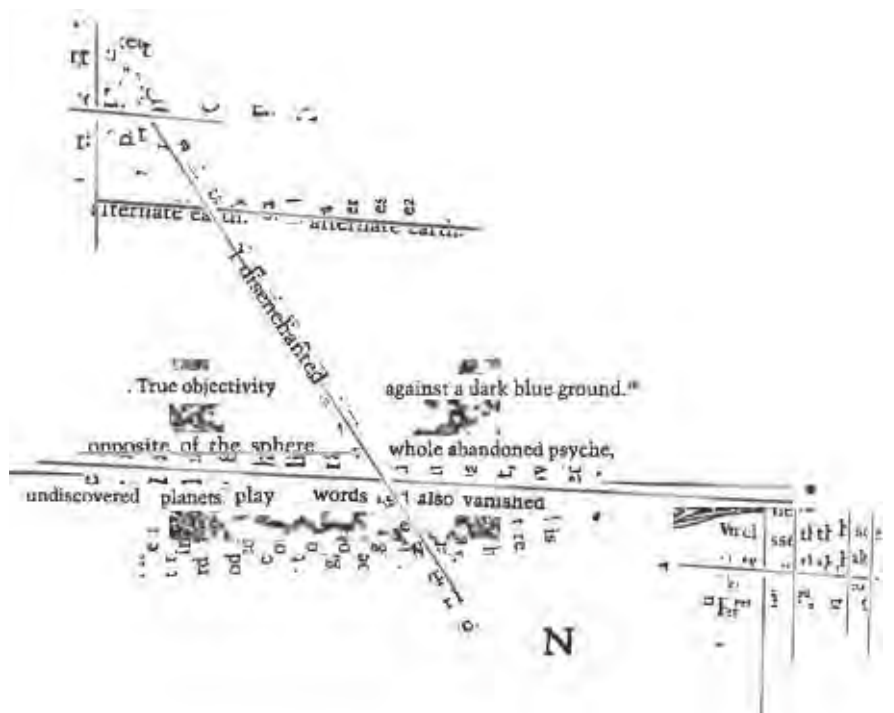
- *Chicago Tribune*
- *Chicago Sun Times*
- *Poets & Writers*
- *Publishers Weekly*
- *Pride Index*
- *The 21st* (NPR Radio)



*Poetry*, November 2022



*Poetry*, October 2022



Excerpt from "Map Concurrences" by Tino Zhang, *Poetry*, April 2022





# EVENTS



Jared Brown and Briana Lynn at an Open Door reading



# 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



I felt the environment was so much more inclusive than I remember it being! Bravo.

—To Turn the World Around attendee



# Events

— continued

# 1,846

**event attendees**

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

**virtual attendees**

# 932

**in-person attendees**

# 914

# \$221,931

**paid to performers and program facilitators, such as VS podcast hosts and guests**

# Events

— continued

## 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



Vice president, programs and engagement, Ydalmi Noriega, and VS cohost Brittany Rogers at the Poetry Foundation booth at AWP

## Printers Row Lit Fest Chicago

**1** poetry stage

**2** days

**41** poets

**10** readings

**5** partner organizations

# Events

— continued



Staff and guests at the June Open House



Briana Lynn at an Open Door reading



isra rene at an Open Door reading

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



Nicole Marroquin at the *Encuentros* exhibition opening event



# LIBRARY







# 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.

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

### 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
- 1,825 attendees



September 2022 Celebrating the Visiting Teaching Artists of Forms & Features event

## Library

— continued

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



Youth programming participant



Youth programming participants



Pat Mora reading at Young People's Poetry Day

## 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

## 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







Visitor engaging with the *Encuentros* exhibition

## 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.

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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



Visitor engaging with *Planetaria*. Photos by M\_m<M.



*Planetaria* volvelles



# Exhibitions

— continued

## 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.



Oscar Arriola at the *Encuentros* exhibition opening event. Photos by Sarah Joyce.

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



*Encuentros* exhibition opening



Artist Diana Solís



# COMMUNITY, EDUCATORS & STUDENT PROGRAMS





Youth program participants  
in the library





# Community, Educators & Student Programs

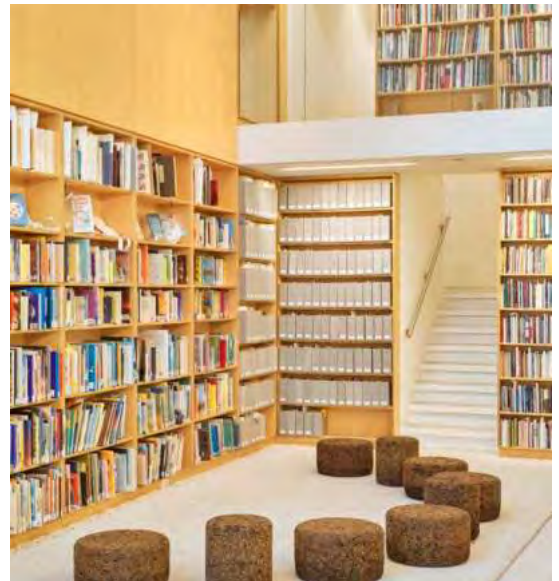
## Summer Poetry Teachers Institute

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.

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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



Poetry Foundation library



2022 Summer Poetry Teachers Institute promotion

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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

# Community, Educators & Student Programs

— continued

## 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



2022 Poetry Out Loud National Champion Mia Ronn.  
Photo by 5:00 Films & Media



# POETRY, PROSE & PODCASTS ONLINE

was the proof of the heav

a beam of my heart

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Excerpt from "Coping" by Alison Thumel, *Poetry*, January 2022



## 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.

average monthly website visitors

**4.2 million+**

newsletter subscribers

**135,000**

new poet bios added

**370**

active poetry podcasts: *Audio Poem of the Day*, *Poetry Magazine Podcast*, *Poetry Off the Shelf*, *Poem Talk*, and *VS*

**5**

new poems added

**641**

podcast listeners

**28 million+**

poems in the archive

**46,595**

new feature articles

**42**





# Poetry, Prose & Podcasts Online

— continued

## 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



*VS* hosts Ajanaé Dawkins and Brittany Rogers



"Dig It Up Again" art by David Cooper



Danlin Zhang, who illustrated the April 25 feature, "Nothing to Hide Under All This Sun," was selected for the Society of Illustrators' annual juried exhibition.



Visitor exploring the Poetry Foundation

# MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS



# 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.



May 12, 2022 Poetry Corner by Sol Cabrini





# AWARDS





(from left) Arthur Sze, Rita Dove, Michelle T. Boone, Virginia Fowler, Nikki Giovanni, and Juan Felipe Herrera at the Pegasus Awards

# Awards

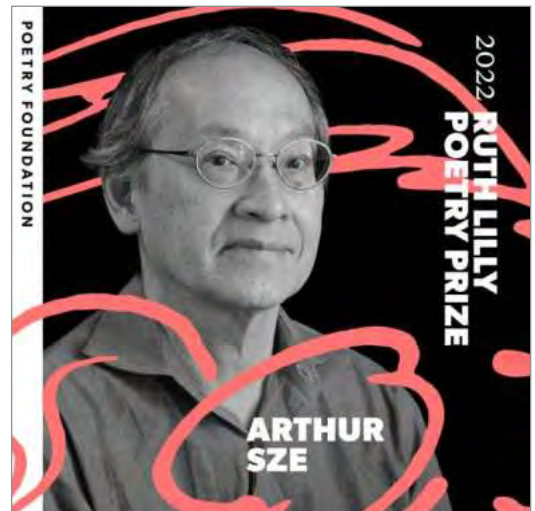
**The administration of awards is one of the ways we celebrate and support past, present, and future poets from all walks of life.** 2022 saw a return to an in-person Pegasus Awards after hosting the event virtually in 2021. The Pegasus Awards also included an extended slate of winners in honor of *Poetry's*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

## 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



2022 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize Winner Arthur Sze

## 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 Pegasus awardees (not pictured: Sonia Sanchez)



# Awards

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## 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

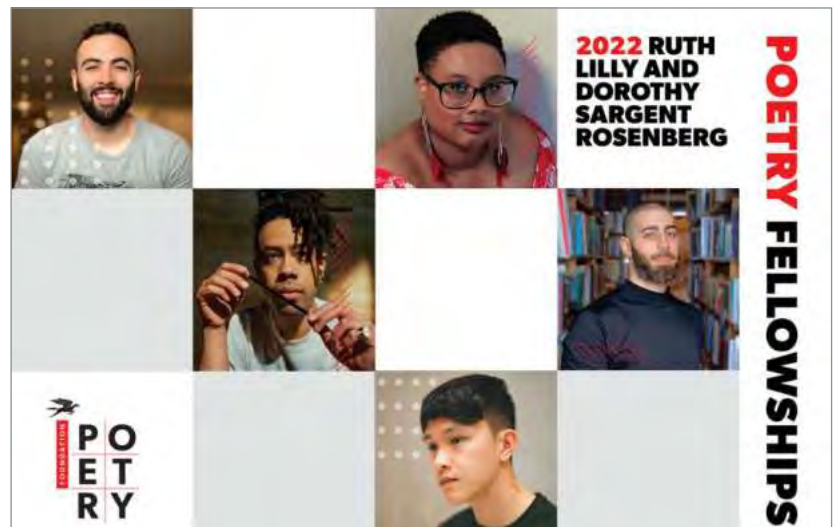
The Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism annually honors one book-length work of criticism published in the prior calendar year and includes a \$7,500 prize. Kevin Quashie was the 2022 recipient for his book *Black Aliveness, or A Poetics of Being*, which draws on Black feminist literary texts, including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

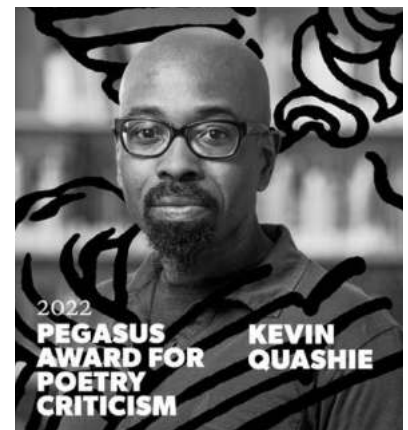
Every year, the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship recognizes five outstanding young poets, providing support early in their careers to encourage the further study and writing of poetry. In 2022, Tarik Dobbs, Diamond Forde, Alan Pelaez Lopez, Tariq Luthun, 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.



2022 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellows



Elizabeth Acevedo by Denzel Golatt



Kevin Quashie courtesy of Kevin Quashie



Director of grants and awards, Chris Guzaitis, and vice president, programs and engagement, Ydalmi Noriega



# GRANTS



# 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



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

# Grants

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## 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



# Grants

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## Renewal and Recovery

### Grants

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- 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



The Poetry Foundation library



Young People's Poetry Day participant

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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Staff at the June 2022 Open House



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