

# Poetry Foundation Annual Report

2020–2021

## About the Poetry Foundation

The Poetry Foundation is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in American culture. The Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging all kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.

# 2020–2021 in Review: A Time for Change, Renewal and Transformation

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
—James Baldwin

If ever there was a word to describe the past two years at the Poetry Foundation, it would be “change.” Like so many organizations, the Foundation has had to pivot, adjust and reassess its role, purpose and positioning as we all enter into the “new” normalcy in the aftermath of the global pandemic of the past two years. This change wasn’t just needed, it was necessary.

In the summer of 2020, the Poetry Foundation shared a public declaration of our [Commitment to Our Community](#), citing ways in which we would work to transform into an organization that better reflects, respects, and represents the poetry ecosystem. Since that Commitment, we have worked continuously to become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive in our programming, services, staffing, board members, and engagement with communities of poets and artists who are central to our work, as we examined what it means to be a partner and trusted member of our community. We engaged, we listened, and we recognized the significant responsibility we have and the role we play, and the space we occupy within the literary landscape as we pursued our mission to celebrate, share and support poetry widely.

As we approach the end of my first year as the president of the Poetry Foundation, I am mindful that while we are moving ever forward, it is vital to take a moment to reflect back on the lessons of the past two years of change. Although our journey of renewal is just beginning, we share with you our progress during 2020–2021 anchored in adopting the values of equity, generosity, inclusion, justice, transparency and trust.

We’ve learned a lot and with your continued feedback and guidance in the future, we aim to keep learning and thank you for your partnership and support.

Yours in poetry,  
Michelle T. Boone  
Poetry Foundation President

# Key Updates

In partnership with Lord Cultural Resources, started the process for a new Strategic Plan, the first one since 2006 at the Foundation.

Increased diversity in leadership with new staff promotions and hires, including Michelle T. Boone as president in May 2021 and several additions of new board members of color.

Launched a nationwide search for a new editor of *Poetry* magazine.

Collaborated with Ethos, a Chicago-based Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) firm, who conducted an equity audit in parallel with the Foundation's work to fulfill commitments first named in the Open Letter of Commitment to Our Community. Findings included:

Since 2003, of nearly 4,000 *Poetry* contributors, one-fourth were people of color.

In that same period of time, more than 53% of contributors were men.

Diversity has been incrementally increasing across social identity categories over time, with 2018 representing the biggest increases.

These findings do not represent where the Foundation or magazine wants to be or can be; rather, they give a starting point from which growth can be marked.

Awarded \$2 million in emergency grants, and began the process of reimagining the Foundation's future grantmaking.

Increased transparency with consistent updates on the changes at the Foundation in relation to the goals and priorities stated in the Commitment.

# Global Pandemic

Like many organizations across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic compelled the Poetry Foundation to pivot to a new approach. On March 13, 2020, the Foundation closed its doors to the public to support the City of Chicago's efforts to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and practice social distancing as advised by the Centers for Disease Control and the Chicago Department of Public Health. All in-person, on-site public programming was canceled or postponed.

# Poetry Magazine

Founded in Chicago in 1912 by Harriet Monroe, *Poetry* continues to be recognized as an influential space for verse. As the oldest monthly magazine devoted to verse in the English-speaking world, *Poetry* supports our Commitment to the Community by welcoming several poets as guest editors, including Ashley M. Jones, Su Cho, and Suzi F. Garcia in 2021.

## During 2020 and 2021, *Poetry* published

733 poems

103 visual/multimedia poems

54 prose pieces

56 episodes of the *Poetry* Magazine Podcast

9 issues by guest editors

## *Poetry's Honors*

National Magazine Award winner for John Lee Clark's essay, "Tactile Art"

National Magazine Award Cover Contest finalist for Armando Veve's September 2019 cover art

National Magazine Award Photography finalist for "From 'Crowns,'" featuring poems by Patricia Smith and photographs by Sandro Miller

## Additionally, *Poetry*:

Received more than 32,000 submission packets

Subscribers

2021: 30,801

2020: 26,039

Included 150 (47.3%) contributors who were published in the magazine for the first time in 2020

260 (81.5%) contributors published in the magazine for the first time in 2021

## Events

In response to the pandemic, the Poetry Foundation changes in its approach and presentation of public events. These included a pivot to entirely digital/online offerings in 2020–2021 and the Poetry Off the Stage series on Instagram. The Programming team added the presence of live captioners and/or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to all events; events were also recorded and added to the Poetry Foundation website to be accessed anytime.

### 2020–2021 Events

57 free public events

14 in-person

43 virtual

2,910 event attendees

845 in-person

2,065 virtual

The Programming team introduced post-event surveys so that attendees could provide feedback on the events and highlight areas for improvement. This practice is ongoing, and the feedback is greatly appreciated.

## A few examples:

“I loved the descriptions of the speakers and their surroundings. It was a very welcoming atmosphere.”

“The presentation of identities, visual descriptions, and simultaneous ASL interpretation made me feel like this is a space that carefully considers everyone.”

“Each poet had lineage in each other, other poets, and the unshared now shared experiences. Wonderful curation. Great flow. Beautiful souls, each one and all.”

“This was my first time attending a Poetry Foundation event, and I'm glad I did.”

# Library

The Poetry Foundation Library is the Midwest's only library dedicated to poetry. While the Foundation building was closed due to COVID-19, virtual visitors to the library could attend a range of online workshops and events.

## 2020–2021 Book Clubs

Each month, Library staff moderated an online book club featuring a wide range of classic and contemporary poets. Moving to a virtual format allowed guests to join the conversations from anywhere in the world. Participants in the United States received copies of the discussion book free of charge.

24 book clubs

377 attendees

21 of 24 books discussed were by BIPOC poets

19 of 24 books discussed were by living poets

## 2020–2021 Writing Workshops

The Library's long-standing writing workshop series, Forms & Features, also adapted to an online format in 2020. Through these workshops, participants came together to learn about different poetic forms and aspects of poetry, and to create their own work. From these sessions, a new reading series, Celebrating the Poets of Forms & Features, was born, providing participants a space to share work from those workshops.

- 238 sessions
- 4,184 attendees

## 2020–2021 Youth Programming

In addition to the book clubs and workshops geared towards adult fans of poetry, the Library offers a number of programs for young writers and readers of the art form.

**Field trips** were changed to online sessions available to educators who wanted to bring more poetry to their classrooms, resulting in the following:

31 sessions

677 attendees

The **Teen Poetry Labs**, traditionally in-person summer workshops, shifted to online sessions that were available to more young poets in the virtual space, leading to:

29 sessions

239 attendees

**Poetry Explorers** is a new program that began as a virtual event series. It has evolved into an interactive video series that caregivers and educators can enjoy with their young poets again and again.

8 event sessions

4 video installments



# Gallery

While the Poetry Foundation building was closed in 2020–2021, its commitment to poetry as an art form did not stop. For the first time, the Foundation installed an artwork on its Chicago building's exterior: *For And Nor But Or Yet So* by Bob Faust.

This installation debuted November 2021 and celebrated the poems of 2021 Ruth Lilly Award winner Patricia Smith.

Smith, who was raised on the West Side of Chicago, is the winner of numerous awards, including the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. She is a mentor and inspiration to a generation of poets and a treasure for innumerable readers.

The poems gathered for the installation were available as QR codes that collectively created a “family tree” of work selected by Smith, tracing generative connections between poets past and present.

# Community, Educators & Student Programs

## Incubator for Community-Engaged Poets

The Incubator is a program for poets who engage with and serve communities through their creative practice. Prior to the pandemic, the Incubator consisted of a four-day introductory session of workshops and discussions that culminated with the Chicago Poetry Block Party. Then, work continued in Incubator Fellows' communities, supported in part by grants awarded annually to two Fellows for their community projects.

The Foundation went through several permutations of Incubator, working to adapt it to function during the pandemic and in a way that was aligned with the changes underway at the Foundation. This evolved into an evaluation of the program. Feedback was requested and received from 77 out of 98 Incubator alumni.

## Hope Rhymes

The Foundation joined Poetry Ireland in 2021 to announce the new multi-year partnership, Hope Rhymes. This partnership aims to connect communities of poets and audiences in the United States and Ireland, with a focus on engagement with and services for young people.

## Summer Poetry Teachers Institute

In July 2021, we carried forth our Commitment to the Community with the free virtual institute "Poetry in an Antiracist Classroom," which reached **more than 200 educators**, ranging from kindergarten to the community college level. They learned new ways to teach poetry to their students. It was the sixth annual Institute expanded to a broad, virtual educator audience. The Poetry Foundation worked with longtime partner O, Miami, the annual poetry festival, to plan the Institute programming.

## Poetry Out Loud

A partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies, 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 country. Since the program began in 2005, more than 4.1 million students and 68,000 teachers from 17,000 schools and organizations across the nation have participated. The competition's virtual national finals were administered by Mid Atlantic Arts.

### **2019–2020 School Year**

263,000 participating students

2,200 schools

Each state champion received a \$1,000 prize

In states where the finals were canceled, the state arts agency received \$1,000 to either award to a state champion named later or divide among the students who advanced to the state finals.

### **2020–2021 School Year**

98,000 participating students

1,300 schools/organizations

\$45,500 in prize money was awarded to competing students and their schools

## Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards

Created to celebrate and honor the legacy of Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black author to win a Pulitzer Prize, the Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards is an annual competition open to all Illinois poets in grades K–12. The Poetry Foundation partnered with Illinois Humanities, Brooks Permissions, and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts to host virtual ceremonies honoring the students.

### **2020–2021 totals:**

629 submissions

14 counties and 92 zip codes represented

With 365 entries, 2021 marked the most submissions since the contest's revival in 2017

# Poetry, Prose & Podcasts Online

During the past two years of the pandemic, Foundation staff were heartened by the public's continued engagement with and support of our poetry content. People found inspiration and refuge in our digital offerings, which included the Poem of the Day newsletter, weekly featured articles, the website archive, and new video content. The Poetry Foundation website continues to serve as an evolving resource of articles for educators, poetry collections, poets blogging on various topics, and poetry tools for young people.

## 2020–2021

4.5 million+ average monthly website visitors

568 new poet bios added

2,188 new poems added

46,000+ poems in the archive

83 new feature articles

Artwork by Lars Leetaru for Tyler Malone's feature essay, "Thinking Is a Sickness of the Eyes" was included in the *American Illustration Annual 40*.

J. Howard Rosier's feature on Frederick Seidel was selected by *Literary Hub* as one of the 10 best book reviews of 2021.

Nearly 130,000 newsletter subscribers

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

1.2 million+ podcast listens

## VS Updates

The Poetry Foundation's Webby-nominated podcast series, in partnership with Postloudness, has some changes of its own.

Launched the open call for *Roll Call*, the podcast miniseries dedicated to the past, present, and future of Black poetry.

This resulted in 62 applications from around the United States and beyond.

After 5 seasons, cohosts Franny Choi and Danez Smith are stepping aside to make room for new voices.

The open call for the new cohosts brought in 74 applications, and the new duo begins in 2022.

## Harriet Blog

In 2021, readers of the long-running Harriet blog were introduced to a revamped version of the blog and to Harriet Books, an initiative dedicated to a weekly review of independently published contemporary poetry. In its first year, Harriet Books published **119 reviews of new poetry collections**.

In 2021 the Harriet blog featured:

28 Featured blog posts

8 Open Door posts

36 news roundups

# Media Partnerships

Media partnerships provide a unique opportunity for the Poetry Foundation to invest in poetry programming that reaches new and familiar audiences across a broad media spectrum. This resulted in a more robust presence for poetry-related stories in video, print, radio, television, and social media.

## American Life in Poetry

In 2021, the Poetry Foundation relaunched the long-standing, free weekly column **American Life in Poetry** with award-winning poet and author Kwame Dawes as the new editor. Dawes's tenure is paired with an engaging new website, designed to connect people to poetry through interests, geography, and representation. Ted Kooser retired as the series editor after celebrating more than 800 columns. The column continues to be published in partnership with the English Department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## Ours Poetica

Collaborating with Complexly, the Foundation welcomed new co-curators of the twice-weekly YouTube series **Ours Poetica** which featured Charlotte Abotsi and Sarah Kay in 2021 for Season 3. The poetic duo invited guests to share poems with audiences in short readings that evoke the tactile joy of holding a book while experiencing a poem. *Ours Poetica* returned to screens of all sizes every Monday and Friday in September.

## The Slowdown

In partnership with American Public Media, 2021 also marked the return of celebrated poetry podcast, **The Slowdown**, with award-winning poet Ada Limón taking helm as host, delivering a short episode each weekday of a poem and a moment of reflection. This offered listeners a different way to see the world – through poetry.

## Poetry Corner

On a local level, the Poetry Foundation began a partnership with the *Chicago Reader* in 2020.

**Poetry Corner** is a biweekly space in the *Reader's* print and digital editions that works with Chicago poets to curate a feature of new poems by local writers. This partnership both supports independent writers and publications and provides Chicagoans with a new space to encounter art by people from their community.

The Poetry Foundation is also proud to share the title of **2021 Best Poetry Organization** with Kuumba Lynx in the *Reader* Best of Chicago issue, voted on by the publication's readers.

# Awards

Partnerships, grants, prizes, awards, and programs are a few of the ways we continue to celebrate and support past, present, and future poets from all walks of life. The awards processes were revisited in 2020–2021, expanding the pool of decision makers, and they continue to evolve with the Poetry Foundation.

For the first time, the Pegasus Awards ceremonies were virtual, meaning that winners and their supporters could celebrate safely from wherever they were. In 2021, the event was open to the general public to log on and cheer these incredible poets, and the video was added to the Foundation website to be enjoyed by all for years to come.

## Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize

### **\$100,000 prize each year**

Established in 1986 by Ruth Lilly, the prize is one of the most prestigious awards given to American poets. The prize honors a living U.S. poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition.

Patricia Smith – 2021

Marilyn Chin – 2020

## The Pegasus Award for Criticism

### **\$7,500**

This award honors the best book-length works of criticism published in the prior calendar year, including biographies, essay collections, and critical editions that consider the subject of poetry or poets.

2021 Winner: Susan Briante for *Defacing the Monument*

2021 Finalists: Mayra A. Rodriguez for *Audre Lorde: Dream of Europe* and Rosanna Warren for *Max Jacob: A Life in Art and Letters*

2020 Winner: Saskia Hamilton for *The Dolphin Letters, 1970–1979: Elizabeth Hardwick, Robert Lowell, and Their Circle* and *The Dolphin: Two Versions, 1972-1973 Robert Lowell*

2020 Finalists: Peter Champion for *Radical as Reality: Form and Freedom in American Poetry*, Dorothea Lasky for *Animal*, and Peter Murphy for *The Long Public Life of a Short American Poem: Reading and Remembering Thomas Wyatt*



## Young People's Poet Laureate

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

### **Naomi Shihab Nye's Tenure Extended**

The Poetry Foundation extended the tenure of current Young People's Poet Laureate, Naomi Shihab Nye, to 2022. Nye was awarded the honor and two-year term in 2019, but had to cancel a number of her readings and programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extension of her tenure allows for new initiatives to replace those that were canceled. It also allows Nye to maintain her commitment to celebrating poetry in geographically underserved and rural communities.

## Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship

**\$25,800 prize each year**

Five prizes for poets early in their careers to encourage the further writing and study of poetry.

### **2021**

Bryan Byrdlong, Steven Espada Dawson, Noor Hindi, Natasha Rao, Simon Shieh

### **2020**

Isabella Borgeson, Luther Hughes, Cyrée Jarelle Johnson, Darius Simpson, Khaty Xiong

# Grants

The Poetry Foundation is a private operating foundation, meaning it is a non-profit organization that devotes most of its resources to programs that serve the public; grantmaking, by regulation, is not one of those programs, and so is only one facet of the Foundation's work as a charitable organization. That said, the Foundation recognizes the importance of grants funding in the arts, and has been reimagining how it can serve the poetry ecosystem in sustainable ways.

The Poetry Foundation opened an emergency grant program to support poetry and affiliated arts organizations struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foundation committed \$1 million in emergency grants over two years at that time; it has doubled that to \$2 million in emergency funds distributed within one year.

The emergency grants were open to poetry organizations and organizations that use poetry as an expression of their missions, located in the United States. This included organizations fighting for social justice and working to advance racial equity in poetry and affiliated art.

One-time emergency grants were awarded in the range of \$5,000–\$20,000, determined by organizations' annual budgets and requested funds. A panel of internal staff reviewed and chose applicants.

## Grants Awarded

A total of 128 organizations received emergency grant funding from the Poetry Foundation from the emergency grant opportunity. Of the recipients:

74 of the organizations provide programs for BIPOC, LGBTQIA, and/or other marginalized groups

48 of the organizations focus on youth programming

88 of the organizations support their local communities

113, or 88%, of the organizations had not previously received funding from the Poetry Foundation.

## Recipients

1455 Literary Arts, Inc. — \$5,000  
826Chi — \$15,000  
826 Michigan — \$20,000  
826 New Orleans — \$20,000  
Alaska Quarterly Review — \$10,000  
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers — \$5,000  
Alice James Books — \$10,000  
American Poetry Museum — \$5,000  
Art from Ashes Inc. — \$15,000  
ArtistYear — \$20,000  
Arts + Literature Laboratory — \$15,000  
Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge Inc. — \$10,000  
Arts Council of Princeton — \$10,000  
Artspace/Slam Richmond Affiliation — \$5,000  
Asian American Writers Workshop — \$20,000  
Autumn House Press — \$10,000  
Bamboo Ridge Press — \$5,000  
Beyond Baroque — \$20,000  
Black Table Arts — \$5,000  
Blue Stoop of CultureTrust — \$10,000  
BOA Editions, Ltd. — \$15,000  
Boston Scores — \$5,000  
Bowery Poetry Club — \$20,000  
BreakBread Literacy Project — \$10,000  
California Poets in the Schools — \$10,000  
Cambridge Community Center — \$20,000  
CantoMundo — \$20,000  
CavanKerry Press — \$10,000  
Cave Canem Foundation — \$20,000  
Center for the Art of Translation — \$15,000  
City of Asylum — \$20,000  
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation — \$15,000  
Chicago Hopes for Kids — \$15,000  
Chicago Poetry Center — \$20,000  
Community Advocacy Through Poetry / Community Justice Project — \$15,000  
Community Building Art Works — \$10,000

Community Literature Initiative — \$15,000  
Community-Word Project, Inc. — \$15,000  
ConTextos — \$10,000  
Copper Canyon Press — \$20,000  
D.C. Creative Writing Workshop — \$20,000  
Deep Center — \$20,000  
Desert Island Supply Co.— \$20,000  
DewMore Baltimore — \$20,000  
Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network / Intersection for the Arts — \$10,000  
Dove Mission Initiative, Inc. — \$5,000  
DreamYard's Bronx Poetry Project — \$20,000  
Fonograf Editions — \$5,000  
Free Verse — \$5,000  
Gemini Ink — \$15,000  
Girls Write Now — \$15,000  
GLOW Academy — \$5,000  
Good Journey Development Foundation — \$5,000  
Graft Living — \$5,000  
Green Mountains Review — \$5,000  
Hope at Hand, Inc. — \$15,000  
Hurston Wright Foundation — \$20,000  
In-Na-Po — \$15,000  
Inside Out Literary Arts — \$15,000  
International Women's Writing Guild — \$5,000  
Just Buffalo Literary Center — \$20,000  
Kearny Street Workshop, Inc. — \$15,000  
Kuumba Lynx — \$10,000  
Kundiman — \$20,000  
Lambda Literary — \$20,000  
Letras Latinas — \$15,000  
Life Journeys Writers Club, Inc. — \$5,000  
Litmus Press — \$10,000  
Litquake Foundation — \$10,000  
Maine Inside Out — \$20,000  
Mano Amiga — \$20,000  
Mass Poetry — \$10,000  
Michigan Quarterly Review — \$10,000  
Mighty Writers — \$10,000

Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop — \$20,000  
Missoula Writing Collaborative — \$10,000  
Mizna — \$5,000  
Music in Common — \$5,000  
Nebraska Writers Collective — \$10,000  
Noemi Press — \$15,000  
Nuyorican Poets Cafe — \$20,000  
NY Writers Coalition, Inc. — \$15,000  
Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora — \$10,000  
Path with Art — \$10,000  
Poet Lore — \$5,000  
Poets & Writers, Inc. — \$15,000  
Poetry and Art as Therapy for a Spirit in Grief / Northwest New Mexico Arts Council — \$5,000  
Poetry Project — \$20,000  
Poetry Society of America — \$20,000  
Poetry Society of New York — \$10,000  
RHINO Poetry/The Poetry Forum, Inc. — \$5,000  
River of Words Program at Saint Mary's College — \$5,000  
Saint Louis Poetry Center — \$10,000  
Shout Mouse Press — \$10,000  
Small Press Traffic — \$5,000  
Snow City Arts — \$15,000  
Speaking Truth to Power From Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI) — \$10,000  
Split This Rock — \$10,000  
Sundress Publications — \$5,000  
TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics — \$5,000  
Teachers and Writers Collaborative, Inc. — \$15,000  
The Care Center — \$20,000  
The Diatribe, Inc. — \$10,000  
The Lab — \$10,000  
The Midwest Writing Center — \$10,000  
The Open Mouth Literary Center — \$5,000  
The Oxford American Literary Project — \$5,000  
The Word | A Storytelling Sanctuary — \$5,000  
The YMCA's Downtown Writers Center — \$15,000  
Tieton Arts & Humanities — \$10,000  
Tioga County Council on the Arts, Inc. — \$5,000

Triple Canopy — \$5,000  
Ugly Duckling Presse, Ltd. — \$10,000  
University of Arizona Poetry Center — \$20,000  
University of Wynwood, Inc. (O, Miami) — \$10,000  
Urban Think — \$5,000  
Urban Word — \$20,000  
Wick Poetry Center — \$20,000  
Woodland Pattern — \$20,000  
WordPlay Cincy — \$15,000  
Words Beats & Life — \$10,000  
Writers in Baltimore Schools — \$10,000  
Writers in the Schools (WITS) — \$15,000  
Writers Without Margins, Inc. (WWM) — \$10,000  
Young Authors Greenhouse — \$10,000  
Young Poets Program — \$5,000  
Youth Speaks — \$20,000  
Zoeglossia — \$5,000

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

# Future of Grantmaking

In December 2021, the Poetry Foundation pledged to distribute \$9 million in grants over the next three years as part of our continued evolution, focusing on ongoing support and new efforts. Those efforts are:

## Renewal and Recovery

Continued financial support for past emergency grant recipients impacted by the ongoing pandemic.

## Equity in Verse

Support to build capacity of BIPOC-led literary, publishing, and poetry organizations, management, and programs

Support to cultivate and engage new, diverse audiences for poetry

Foster new collaborations and partnerships, as well as innovation and new technologies in the field

## Program Collaborations and Partnerships

Continued support of existing programs and partnerships

New collaborations that are in line with the Foundation's forthcoming Strategic Plan

# Board of Trustees & Staff

## Board of Trustees

Caren Yanis, Chair

Willard Bunn III, Chair (2020)

Eugene Y. Lowe, Jr., Vice President

Andrea Wishom, Vice Chair

Benna Wilde, Vice Chair (2020)

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Kary McIlwain, Trustee

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Brian Provost, Trustee

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Angel Ysaguirre, Trustee



## Staff

### Office of the President

Michelle T. Boone, President (2021–present)

Hannah Doherty, Executive Assistant to the President and Board Liaison (2021–present)

Maris Maeve O’Tierney, Executive Assistant to the President and Board Liaison (2018–2021)

Marilynn Rubio, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects

### Finance & Administration

Lawrence T. Mangan, Interim Chief Financial (2021)

Kate Coughlan, Chief Financial Officer (2020–2021)

Caren Skoulas, Chief Financial Officer (2005–2020)

Krystal Languell, Director of Finance (2021)

Nevertha Brooks, Finance Associate

Angelica Flores, Receptionist & Fiscal Assistant

### Programs & Community Engagement

Ydalmi Noriega, Vice President of Programs and Engagement

Steve Young, Program Director (2003–2020)

Justine Haka, Program Manager

Itzel Blancas, Community Programs Manager

Alex Benjamin, Building and Events Manager

Noa/h Fields, Events and Accessibility Coordinator

Lindsay Summers, Events & Logistics Assistant

Michael Keating, Poetry Ambassador

Me’Chelle Robinson, Poetry Ambassador

Akilah Muhammad, Poetry Ambassador

## Library

Katherine Litwin, Library Director and Exhibitions Co-curator

Maggie Queeney, Library Associate

Evalena Friedman, Library Assistant

Stefania Gomez, Education and Youth Services Assistant

## Digital Programs

Harlan Wallach, Chief Technology Officer & Director of Digital Programs (2019–2021)

Erin Watson, Interim Digital Director/Product Manager

Dan Hoefler, Product Project Manager (2020–2021)

Nuria Sheehan, Digital Project Manager (2020)

James Sitar, Senior Web Editor (2007–2021)

Jeremy Lybarger, Features Editor

Shoshana Olidort, Web Editor

Michael Slosek, Web Editor (2012–2020)

Janet Cheung, Web Producer

Michelle Martinez, Permissions Coordinator

Meg Forajter, Permissions and Digital Projects Assistant

## Marketing & Communications

Sarah Whitcher, Marketing & Media Director (2018–2021)

Liz O'Connell-Thompson, Media Manager

Hannah Kucharzak, Marketing Associate

Moyo Abiona, Media Assistant

Emily Bieniek, Media Assistant (2018–2021)

## *Poetry Magazine*

Don Share, *Poetry* Editor (2013–2020)

Fred Sasaki, Creative Director and Exhibitions Co-curator, Interim Coeditor

Lindsay Garbutt, Interim Coeditor

Holly Amos, Associate Editor

Hannah Kucharzak, Marketing Associate

Angela Flores, Editorial Assistant

Ashley M. Jones, Guest Editor (May 2021–July 2021)

Su Cho, Guest Editor (September 2021–November 2021)

Suzi F. Garcia, Guest Editor (December 2021–February 2022)