

POETRY FOUNDATION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The Poetry Foundation pursues its mission to celebrate and share the best poetry with diverse, underserved, and well-served audiences. We further this mission by supporting poetry programs and festivals, publishing *Poetry* magazine, supporting K–12 and higher education, and funding prizes for established and younger poets, including competitions in high schools across the United States and its territories.

The Foundation was established in 2002 upon receipt of a nearly \$200 million gift from philanthropist Ruth Lilly, a long-time supporter of the Foundation’s flagship program, *Poetry* magazine. The magazine was first published in 1912 by Harriet Monroe, who set out an Open Door policy to “keep free of entangling alliances with any single class or school,” which we still follow today. The magazine was published continuously through its 90-year history prior to the gift, establishing its reputation early by publishing the first important poems of T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Marianne Moore, Wallace Stevens, H.D., William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg, and other now-classic authors. In succeeding decades, it has presented—often for the first time—works by virtually every significant poet of the 20th and 21st centuries. The gift from Ruth Lilly allowed the Poetry Foundation to expand and enhance the presence of poetry in the United States and beyond.

Today, the Poetry Foundation works to create and encourage a vigorous presence for poetry through *Poetry*, free public programming offered in our building in Chicago, programs created with partners throughout the country and abroad, and a website that hosts more than 3 million visits each month. The Foundation increasingly supports programs that intertwine poetry and other art forms: music, dance, theater, and visual arts.

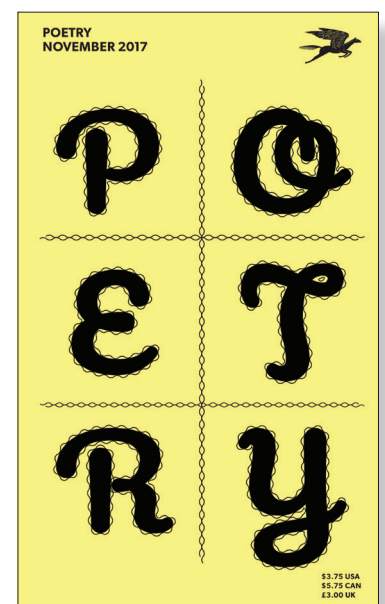
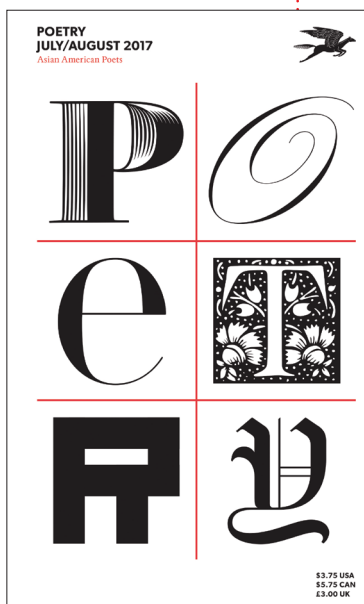
POETRY MAGAZINE

Over the last two years, we published 11 issues of the magazine a year, featuring more than 400 poets and prose authors and more than 600 poems. More than half the poems published were from first-time contributors to the magazine. We continue a history of being recognized for achievements, including a nomination for the 2016 Council of Literary Magazines and Presses Firecracker Award for best literary magazine in the nation and a finalist for an unprecedented three National Magazine Awards: General Excellence, Literature, Science and Politics; Columns and Commentary; and Essays and Criticism. *Poetry* contributors regularly receive recognition. For example, poems from 2016 issues of *Poetry* were nominated for Pushcart Prizes, including poems by Reginald Dwayne Betts, Jan Beatty, and Linda Hogan.

The magazine has more than 23,000 paid subscribers in print and through a new digital application. We also offer magazine content on our website, free of charge to all users.

SELECTED ANNUAL METRICS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- Reviewed more than 30,000 submissions; editors read more than 150,000 poems.
- Recorded 11 podcasts with 30 guests from current issues.
- Published 11 "Discussion Guides" for individual issues, which are available on the website and in the digital issue.
- Awarded more than 18 prizes for poetry totaling more than \$250,000. These included five prizes for up-and-coming poets selected from among nearly 2,000 applicants. See Awards section for list of awards and prizes.



PUBLIC EVENTS IN CHICAGO

The Poetry Foundation hosts a robust schedule of free live events throughout the year. These range from poetry readings to staged plays to concerts. Events have also included visual artist collaborations, exhibition openings, and musical and other performances. In 2016, we presented more than 100 live events attended by 6,500 people. This year, we expect to serve an audience of 9,400.

A SAMPLING OF OUR CHICAGO EVENTS

(see Events sections for full list)

- Presented standing-room-only performances by Joyce Carol Oates, Alessandro Bossetti, Every House Has a Door, and Jim Dine.
- Collaborated with the Goodman Theatre in an evening of Latino poetry to coincide with the Goodman's Latino Festival.
- Helped lead a yearlong, citywide celebration of the Gwendolyn Brooks centennial, including the commissioning of original works by the Joffrey Ballet and Manual Cinema.
- Presented pop-up readings in the New Contemporary galleries and African and Indian Art of the Americas galleries at the Art Institute of Chicago.

A SAMPLING OF OUR EVENTS OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO

(see Events sections for full list)

- Presented a reading by the 2015 Lilly-Rosenberg Poetry fellows at the Lighthouse in Denver, Colorado. The 2016 fellows read together at the Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark, New Jersey.
- Collaborated with the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) to produce *Rimbaud in New York*, which sold out seven performances.
- Featured recent Young Peoples Poet Laureate Jacqueline Woodson at a keynote address at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference in Washington, DC.
- Supported international poetry readings and discussions in France and Australia.



LIBRARY & EXHIBITION SPACE

The Foundation opened its award-winning building in 2011. It supports a wide range of programming free to the public and includes a performance space, a library, and an exhibition gallery.

Last year, we welcomed more than 3,000 visitors to our library and exhibition space, which are free and open to the public daily. With more than 30,000 volumes, our library is the only one in the Midwest dedicated to supporting poetry and providing public access to poetry collections in our reading room. Library staff host in-person, interactive programs both on site and across the city to inspire a wide readership for poetry. In our exhibition space, we showcase work that resonates with poetry, including archival exhibitions of established and forgotten poets, visual art, and special collections from around the world.

SELECTED ANNUAL LIBRARY METRICS AND HIGHLIGHTS



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

- Hosted 96 field trips serving more than 2,400 students from elementary school through community college in 2016 and 2017.
- Hosted more than 160 programs for small groups of adults in Chicago public libraries, senior centers, and patient care settings in 2016 and 2017.
- Partnered in programming with other organizations, including the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, the Lurie Garden, the National Public Housing Museum, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Rape Victims Advocates, the Smart Museum of Art, and the Woman Made Gallery.

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

- **Bernadette Mayer: *Memory***
This poetic audio-visual installation was shown for the first time since its 1972 exhibition. During July 1971, Mayer shot one roll of film each day, resulting in 1,116 photographs displayed in a grid.
- **Jun Fujita: *Oblivion***
Photographs and ephemera from Fujita, an English-language tanka poet who published regularly in *Poetry* during the 1920s. The first Japanese American photojournalist, Fujita was responsible for the most famous photos of the *Eastland* disaster and the Chicago race riots of 1919.
- **Signs of Resistance**
Poets, artists, and Chicago's organizing community contributed signs of resistance for an exhibition in response to social unrest.

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Through its website and other digital applications, the Poetry Foundation reaches more than 30 million unique users annually. We seek to create new readers of poetry, serve existing poetry lovers, and support Foundation initiatives and programs. Over the last two years, the Foundation completed two major digital capital projects to better serve this worldwide audience. We launched a new content management system that allows us to more easily publish our content across digital platforms. With that completed, we redesigned the front end of our website with a focus on user experience to make all our content more easily discoverable and usable.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DIGITAL CONTENT PROVIDED

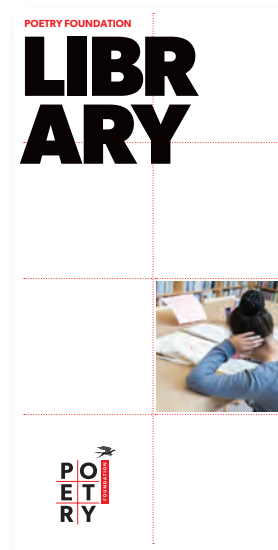
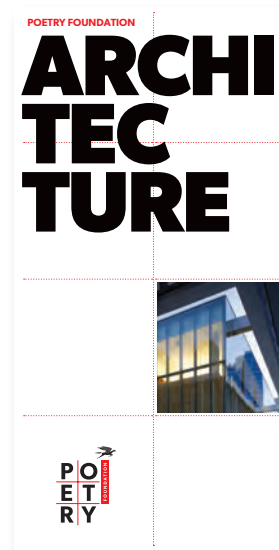
- Added more than 1,200 new poems to the free archive, bringing the total number of poems available to 43,000.
- Published more than 35 online feature articles.
- Published an average of five blog posts per day.
- Added more than 500 new biographies to bring the total number of poet bios to 4,000.
- Created new materials for teachers and others interested in learning more about poetry.
- Delivered a free poem to a subscriber base of over 40,000 with the *Poem of the Day* e-newsletter that features classic and contemporary poets from Shakespeare to US Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith.

POETRY IN THE MEDIA



The Poetry Foundation provides sponsorships for major media outlets to bring poetry programming to their existing audiences. Such partnerships include the *PBS NewsHour*, with an audience of nearly 2 million; Garrison Keillor's *Writers Almanac*, which reaches more than 4 million radio or podcast listeners; and a newspaper syndication that provides a free daily poetry column to nearly 4 million readers. In addition, we work to place poetry in a wide variety of external media.

Working with Pentagram, a design firm, the Foundation completed a redesign of its logo and master brand style guide. In collaboration with JNL Graphic Design, the Foundation implemented new marketing materials and printed collateral that provide a cohesive visual look enhancing the effectiveness of our efforts to bring poetry to a large audience. This work was also incorporated into a significant website redesign.



POETRY IN THE COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS

Poetry Out Loud—Since 2005, the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts have partnered with US state arts agencies to support Poetry Out Loud, a contest that encourages the nation’s young people to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps high school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. This year, more than 310,000 students worked with 8,000 teachers from 2,000 schools to participate in the program. Annual prizes for student winners and contributions to school poetry libraries total \$103,000.



CHIARTS

Support for the Chicago High School for the Arts creative writing program.

CHICAGO POETRY BLOCK PARTY

For the last two years guests have attended a festival of poetry, art, and community in partnership with Crescendo Literary. More than 400 guests attended the 2016 Block Party, which was held at the historic Wabash YMCA in Bronzeville; the 2017 event was held at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen, serving more than 1,600 guests. The program included writing and dance workshops, musical performances, poetry open mics, and poetry sets by young poets from across the United States.

TEACHERS INSTITUTE

The Foundation implemented a series of seminars to teach teachers of poetry. The current class of 70 teachers included K–12 teachers and community college instructors from Chicago and across the United States. Each participant received 30 professional development credits from the Illinois Board of Education.

POETS IN THE COMMUNITY

27 community-engaged poets convened for a two-day incubator to acquire skills needed for developing poetry programming in their home communities.

GOING FORWARD

SELECTED GOALS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Scale up existing successful programs where possible, especially where we can join other foundations and cultural institutions to leverage what we already do.
- Present the first poet-in-residence at Gettysburg National Memorial Park with public readings in Washington, DC, and Chicago.
- Pilot a program with the George Washington University School of Nursing to make poetry a part of the curriculum.
- Continue to sponsor poetry festivals throughout the United States and abroad.
- Develop and present multi-art form collaborations, such as a presentation of the work of Kay Ryan, former US Poet Laureate, in collaboration with a performance of the Apollo Chorus in 2018.
- Continue to assess the redesigned poetryfoundation.org to grow the audience base and enhance users' experiences.
- Increase the number of live programs and amount of digital content available for young audiences.
- Build on our support of Chicago public schools.

WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE CONTINUED QUALITY OF OUR EXISTING PROGRAMS & THEIR REACH TO LARGE AUDIENCES.

2017 EVENTS

POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2017

POETRY OFF THE SHELF

The Poetry off the Shelf series features readings and conversations with some of the brightest lights in poetry today.

YCA TEACHING ARTISTS READING

Since 1991, Young Chicago Authors has been transforming the lives of young people by cultivating their voices through writing, publication, and performance education. Teaching artists Britteney Black Rose Kapri, Kush Thompson, Chi Blu, Matt Muse, Toaster, and E'mon Lauren performed.



REGINALD GIBBONS & ANGELA JACKSON

This joint event featured National Book Award finalist Reginald Gibbons and Pulitzer Prize nominee Angela Jackson.

RAYMOND ANTROBUS & HANIF WILLIS-ABDURRAQIB

Poet, performer, and educator Antrobus joined poet, essayist, and cultural critic Willis-Abdurraqib for this reading.

ADRIAN MATEJKA

Matejka is a New York/New England Award and National Poetry Series winner and author of *Map to the Stars*.

KAZUHIRO NAGATA

In addition to being one of the world's foremost molecular and cellular biologists, Nagata is also a celebrated tanka poet. This reading was presented in cooperation with Northwestern University and the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago.

SAFIYA SINCLAIR

Sinclair is a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg fellow and a Whiting Writers' Award winner. This reading was presented in collaboration with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Writing Program.

ANGEL NAFIS & SHIRA ERLICHMAN

This joint reading by Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow Nafis and James Merrill fellow Erlichman was cosponsored by Young Chicago Authors.

FATENA ALGHORRA, KRISTIAN SENDON CORDERO & ALI COBBY ECKERMANN

At this joint event, cosponsored by the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, poet and Al Jazeera journalist Alghorra, Philippines National Book Award winner Cordero, and Windham Campbell Prize in Poetry winner Eckermann appeared together.

LAYLI LONG SOLDIER

This reading by a recipient of the National Artist Fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation and a Lannan Literary Fellowship for poetry was cosponsored with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Writing Program.

ROBIN COSTE LEWIS

Lewis is a Provost's fellow in poetry and visual studies at the University of Southern California and a National Book Award winner.



POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2017

POETRY OFF THE SHELF



Joyce Carol Oates



Paul Muldoon

MATT BODETT

In this performance of one part of *Twelve: a series of performative koans*, Bodett investigated the schizophrenic experience and its place in a contemporary lexicon. Bodett teaches at Loyola University Chicago and Northeastern Illinois University.

JOYCE CAROL OATES

Oates is a National Humanities Medal awardee and author of critically acclaimed novels, collections of short fiction, essays, plays, poetry, and memoir.

KAVEH AKBAR & CHARIF SHANAHAN

For this event, Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow and founder and editor of *Divedapper* Akbar joined Wallace Stegner fellow and Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award winner Shanahan.

EVE L. EWING & MARCUS WICKER

Ewing, poet, sociologist, and codirector of Crescendo Literary, joined Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow and poetry editor of the *Southern Indiana Review* Wicker.

VIEVE FRANCIS

Francis is a winner of the Cave Canem Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and a Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.

PAISLEY REKDAL

Rekdal is a National Endowment of the Arts fellow and winner of a Pushcart Prize. This reading was cosponsored by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Writing Program.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY JOURNAL READING

Cosponsored with Fifth Wednesday Journal, this reading featured award-winning poet Janice N. Harrington, former Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein, editor of UniVerse Rachel Jamison Webster, and award-winning poet and educator Quraysh Ali Lansana.

RUTH IRUPÉ SANABRIA & FELICIA ZAMORA

This joint event with Letras Latinas/Red Hen Press Award winner Sanabria and Tomáš Šalamun Prize winner Zamora was cosponsored by Red Hen Press and Letras Latinas at the University of Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies.

PAUL MULDOON

The former *New Yorker* poetry editor is the winner of a T.S. Eliot Prize, an *Irish Times* Poetry Prize, and a Griffin International Poetry Prize, among others.

HARRIET READING SERIES

The Harriet Reading Series features talks, performances, and readings by poets who have appeared on *Harriet*, the Poetry Foundation blog.

ERIC AMLING

Amling is a poet, designer, and visual artist and author of *From the Author's Private Collection*.

ALLI WARREN

Warren is the author of two collections, most recently *I Love It Though*.

POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2017

HARRIET READING SERIES

FRANCINE J. HARRIS

The Cave Canem fellow and NEA fellow was a finalist for both the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the PEN Open Book Award.

HARMONY HOLIDAY

Holiday is a Fence Books Motherwell Prize winner and author of three poetry collections.

THE OPEN DOOR READING SERIES

The Open Door series presents work from Chicago's new and emerging poets and highlights the area's outstanding writing programs on a monthly basis.

FORMS & FEATURES

Presented by the Poetry Foundation library, this ongoing workshop series focuses on one form or aspect of poetry at a time, and met for 114 sessions in 2017, 51 of which were private.

SPECIAL SATURDAY HOURS

Our library is free and open to the public during the week, but we understand that not everyone who wants to immerse themselves in poetry can do so at those times, so we open the library for occasional weekend hours.

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

People of all experience levels are welcome to a monthly book group moderated by library staff. The club focuses on one book per month, and 15 registered participants read and discuss with one another.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY POETRY FEST: JUAN FELIPE HERRERA

Presented by the Chicago Public Schools, the Library of Congress, and the Chicago Public Library, this was the culminating event of US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera's Chicago project, Wordstreet Champions and Brave Builders of the Dream.

POETRY PARTIES

Four times a year, the Foundation opens its doors for a seasonal party with editors, writers, and poetry lovers. Festivities include readings, performances, music, and libations.

RUMI'S SECRET BY BRAD GOOCH

New York Times bestselling author Brad Gooch delivered the first popular biography of Rumi, the 13th-century Persian poet and Sufi mystic revered by contemporary Western readers.

SUMMER POETRY TEACHERS INSTITUTE

In partnership with the Favorite Poem Project and in cooperation with the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Education, this five-day program invites participants to study and discuss poetry with renowned poetry practitioners, Poetry Foundation staff, and expert teachers to develop lesson plans to take back to their classrooms.

WHO READS POETRY BOOK PARTY

At the official Chicago release party for *Poetry* magazine's new prose anthology, *Who Reads Poetry*, published by the University of Chicago Press, the editors and special guests celebrated with festivities that included readings, music, and libations.



GWENDOLYN BROOKS CENTENNIAL 2017

In honor of the 100th birthday of Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate and the first African American poet to receive a Pulitzer Prize, the Foundation sponsored a number of events to celebrate her life and legacy.

NO BLUE MEMORIES: THE LIFE OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS

No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks, which the Foundation commissioned from Chicago-based theatre company Manual Cinema, premiered in a three-day run at the Harold Washington Library. The script was co-written by Chicago poets Eve L. Ewing and Nate Marshall, and music was commissioned from and performed live by Jamila Woods and Ayanna Woods, who were granted permission from the Brooks estate for the first time to write a song using Brooks's famous poem "We Real Cool."

OUR MISS BROOKS 100

In collaboration with the Chicago Community Trust, the Art Institute of Chicago, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Guild Literary Complex, and Brooks Permissions and with the encouragement of the Pulitzer Prizes, the Foundation organized an evening of reading and conversation with five African American Pulitzer Prize-winning poets: Rita Dove, Yusef Komunyakaa, Natasha Trethewey, Tracy K. Smith, and Gregory Pardlo.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S POETRY DAY: A CELEBRATION OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS

As part of National Poetry Month, an open house for children and teens at the Poetry Foundation library included a reading of Gwendolyn Brooks's poetry by Natalie Moore, a special dance performance by the Joffrey Ballet's Community Engagement students, animated poems created especially for the Foundation by Motionpoems, and interactive crafts and exercises in collaboration with the DuSable Museum of African American History.

MATTER IN THE MARGINS: GWENDOLYN BROOKS AT 100

This exhibition showcased highlights from the Brooks literary archives. Brooks was an inveterate note-taker and self-chronicler, and the collection is filled with Post-Its, hotel stationery, and other scraps of paper on which she recorded her daily life and current events. These artifacts were displayed amid a dedicatory installation by Tyrue "Slang" Jones, a Chicago native considered one of the most diverse contemporary urban artists of the last four decades. The exhibition opened with a discussion by curator and archivist Anna Chen on her work cataloging and arranging the archives, which are now a part of and loaned by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

WE REAL COOL: A CELEBRATION OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

This short film by Manual Cinema premiered at the National Museum of Mexican Art. The enchanting video imagines the moment of witness that inspired Brooks to write her landmark poem "We Real Cool" and was a companion to a live staged production of *No Blue Memories: The Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*.

A CELEBRATION OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS'S POETRY FOR HER CENTENNIAL YEAR

In collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago, leading poets gathered for close readings of Brooks poems and to share original work influenced by them.



Gwendolyn Brooks

GWENDOLYN BROOKS CENTENNIAL 2017

BLACK WOMEN AS GIANTS: A CELEBRATION OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS

Acclaimed poets Toi Derricotte, Nikky Finney, Vieve Francis, Angela Jackson, and Patricia Smith came together in an unprecedented collective on the campus of Northwestern University to celebrate and reflect on the life, work, and impact of Chicago's literary giant.

RIDIN AND STRIDIN, REACHIN AND TEACHIN: A SHORT FILM OF A DAY IN THE LIFE OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS

A rare public screening (the first in nearly 40 years) of renowned activist and photographer Roy Lewis's short film, which follows Gwendolyn Brooks on her way to teach at Northeastern Illinois University. Famed musician Terry Callier provided music.

GOLDEN SHOVEL READING

This reading with editors Peter Kahn, Ravi Shankar, and Patricia Smith and National Book Award winner and inventor of the Golden Shovel form, Terrance Hayes, celebrated the publication of *The Golden Shovel Anthology: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks*.

BROOKS CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

In collaboration with the University of Chicago and the DuSable Museum, this scholarly conference and celebration gathered scholars, writers, and musicians in tribute to Gwendolyn Brooks.

A WONDER IN MY SOUL BROOKS CELEBRATION

Victory Gardens honored the Gwendolyn Brooks centennial with a pre-show reception featuring new music by composer, lyricist, and musical director Jaret Landon, inspired by Brooks's work, and a post-show conversation. Nora Brooks Blakely, Brooks's daughter, led a panel discussion featuring poet Quraysh Ali Lansana.



POETRY & PERFORMING ARTS 2017



Inna Faliks



Stephen Alltop

RUSH HOUR CONCERT: NEW MUSIC, NEW POETRY

In this collaboration with Rush Hour Concert, Academy of American Poets Prize-winner Richie Hofmann and Ensemble Dal Niente, a Chicago-based contemporary music collective, performed.

POETRY & MUSIC: MUSIC/WORDS INNA FALIKS & DEBORAH LANDAU

Created by acclaimed pianist Faliks, Music/Words is a performance series that explores the connections between poetry and music in the form of a live recital and reading. Poet, essayist, and critic Deborah Landau joined Faliks for this event.

POETRY & MUSIC: FIFTH HOUSE ENSEMBLE

Chicago-based composer Stacy Garrop premiered her new piece, *And All Time*, inspired by poems from Edgar Allan Poe, Henry van Dyke, John Milton, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, with the Fifth House full ensemble.

EXPERIMENTAL SOUND STUDIO: INTERPRETING BARDEM INTERPRETING

Cosponsored with the Experimental Sound Studio and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Jacques Demierre and Vincent Barras performed their latest experimental piece.

POETRY & MUSIC: DRINKING GOURD

Cosponsored by the Northwestern Poetry and Poetics Colloquium, the evening celebrated Jenny Xie and Mayda del Valle, winners of the 2017 Drinking Gourd Poetry Prize, a first-book award for poets of color.

COLLABORATIVE WORKS FESTIVAL: MYTHS & LEGENDS

Cosponsored by the Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago, this concert explored the legends of Greek mythology as told through the lens of Franz Schubert and his fellow German Romantic poet contemporaries. Nicholas Phan, Douglas Williams, Myra Huang, Shannon McGinnis, and Sarah Shafer performed.

POETRY ON STAGE: SAMUEL BECKETT'S ALL THAT FALL

Beau O'Reilly and his cohorts from the Curious Theater Branch presented two performances of Samuel Beckett's 1956 one-act radio play.

CHOPIN IN THE CITY

In cooperation with the Sounds & Notes Foundation and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, readings by Andrzej Krukowski and Janet Ulrich Brooks and a musical performance by vocalist Bethany Hamilton and pianist Rob Clearfield celebrated pianist and composer Frederic Chopin.

POETRY & MUSIC: L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT

Igor Stravinsky's early 20th-century Faustian work tells of a Russian soldier who trades his fiddle to the devil for promised riches. Jenna Lyle, composer, performer, and programs manager at the Arts Club of Chicago, narrated the story as Chris Wild conducted an ensemble of musicians.

POETRY & MUSIC: STEPHEN ALLTOP & JOSEFIEN STOPPELEBURG

Soprano Stoppelenburg and pianist Alltop performed a program of songs inspired by the immortal poetry of numerous masters, including May Swenson, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and Ben Jonson.

POETRY & PERFORMING ARTS 2017



Cage Shuffle



Eighth Blackbird

BIG DANCE THEATER: CAGE SHUFFLE

Paul Lazar performed a series of one-minute stories by John Cage from his 1963 score *Indeterminacy* while simultaneously performing choreography by Annie-B Parson, with live tape and digital collage scored and performed by composer Lea Bertucci.

POETRY & MUSIC: MAN FOREVER & FRIENDS

Man Forever, a percussion group led by composer and drummer John Colpitts (a.k.a. Kid Millions) and featuring members of the Brooklyn ensemble Tigue along with bassist Brandon Lopez, performed a collaborative concert with young poets and writers from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD: OLAGÓN PREVIEW

Eighth Blackbird joined with fiddler and composer Dan Trueman, Irish sean-nós singer Iarla Ó Lionaírd, and poet Paul Muldoon to bring the 1,400-year-old Irish tale *Táin Bó Cúailnge* roaring into modernity with *Olagón*.

MUSIC INSPIRED BY KOREAN POETRY: SIJO POEMS IN SETTINGS FROM CLASSICAL TO HIP-HOP

Cosponsored with the Sejong Cultural Society, this musical exploration of sijo, inspired by the poetic form, included jazz piano, piano/violin and cello/flute duos, and a hip-hop performance by Elephant Rebellion.

POETRY & VISUAL ARTS 2017



Jamila Woods

BREAKBEAT POETRY FOR ROBERT FRANK

Chicago writers Kevin Coval and Mayda del Valle presented an evening of poetry in response to the exhibition *Robert Frank: Photos* on display at the Art Institute of Chicago.

MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE SCREENING & DISCUSSION

After this screening of the first feature documentary about the incomparable Maya Angelou, best known for her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, poets Parneshia Jones and Jamila Woods joined filmmakers Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack for a panel discussion.

A QUIET PASSION: A FILM ABOUT EMILY DICKINSON—TERENCE DAVIES, DIRECTOR

The Gene Siskel Center and Music Box Films presented a screening of writer and director Terence Davies's Emily Dickinson biopic.

CONCRETE POETRY

Presented in collaboration with the Smart Museum of Art, this two-part program investigated works of concrete poetry through exhibition tours, a concrete-making activity, and a writing workshop. It highlighted works by artists and writers in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland in the 1960s and 1970s who tested the material display of language, focusing on the object-quality of letters and words.

JUN FUJITA: OBLIVION GALLERY TALK

Jun Fujita's great-nephew Graham Lee discussed Fujita's life and legacy in a gallery talk with researcher and author Takako Day.

POETRY AIDS CHICAGO: A RESPONSE TO ART AIDS AMERICA

Chicago-based queer and trans poets read work in response to the *Art AIDS America* exhibition, cosponsored by the Alphawood Foundation. Performers included Bea Cordelia, T Clutch Fleischmann, Ruben Quesada, and avery r. young.

ROBERT BLY: A THOUSAND YEARS OF JOY SCREENING

Award-winning director Haydn Reiss's new film, *Robert Bly: A Thousand Years of Joy*, follows Bly's singular path from farmer's son on a wintry Minnesota farm to radical anti-Vietnam War activist to author of *Iron John* and controversial leader of the 1990s men's movement.

BEARDEN'S ODYSSEY: READING & CONVERSATION

Inspired by the sequence of 20 watercolors, *Bearden's Odyssey: Poets Respond to the Art of Romare Bearden* gathered poems from 35 of the most revered African diaspora poets in the United States. The book's editors, Kwame Dawes and Mathew Shenoda, joined poet and novelist Chris Abani for a reading and conversation cosponsored by the Cave Canem Foundation and Triquarterly Books.



JUN FUJITA: OBLIVION

PHOTOGRAPHS AND EPHEMERA

The first Japanese American photojournalist, Fujita was responsible for the most famous photos of the *Eastland* disaster, the Chicago race riots of 1919, and the St. Valentine's Day massacre, among other events of the time. He was also a tanka poet who published regularly in *Poetry* during the 1920s.

SIGNS OF RESISTANCE

Poets, artists, and Chicago's organizing community contributed signs of resistance for an exhibition in response to social unrest. The exhibition featured posters, signs, banners, and other ephemera of direct action that speak to the moment, document the landscape of words in action, and amplify resistance.



Signs of Resistance by Sara-Ji/Love and Struggle Photos

REACHING ACROSS COMMUNITIES 2017

POETRY INCUBATOR

In partnership with Crescendo Literary, the incubator brings together emerging poets who engage with community through creative practices.

POESÍA EN ABRIL

Cosponsored with *contratiempo* and DePaul University, this bilingual performance event was part of an annual multicultural and multidisciplinary festival that celebrates local, national, and international poetry in Spanish.

Y.O.U. PRESENTATION

This was the culminating event for the youth development agency Y.O.U. and the Northwestern professors who provide after-school literary programs for Y.O.U.

CAVE CANEM LEGACY CONVERSATION: CM BURROUGHS, CHRIS ABANI & KELLY NORMAN ELLIS

This conversation was cosponsored by Cave Canem, a national organization committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of black poets.

MIDDLE EASTERN POETRY FESTIVAL

The Iraqi Mutual Aid Society cosponsored this celebration of multilingual poems in Arabic and other Middle Eastern languages (English translations were provided) by refugees and immigrants from the cradle of civilization.

LITERATURE FOR ALL OF US POETRY BASH

Literature for All of Us, which brings the rewards of reading and writing through book group discussions to teen mothers and other participants in underserved neighborhoods, staged this end-of-the-school-year celebration.

POETRY & MIGRATION

This reading, sponsored in partnership with Kundiman and Letras Latinas, addressed the Poetry Coalition's inaugural theme, *Because We Come from Everything: Poetry & Migration*. It included performances by Hieu Minh Nguyen, José B. González, Tarfia Faizullah, and Emmy Pérez.

CELEBRATING CHICAGO 2017

SECOND ANNUAL CHICAGO POETRY BLOCK PARTY

In collaboration with Crescendo Literary and the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Foundation sponsored a festival of poetry, music, art, and community in Chicago's vibrant Pilsen neighborhood. Jasmine Alexandria Barber hosted, and performers included Eve L. Ewing, Nate Marshall, the Happiness Club, the Chicago Mariachi Project, Jarochicanos, You Are Here, Kaina, and Akenya.

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO: WE

Visitors to the Foundation were invited to experience the sound installation *We*, in which many voices recited the famous Gwendolyn Brooks poem "We Real Cool" as part of the annual festival weekend, which provides an opportunity to explore Chicago's rich architecture, culture, and history.

CHICAGO LITERARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTED EUGENE FIELD

The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame inducted Eugene Field, a popular humorist and newspaperman often called the "Poet of Childhood."

PRINTERS ROW LIT FEST

The Poetry Foundation is a programming partner in the Midwest's largest literary festival. The Foundation also hosted a tent in which organizational members of Chicago's poetry community showcased their programs.

CHICAGO LITERARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTED FENTON JOHNSON

Johnson was an African-American poet whose work debuted in *Poetry* in 1918. He founded *The Champion* and *The Favorite* magazines.

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

Since 1989, the Chicago Humanities Festival has worked to extend the riches of the humanities to everyone and celebrate ideas in the context of civic life.

ERIKA L. SÁNCHEZ

Poet, feminist, Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow, and cheerleader for young women everywhere, Sánchez discussed self-determined identity, cultural expectations, and grief through her young adult novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*.

DANEZ SMITH

Smith, author of *Don't Call Us Dead*, is a founding member of the Dark Noise Collective and the recipient of several awards, including a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. A conversation with poet and sociologist Eve L. Ewing followed the reading.

CHRISTIAN WIMAN ON FAITH, DOUBT & JOY

Poet, scholar, and former editor of *Poetry* magazine Christian Wiman read from his new book, *Joy: 100 Poems*, which explores faith through a survey of modern poetry from Emily Dickinson to Mahmoud Darwish.

CHILDREN & YOUTH 2017

POETRY OUT LOUD

Sponsored by a partnership between the Poetry Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and US state arts agencies, this program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

TEEN SUMMER POETRY CAMP

The poetry camp is free and open to teens and preteens of all experience levels who are interested in poetry. Participants read, discuss, and respond to contemporary works of poetry. Students write and share their own poems in one of the only buildings in the world dedicated to the art form.

WEDNESDAY POEMTIME

The Poetry Foundation library welcomes children ages two to five to a weekly story event that introduces poetry through fun, interactive readings and crafts.

CHITEEN LIT FEST

The teens-only festival brings together young people from across Chicago and celebrates their talents as they express themselves through exceptional, honest art. Nate Marshall, Tara Mahadevan, Eric May, Megan Stielstra, and the Sun Bros. performed.

NATIONAL YOUTH POET LAUREATE CONVOCATION

Urban Word NYC cosponsored two days of readings with Young People's Poet Laureate Jacqueline Woodson and regional Youth Poet Laureates Hajjar Baban, Nkosi Nkululeko, Andrew White, Amanda Gorman, and Lagnajita Mukhopadhyay.

HANDS ON STANZAS ALL SCHOOLS READING

Poets-in-residence from the Poetry Center of Chicago's Hands on Stanzas program chose the next generation of poets, ages 8–14, for this reading.



US ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS & WRITING PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

AWP 2017 took place in Washington, DC, where Young People's Poet Laureate Jacqueline Woodson gave a featured lecture on her early poetry idols and how they continue to influence her writing.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POETRY FESTIVAL

Held at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, the festival brought together leading poets, emerging talent, and students for two days of readings, panels, and workshops.

SMITHSONIAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CENTER'S ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE FESTIVAL

The festival launched the new Asian American themed issue of *Poetry* magazine in Washington, DC; hosted performances; and provided mentoring, workshops and maker spaces, pop-up libraries, tarot readings, and an animated adaptation of a chapter from Viet Nguyen's forthcoming novel *The Committed*.

POETRY IN PARKS

Thanks to a partnership of the Gettysburg Foundation, the National Park Arts Foundation, the National Parks Service, and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry in Parks enables a poet to be in residence at the Gettysburg National Military Park and offer public programs in several tour cities.

WORDSTOCK PORTLAND'S BOOK FESTIVAL

In partnership with Portland (Oregon) Literary Arts, the Poetry Foundation made it possible for 12 poets with new books to participate in the day-long festival at the Portland Art Museum and neighboring venues in downtown Portland.

POETRY ACROSS THE NATIONS

Poetry Across the Nations is a Poetry Foundation initiative that features indigenous poets and aims to make intercultural and intertribal conversations about poetry more possible.

POETRY COALITION

As a member of the Poetry Coalition, the Poetry Foundation works with 18 of our nation's most influential poetry organizations to increase the visibility of the art form and demonstrate its unique ability to spark dialogue and encourage change.

POETRY SINCE 1912: BOOKS, ISSUES & EPHEMERA FROM THE POETRY FOUNDATION

An exhibition lent to Poets House featuring books, periodicals, and ephemera from the working library of *Poetry* magazine and the Poetry Foundation. Items included books inscribed to staff by great poets of the times, rare and seminal issues of the famed poetry magazine, and relics from the Foundation's storied history.

INTERNATIONAL

FRENCH POETRY EXCHANGE

The 2017 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellows traveled to Paris for a poetry exchange with young French poets. Events included a public reading and student poetry workshops.

2016 EVENTS

POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2016

POETRY OFF THE SHELF

This series features readings and conversations with some of the brightest lights in poetry today.

JACQUELINE WOODSON

The Young People's Poet Laureate is the recipient of both a National Book Award and a Newbery Honor.

ALICIA OSTRIKER

The winner of a William Carlos Williams Award is a two-time finalist for the National Book Award.

JANA HARRIS

The editor of the global poetry journal *Switched-on Gutenberg* is the author of three volumes of poetry.

CATHY PARK HONG

The poetry editor of the *New Republic* has received many honors, including fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ANA CASTILLO, MAURICE KILWEIN GUEVARA & ERIKA L. SÁNCHEZ

This special event with *Fifth Wednesday Journal* featured three celebrated Latinx poets, including a Carl Sandburg Award recipient, a Pulitzer Prize nominee, and a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow.

ALICE FULTON

The acclaimed poet, whose awards include fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation, was presented in collaboration with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

OCEAN VUONG

The Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow is managing editor of Thrush Press.

ELLEN BRYANT VOIGT

The founder of the Goddard College low-residency MFA program and a former Vermont Poet Laureate was presented in collaboration with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

JOSHUA WEINER & SUZANNE BUFFAM

A joint event featured Weiner, a poet and the editor of *At the Barriers: On the Poetry of Thom Gunn*, and Buffam, an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Iowa.

LAWRENCE JOSEPH

Awards for this author of seven books of poetry and prose include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

SHARON OLDS

The many honors for this author of 11 volumes of poetry include a National Endowment for the Arts grant and being named a New York State Poet Laureate.

POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2016

POETRY OFF THE SHELF

JANE HIRSHFIELD

The award-winning poet has received fellowships from the Academy of American Poets and the Rockefeller Foundation, among others.

AMBER TAMBLYN & HANNAH GAMBLE

Actor and poet Tamblyn read, and a Q&A with Gamble, a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellow, followed.

TAN LIN

The poet, novelist, filmmaker, and new media artist performed with the sonic texture trio NbN.

EILÉAN NÍ CHUILLEANÁIN, CONOR O'CALLAGHAN & CAITRÍONA O'REILLY

A joint event, presented with Wake Forest University Press, featured three contemporary Irish poets.

THE OPEN DOOR READING SERIES

The Open Door series presents work from Chicago's new and emerging poets and highlights the area's outstanding writing programs on a monthly basis.

FORMS & FEATURES

Presented by the Poetry Foundation library, this ongoing workshop series focuses on one form or aspect of poetry at a time and met for 48 sessions in 2016, eight of which were private events.

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

People of all experience levels are welcome to a monthly book group moderated by library staff. The club focuses on one book per month, and 15 registered participants read and discuss with one another.

SPECIAL SATURDAY HOURS

Our library is free and open to the public during the week, but we understand that not everyone who wants to immerse themselves in poetry can do so at those times, so we open the library for occasional weekend hours.

POETRY PARTIES

Four times a year, the Poetry Foundation opens its doors for a seasonal party with editors, writers, and poetry lovers. Festivities include readings, performances, music, and libations.

SUMMER POETRY TEACHERS INSTITUTE

In partnership with the Favorite Poem Project and in cooperation with the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Education, this five-day program invites participants to study and discuss poetry with renowned poetry practitioners, Poetry Foundation staff, and expert teachers to develop lesson plans to take back to their classrooms.

HARRIET READING SERIES: JERICHO BROWN

Library Journal named American Book Award-winner Jericho Brown's second collection, *The New Testament*, one of the best poetry books of 2014.

POETRY FRONT & CENTER 2016

WORDSTREET CHAMPIONS AND BUILDERS OF THE DREAM

In four sessions over the 2016–17 academic year, 35 English teachers worked with US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera to enhance their poetry teaching skills. These teachers worked with more than 5,000 students over the same period.

BAGLEY WRIGHT LECTURE SERIES ON POETRY: RACHEL ZUCKER

This lecture by the National Endowment for the Arts fellow and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist was cosponsored by the Bagley Wright Lecture Series.

POETRYNOW PARTY

This listening party and conversation with the producers of *PoetryNow*, a weekly four-minute radio series, features an acoustically rich and reflective look into a single poem.

WHAT IS POETRY FOR?

In conjunction with *The Point*, *Poetry* editor Don Share and poets and teachers Lamar Jorden, Srikanth Reddy, and Kush Thompson discussed how poets and thinkers attempt to answer fundamental questions of contemporary poetry's value, method, and role in society.

NEIL STEINBERG: "A BOX FULL OF DARKNESS: POETRY, ADDICTION AND FAMILY"

Neil Steinberg read from his new book, *Out of the Wreck I Rise: A Literary Companion to Recovery*, written with Sara Bader. A discussion with Rick Kogan, Bill Savage, and Carol Marin on the medicinal power of poetry followed.

POETRY AND THE NATURAL WORLD: TIMOTHY DONNELLY, CAMILLE T. DUNGY, MAJOR JACKSON

In collaboration with the Poetry Society of America's national series, this event featured three acclaimed poets whose work is informed by nature.



POETRY & VISUAL ARTS 2016

THE CAMERADO SUITE

Michael J. Miles debuted a four-movement composition for banjo, chamber orchestra, and jazz choir, featuring lines from Walt Whitman's "Song of the Open Road."

GOODMAN: THE POETRY OF BOLAÑO, MARQUEZ & GALEANO

In collaboration with Goodman Theatre, some of Chicago's finest actors brought to life the writings of these three unique Latin American artists.

LAMPO: PLANE/TALÉA BY ALESSANDRO BOSETTI

Lampo cosponsored this performance of the experimental sound work *Plane/Taléa*.

EVERY HOUSE HAS A DOOR: THE THREE MATADORS

In collaboration with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago-based collective Every House Has a Door performed a passage of Jay Wright's *The Presentable Art of Reading Absence*, combining poetry and the conventions of a stage play.

POETRY & MUSIC: DRINKING GOURD

In this reading, Willie Lin, winner of the 2016 Drinking Gourd Poetry Prize, and Chris Abani were joined by consummate bassist and shamisen player Tatsu Aoki.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM WITH LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE

This evening of song and seasonal celebration featured poetry performances by actors from the company.

2016 COLLABORATIVE WORKS FESTIVAL: THE POETRY OF PAUL VERLAINE

This exploration of the relationship between French poet Paul Verlaine and composer Claude Debussy, featuring performances by award-winning musical artists, was cosponsored by the Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago.

POETRY & MUSIC: STEPHEN ALLTOP & JOSEFIEN STOPPELEBURG

Pianist Alltop and soprano Stoppelenburg offered a lively, varied program of music based on work by Agee, Petrarch, Goethe, Wordsworth, Rilke, and others.

WEWEWE THE REMARKABLE: AN EVENING WITH HEROES ARE GANG LEADERS

A performance by Heroes Are Gang Leaders, a band made up of poets and musicians, anticipated the Gwendolyn Brooks centennial in 2017.

MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO: JANICE MISURELL-MITCHELL

Composer, flutist, and vocal artist Misurell-Mitchell performed music and poetry as part of Make Music Chicago, a day-long, citywide, DIY music festival that celebrated the musician in us all.



Paul Verlaine

POETRY & VISUAL ARTS 2016

BERNADETTE MAYER IN CONVERSATION WITH JENNIFER KARMIN & STEPHANIE ANDERSON

In collaboration with the University of Chicago and Special Collections & Archives at the UC San Diego Library, Bernadette Mayer presented her audio-visual installation *Memory*, displayed in the Poetry Foundation gallery. Discussion with poets Jennifer Karmin and Stephanie Anderson followed.

PEGASUS & MERMAIDS OPENING: BOULEVARD DREAMERS

Performance and opening event for *Pegasus & Mermaids*, a group exhibition featuring work by *Poetry* magazine cover artists. Boulevard Dreamers is a traveling installation and variety show responding to the specific narratives and communities of the sites and venues it visits.

MONSTER VERSE

This collaboration with the Smart Museum of Art and its *Monster Roster* exhibit explores monsters, art, and hybrid poetry.

BHABA GALLERY TALK

Neha Vedpathak spoke with poet Srikanth Reddy about her multidisciplinary exhibit, *Bhaba*, displayed in the Poetry Foundation gallery, and her virtual dialogue with poets Rabindranath Tagore and Kay Ryan

VOLATILE!: A POETRY AND SCENT EXHIBITION OPENING

The opening event for Debra Riley Parr's exhibition *Volatile!*, a scent-based interactive work displayed in the Poetry Foundation gallery, included work by David Moltz, Brian Goeltzenleuchter, Anna van Suchtelen, Ben Van Dyke, Seth Bogart, Amy Radcliffe, and Eduardo Kac.

WOMEN | READING | WOMEN | WRITING | WOMEN

During this book discussion and poetry writing workshop in collaboration with Woman Made Gallery, participants read Stephanie Strickland's *Dragon Logic*, then composed original poems with the virtual world as both topic and form.

DOCUMENTARY FILM: "AND WHEN I DIE, I WON'T STAY DEAD," THE LIFE OF BOB KAUFMAN

Director Billy Woodberry presented his film on the eventful life of Bob Kaufman, Beat poet and founding editor of the journal *Beatitude*.

JIM DINE READING & PRESENTATION

The Richard Gray Gallery cosponsored an evening with Jim Dine, a creator of paintings, assemblages, sculptures, drawings, poetry, and prints who first gained notoriety for the "Happenings" he staged in New York. Bassist Marc Marder provided musical accompaniment.

GERTRUDE STEIN: POETRY IN THE AGE OF MECHANICAL REPRODUCTION

This two-part program investigated the work of Gertrude Stein through an experimental tour of *There was a whole collection made* at the Smart Museum, a collaborative printmaking project, and a special Forms & Features writing workshop at the Poetry Foundation.



FOUNDATION INSTALLATIONS 2016

BERNADETTE MAYER: MEMORY

This poetic audio-visual installation was shown for the first time since its 1972 exhibition. During July 1971, Mayer took one roll of film each day, resulting in 1,116 photographs displayed in a grid. The photographs are accompanied by six hours of audio narration.

PEGASUS & MERMAIDS

This group exhibition features work by *Poetry* magazine cover artists depicting the mythical creatures Pegasus and mermaids from poetry immemorial. Artists included Lise Haller Baggesen, Ana Benaroya, Lilli Carré, Alexander Cohen, Stephen Eichhorn, Carson Ellis, Clay Hickson, Tony Fitzpatrick, Krista Franklin, Julia Goodman, Jenny Kendler, Kate McQuillen, Jessie Mott, Julie Murphy, Diana Sudyka, and Shoshanna Weinberger.

VINTAGE POETRY CENTER POSTERS

A display mounted in partnership with the University of Arizona Poetry Center featured gorgeous silkscreened publicity posters of the 1960s–70s commemorating visits of Ai, Elizabeth Bishop, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and others.

NEHA VEDPATHAK: BHABA

A virtual dialogue between the artist and the poets Rabindranath Tagore and Kay Ryan, *Bhaba* is a multidisciplinary exhibition that includes a large-scale work in paper, an installation of handmade “stones,” and a mixed-media garland.



REACHING ACROSS COMMUNITIES 2016

POETRY INCUBATOR

In partnership with Crescendo Literary, the incubator brings together emerging poets who engage with community through their creative practices.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY POETRY AND POETICS: GLOBAL AND LOCAL POETS IN CONVERSATION

Global and Local Poets in Conversation brings premier international and local poets together to build broad conversations about poetry as a powerful and relevant art form across an array of world communities and US cultural margins.

FRENCH CONNECTION 2016

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the relationship between Chicago and Paris, the Chicago Sister Cities Paris Committee invited Chicago Slam Works to showcase the work of Collective 129H.

LIT & LUZ FESTIVAL: SEÑAL

Cosponsored with MAKE Literary Productions and the Lit & Luz Festival, this reading in English and Spanish featured three authors from the Señal chapbook series.

POESÍA EN ABRIL: RAÚL ZURITA

Zurita, one of Latin America's most celebrated and controversial poets, engages in large-scale poetic acts, including poems bulldozed into the Chilean desert and the art collective Colectivo de Accion de Arte.

EYE ON INDIA: VIJAY SESHADRI

Eye on India provided a platform for cultural, artistic, and educational exchange between the United States and India. The reading and conversation featured Seshadri, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry collection *3 Sections*, with Matthew Shenoda, an associate professor of creative writing at Columbia College.

CAVE CANEM LEGACY CONVERSATION: KRISTIANA RAE COLÓN, ANGELA JACKSON & ED ROBERSON

This conversation with Kristiana Rae Colón, Angela Jackson, and Ed Roberson, recipient of the 2016 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, was cosponsored by Cave Canem, a national organization committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of black poets.

WHAT WE CARRIED: POETRY BY MIDDLE EASTERN REFUGEES

In this event, cosponsored with the Iraqi Mutual Aid Society, refugees and immigrants from the cradle of civilization read poems in Arabic and other Middle Eastern languages.

THEN COME BACK: THE LOST NERUDA POEMS WITH FORREST GANDER AND ROCÍO FERREIRA

Copper Canyon Press cosponsored this bilingual event to celebrate the release of its volume of Pablo Neruda's lost poems in translation. The book's translator, Gander, presented with scholar Ferreira.



Ed Roberson



Pablo Neruda

CELEBRATING CHICAGO 2016

CHICAGO POETRY BLOCK PARTY

For the first time ever, a festival of poetry, music, art, and community was held at the site of the historic Wabash YMCA in Bronzeville for guests of all ages.

ODE TO THE CITY SHOWCASE

Ode to the City, a grassroots community arts project bringing free art workshops to Chicago's South Side, presented an evening of performances.

PRISON + NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS PROJECT: *WITHHELD*

WITHHELD is an interactive poetry performance by Just Yell Chicago Team of Poets responding to the exhibition *The Weight of Rage* at the Hyde Park Art Center. Confronting issues of authorship, production, and keepers of identity, the poets reveal truths withheld and (un)told.

POP-UP POETRY

A series of 30-minute lunchtime poetry readings marked the reopening of the new Contemporary Collection at the Art Institute of Chicago—26 installments in 2016.

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS

Presented in partnership with Route 66 Theatre Company, five actors performed an alternative ending to a modern adaptation of the Shakespeare classic *Romeo and Juliet*.

PRINTERS ROW LIT FEST: CHICAGOLAND POETRY OUT LOUD CHAMPIONS

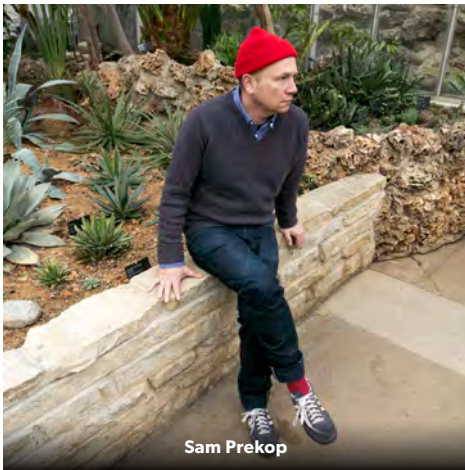
Champions from Chicago high schools recited classic and contemporary poems at the Printers Row Lit Fest. The Poetry Out Loud program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life through memorizing and reciting poetry.

SAM PREKOP AT OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

As part of Open House Chicago, an annual festival weekend that provides an opportunity for people to explore Chicago's rich architecture, Prekop performed a modular synthesizer piece in the performance space at the Poetry Foundation building.

FULLER AWARDS CELEBRATING ROSELLEN BROWN

Cosponsored with the Guild Literary Complex and the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, which honors Chicago authors who make outstanding lifetime contributions to literature, a panel of literary community members paid tribute to Rosellen Brown, the fourth recipient of the prestigious award.



CHILDREN & YOUTH 2016

POETRY OUT LOUD

In a partnership between the Poetry Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and US state arts agencies, this program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S POETRY DAY

An open house for children and teens at the Poetry Foundation library celebrated National Poetry Month with activities and a reading by Jacqueline Woodson, the Young People's Poet Laureate.

TEEN SUMMER POETRY CAMP

The poetry camp is free and open to teens and preteens of all experience levels who are interested in poetry. Participants read, discuss, and respond to contemporary works of poetry. Students write and share their poems in one of the only buildings in the world dedicated to the art form.

WEDNESDAY POEMTIME

The Poetry Foundation library welcomes children ages two to five to a weekly story event that introduces poetry through fun, interactive readings and crafts.

CHITEEN LIT FEST

The teens-only festival brings together young people from across Chicago and celebrates their talents as they express themselves through exceptional, honest art. The "Rhymefest" Smith, Erika L. Sánchez, Nambi E. Kelley, and Ben Tanzer performed.

JUAN FELIPE HERRERA RESIDENCY

The US Poet Laureate conducted workshops with local elementary, middle, and high school students.

QURAYSH ALI LANSANA: A GIFT FROM GREENSBORO

A Gift from Greensboro, written for children ages five and up, is at once an elegy, a celebration of the magic of childhood friendship and adventure, and a meditation on growing up in the wake of the sit-ins that ushered in the civil rights movement.



OUTSIDE CHICAGOLAND 2016

US ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS & WRITING PROGRAMS CONFERENCE

AWP 2016 took place in Los Angeles, California, where the Foundation hosted a lecture by Elizabeth Alexander and the Prufrock Party at the historic Regent Theater, featuring Melissa Broder, Douglas Kearney, Safiya Sinclair, and Eileen Myles with musical guests Bouquet and Tülips.

FAVORITE POEM PROJECT FLORIDA

In collaboration with O Miami, Florida State University, and Florida Studio Theater, the Poetry Foundation screened four short films of Floridians speaking about their favorite poems during live events and readings in Miami, Tallahassee, and Sarasota.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POETRY FESTIVAL

The Poetry Foundation hosted Marilyn Chin and Luis Rodriguez, among other poets, along with LA-based literary organizations, for a two-day extravaganza of readings, conversations, panels, and workshops at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

DODGE POETRY FESTIVAL

The 2016 Lilly-Rosenberg fellows read together to large audiences and visited the Newark (New Jersey) public schools.

LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry fellows of 2015 read their work at the Lighthouse in Denver, Colorado.

SPLIT THIS ROCK

Five contributors to the Split This Rock Issue of *Poetry* (April 2016) read at the Split This Rock Festival in Washington, DC.

WORDSTOCK PORTLAND'S BOOK FESTIVAL

Brenda Shaughnessy, Melissa Broder, and Jennifer Grotz discussed their new work as part of the day-long festival and celebration.

INTERNATIONAL

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL

Poetry editor Don Share and Lilly-Rosenberg fellows Nate Marshall and Jamila Woods traveled to Sydney, Australia, for a week of readings, interviews, and work in local schools.

ÉCRIVAINS EN BORD DE MER / WRITERS BY THE SEA LITERARY FESTIVAL

Paris and Nantes events in partnership with the Double Change poetry collective and the Écrivains en bord de mer Literary Festival in La Baule, France, included readings by Anne Waldman, Tina Darragh, Marcella Durand, and Tonya Foster and the publication of a bilingual poetry collection by these writers.

AWARDS

PEGASUS AWARDS

RUTH LILLY POETRY PRIZE

\$100,000 PRIZE EACH YEAR

2016: Charles Edwin Roberson

2017: Joy Harjo

The prize honors a living US poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition.

RUTH LILLY AND DOROTHY SARGENT ROSENBERG POETRY FELLOWSHIP

\$26,800 PRIZE EACH YEAR

2016:

Kaveh Akbar

Jos Charles

Angel Nafis

Alison C. Rollins

Javier Zamora

2017:

Fatimah Asghar

Sumita Chakraborty

Cortney Lamar Charleston

Roy G. Guzmán

Emily Jungmin Yoon

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

YOUNG PEOPLE'S POET LAUREATE

\$25,000 PRIZE FOR TWO-YEAR TERM

2015–2017: Jacqueline Woodson

2017–2019: Margarita Engle

Awarded every two years, the laureate title is given to a living writer in recognition of a career devoted to writing exceptional poetry for young readers.

EMILY DICKINSON FIRST BOOK AWARD

\$10,000 PRIZE

2017: Kristen Tracy

The award recognizes an American poet of at least 40 years of age who has yet to publish a first collection of poetry with publication by Graywolf Press and a monetary award.

POETRY OUT LOUD STUDENT PRIZES

2016: \$59,900 IN TOTAL PRIZES

2017: \$59,900 IN TOTAL PRIZES

POETRY MAGAZINE AWARDS

J. HOWARD AND BARBARA M.J. WOOD PRIZE

\$5,000 PRIZE

2016: John Steven Murillo

2017: Layli Long Soldier

PEGASUS AWARD FOR POETRY CRITICISM

\$7,500 PRIZE

2016: Shared between Christopher B. Ricks and Jim McCue

AWARDS

BESS HOKIN PRIZE

\$1,000 PRIZE

2016: Aracelis Girmay

2017: Roger Reeves

EDITORS PRIZE FOR FEATURE ARTICLE

\$1,000 PRIZE

2016: Garrett Caples

2017: Carl Phillips

EDITORS PRIZE FOR REVIEWING

\$1,000 PRIZE

2016: Jim Johnstone

2017: Vidyan Ravinthiran

LEVINSON PRIZE

\$500 PRIZE

2016: Forrest Gander

2017: Li-Young Lee

FREDERICK BOCK PRIZE

\$500 PRIZE

2016: Hai-Dang Phan

2017: Zeina Hashem Beck

THE FRIENDS OF LITERATURE PRIZE

\$500

2016: Heather Geraldine Phillipson

2017: Tommy Pico

JOHN FREDERICK NIMS MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION

\$500 PRIZE

2016: Julia Guez and Samantha Zighelboim

2017: Jeffrey Angles

SPECIAL PROJECTS

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED POETS INCUBATOR SEED AWARD

\$1,500 PRIZE

2017: Christian Arthur and Shauna Osborn

GRANTS & GIFTS TO INSTITUTIONS

ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS

2016: \$10,000

2017: \$10,000

Sponsorship of April National Poetry Month programming.

AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA

2016: \$120,000

2017: \$120,000

Primary sponsor of *The Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor*, an audio program that publishes a poem each day along with literary and historical notes.

AMERICAN WRITERS MUSEUM

2016: \$15,000

2017: \$76,000

Sponsorship for the inaugural *Palm: All Awake in the Darkness* exhibit.

ARTS ALLIANCE ILLINOIS

2016: \$1,000

2017: \$3,500

Institutional partner membership and partner table for Arts Alliance luncheon.

ARTS ON CALL

2016: \$1,000

2017: \$1,000

Poetry programming support for workshops and events.

AWP

2016: \$10,000

2017: \$10,000

Association of Writers & Writing Programs annual conference sponsorship.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

2016: \$20,000

2017: \$10,000

Favorite Poem Project, a program that trains teachers to teach poetry.

BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL

2016: \$10,000

2017: \$20,000, including \$10,000 of support from the Mellon Foundation

Alzheimer's Poetry Project, a program that takes poetry recitation to elderly adults.

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2017: \$10,000

Poetry programming support.

CHICAGO BOOK EXPO

2016: \$1,000

2017: \$1,000

Poetry programming support.

GRANTS & GIFTS TO INSTITUTIONS

CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

2017: \$ 2,000

Sponsorship of the *Our Miss Brooks* centennial event at the Art Institute.

CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

2016: \$40,000

2017: \$40,000

Two-year grant to support poetry and creative writing programs.

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

2016: \$4,000

2017: \$7,500

Event sponsorship.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2017: \$30,000

Support for Max Raimi commission based on the poetry of Liesl Mueller.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2016: \$500

Gift to WriteGirl, a program that supports girls in creative writing.

FURIOUS FLOWER CENTER FOR POETRY

2016: \$12,000

Yusef Komunyakaa legacy seminar.

GUILD COMPLEX

2016: \$13,000

2017: \$3,000

Poetry programming support.

Brooks Day programming support.

THE JOFFREY BALLET

2016: \$30,000

For the creation and performance of dances inspired by Gwendolyn Brooks.

MASSACHUSETTS POETRY OUTREACH PROJECT

2017: \$10,000

Poetry programming support.

NATIONAL POETRY SERIES

2016: \$25,000

2017: \$50,000

Support for publication of the National Student Poets Competition winners' work.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

2017: \$10,000

Gwendolyn Brooks centennial event.

GRANTS & GIFTS TO INSTITUTIONS

POETRY CENTER OF CHICAGO

2017: \$10,000

Hands on Stanzas poetry scholarship support.

POETRY OUT LOUD SCHOOL GRANTS

2016: \$43,100

2017: \$43,100

Funds to purchase poetry books in schools of winners of Poetry Out Loud competitions across the United States.

POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2016: \$1,000

2017: \$11,000

Programming support and contribution to commemorative tribute book.

POETS HOUSE

2017: \$20,000

Programming support and sponsorship.

POETS IN NEED

2016: \$20,000

2017: \$20,000

Relief fund for needy poets.

PRISON + NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS PROJECT

2017: \$10,000

Support for the year-long college-level poetry course at Stateville Correctional Center.

SMALL PRESS DISTRIBUTION

2016: \$1,000

SPD Bee sponsorship

SNOW CITY ARTS FOUNDATION

2016: \$10,000

Poetry programming support for Chicago-area students.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

2016: \$38,500

2016: \$38,500

Sole funder of American Life in Poetry program, which publishes a weekly poem and commentary from Ted Kooser, former US poet laureate, to national newspapers.

GRANTS & GIFTS TO INSTITUTIONS

WETA

2016: \$200,000

2017: \$200,000

Primary sponsor of monthly in-depth poetry programming on *PBS NewsHour*.

WILDER THAN THE SKY POETRY FESTIVAL

2016: \$1,000

One hundred and fifty students from the Los Angeles Unified School District attended the festival at Harvard Westlake School, featuring Jacqueline Woodson; each student received a copy of *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

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