



Poets & Writers 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Behind the facts and figures in this report are thousands of writers striving to craft sentences and stanzas that illuminate, excavate, provoke, and sing. We share their commitment to craft, their belief in the power of language, and their love for great storytelling. Poets & Writers is proud to be their trusted companion, offering inspiration, connection, guidance, and encouragement.

In 2022, we supported hundreds of literary events nationwide, helped writers navigate the literary marketplace, and connected them with opportunities, audiences, and one another. In a challenging environment for print publications, *Poets & Writers Magazine* saw an increase in subscribers and remained a beacon to those who value the written word and seek literary community.

Our organizational commitment to antiracism informed our outreach, our programming, and the pages of our magazine. Today, the board and staff at Poets & Writers are more racially and ethnically diverse than ever before, and dynamic new colleagues—both on the board and the staff—have brought new energy and fresh perspective to our mission.

In a year that saw an alarming rise in book bans, often targeting BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ writers, we proudly affirmed our commitment to freedom of expression. We joined the National Coalition Against Censorship and endorsed the American Library Association's Unite Against Book Bans campaign.

We're grateful to the exceptional staff, dedicated board members, and generous donors who make this work possible.



Melissa Ford Gradel  
Executive Director

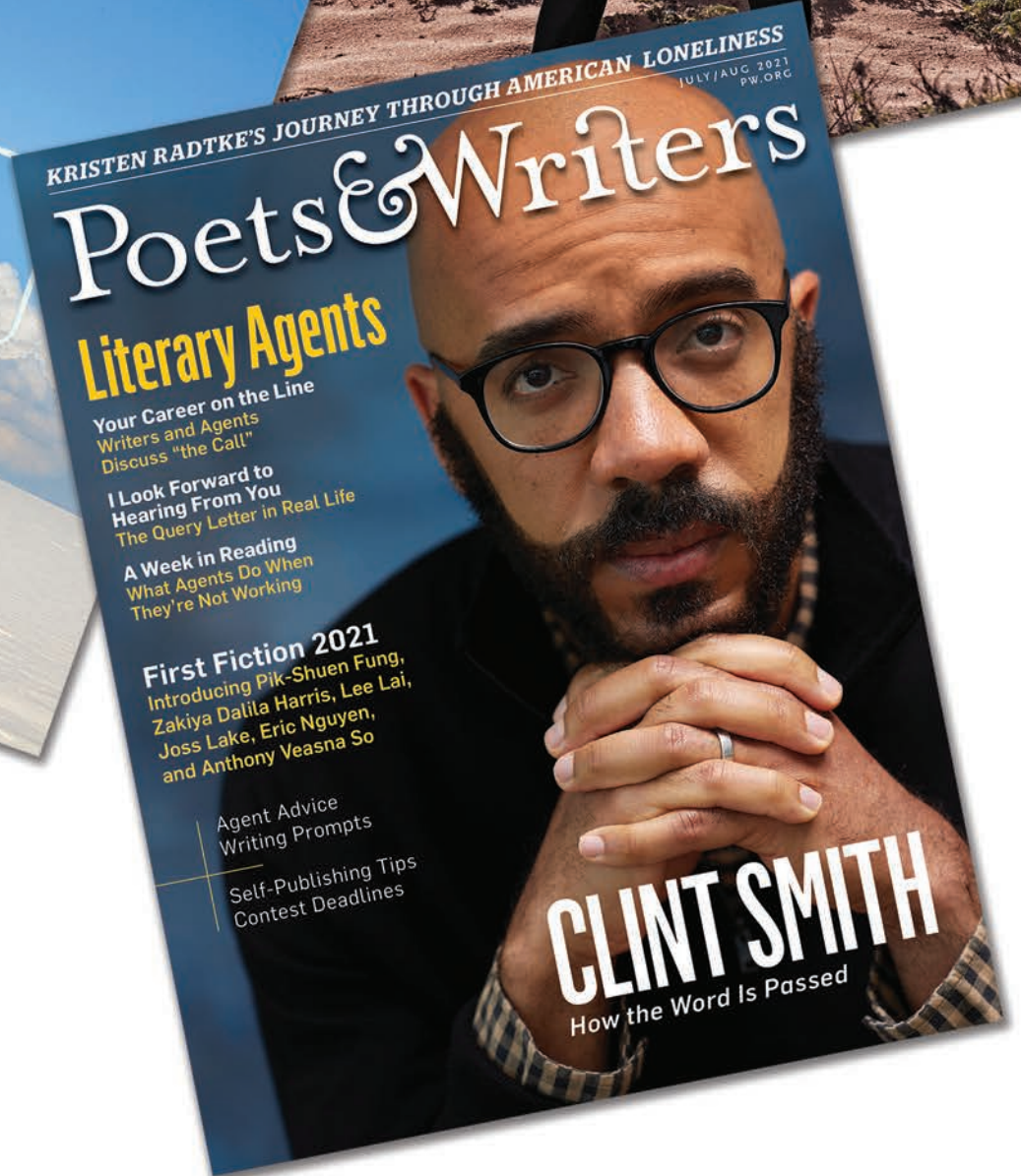


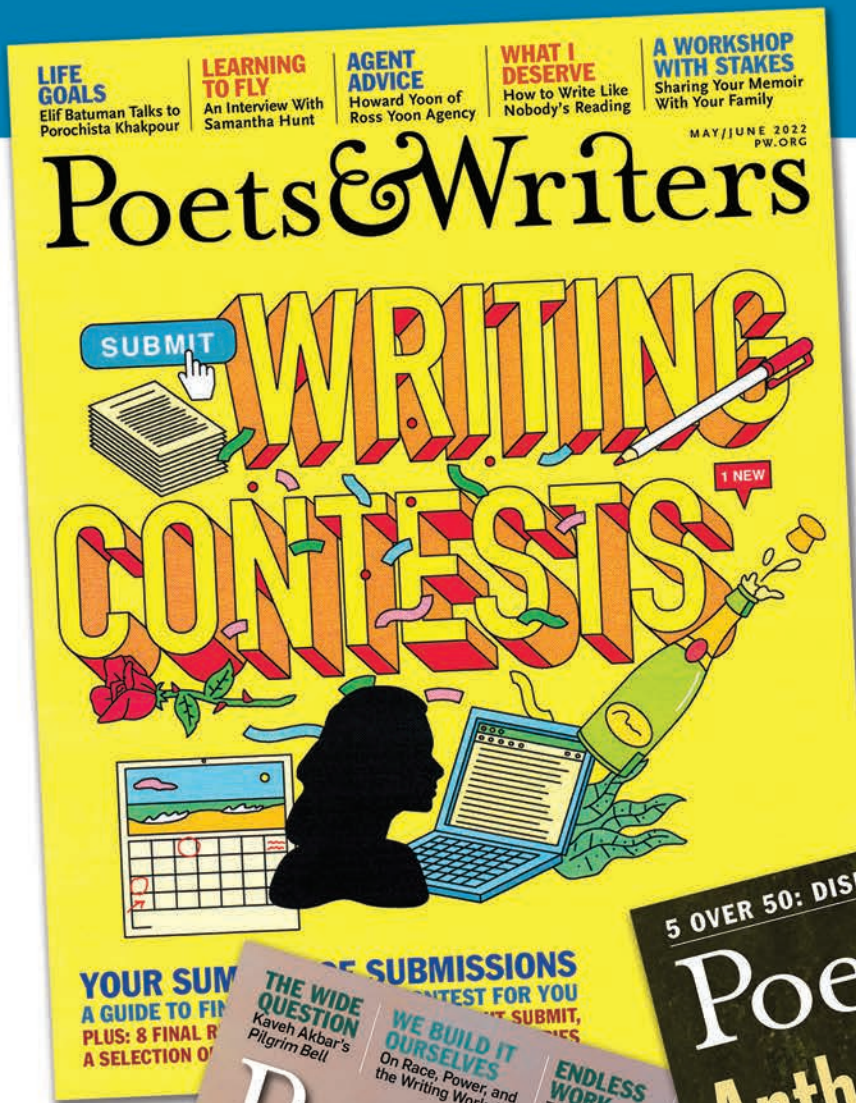
Amy Berkower  
President of the Board of Directors



## POETS & WRITERS BY THE NUMBERS

Years since Poets & Writers was founded: .....	<b>52</b>
Readers of each issue of <i>Poets &amp; Writers Magazine</i> : .....	<b>125,000</b>
Unique visitors to pw.org each month: .....	<b>145,000</b>
Authors profiled in the <i>Poets &amp; Writers Directory</i> : .....	<b>12,000</b>
Writing contests carefully vetted for our Grants & Awards database: .....	<b>440</b>
Journals listed in our Literary Magazines database: .....	<b>970</b>
Independent presses listed in our Small Presses database: .....	<b>390</b>
Writers who attended Mapping the Maze workshops to chart a path to publication: .....	<b>250</b>
Writers who received Readings & Workshops mini-grants: .....	<b>760</b>
Dollars distributed as mini-grants to these writers: .....	<b>254,000</b>
Percentage of these writers who identify as BIPOC: .....	<b>50</b>
Literary events these writers presented with our support: .....	<b>1,590</b>
Audience members who attended these events: .....	<b>96,000</b>
Writers active in Poets & Writers Groups, a peer-to-peer networking platform on pw.org: .....	<b>1,600</b>
Writers groups formed in Poets & Writers Groups: .....	<b>130</b>
Writers who have received the Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award, including 2021 recipients Courtney Denelle and Jodie Noel Vinson from Rhode Island: .....	<b>110</b>
Poets who have won the Jackson Poetry Prize, including 2022 recipient Sonia Sanchez: .....	<b>16</b>
Staff members who make all of this happen: .....	<b>22</b>





The six stunning issues published this year featured some of the most powerful and resonant voices in contemporary American literature.



# BUILD IT OURSELVES

A ROUNDTABLE ON RACE, POWER, AND THE WRITING WORKSHOP  
By Namrata Poddar

ce the rise of European empires, BIPOC writers around the world have created a strong legacy of literary works that resist a Euro-American institutionalization of writing in the United States, or of "good" storytelling. In more recent history, MFA—one of the country's fastest growing graduate programs, a key incubator of winners of the most prestigious literary awards, and, slowly but surely, a global pedagogical export—American literary culture has developed its distinctive trademark, full of silent assumptions and legitimizing power toward what constitutes good storytelling. I spoke with three writers—Felicia Rose Chavez, Thanh Nguyen, and Matthew Salesses—who have been very vocal about how this literary scene has stifled historically oppressed writers, especially via the writing

workshop, and of ways to decolonize art-making. Chavez and Salesses recently published books on the subject, *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom* (Haymarket Books, 2021) and *Craft and Critique* (Haymarket Books, 2021). Nguyen has



## Poets & Writers

POETS & WRITERS MAGAZINE • VOLUME 49 • ISSUE 4 • JULY/AUGUST 2021

### FEATURES

36 **HOW WE REMEMBER**  
With his first nonfiction book, *How the Word Is Paired*, published in June by Little, Brown, poet and scholar Clint Smith delves into the legacy of slavery alive in monuments and landmarks within and beyond the United States, in an immersive read that exquisitely depicts how a nation and its inhabitants remember its history.  
BY DESTINY O. HERDSOING

43 **FIRST FICTION 2021**  
Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai, Jillian Tamaki, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Jeanne Thornton, Catherine Chang, and Alex Torres introduce the authors of this summer's best debut fiction: Eric Nguyen, Lee Lai, Zakiya Dallia Harris, Joss Lake, Pih-Shuen Fung, and the late Anthony Veasna So.

55 **LITERARY AGENTS**  
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Writers and agents discuss "the call."  
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What agents do when they're not working.

ZAKIYA DALLIA HARRIS BY HEIDI MORNHEIM PHOTOGRAPHY  
COVER: CLINT SMITH BY BARRY HARLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



feels like it doesn't match the vision. After I wrote the first draft of *Nightreading*, I read it back, and while there were parts that I loved, and while there was much as I love the drafting process, I feel a sense of relief knowing that no matter what my writing looks like after the first draft, it doesn't have to stay

specific readers you want to know the idea of home worked out the pacing of the book? I was not imagining reader was through the crafting.

the first draft, I as a reader as little as with getting the page, so in my only for myself but I wrote the book

think about the help to tell their story to. For most understood by those Black teenagers with. Gender and its dynamics in Black spaces and among young people had a large influence on the book too. I wanted to do into the mind and life of teenage Black girls, both so that we can feel more visible and integrated into mainstream narratives and see us as others can begin to acknowledge Black teenagers boys as potential readers for the ways in which they are often given a very narrow definition of success



Author: Leila Motley  
Editor: Molly Friedman  
Publisher: Quarto  
Cover design: Jordine Kelle  
Cover photo: John Walker

POETS & WRITERS MAGAZINE BY THE NUMBERS

Paid subscribers:

Readership:

63,000

125,000





**Poets & Writers Magazine is the leading journal of its kind—the place where writers turn for news of the literary community, trustworthy guidance, and inspiration.**

The six stunning issues published this year featured some of the most powerful and resonant voices in contemporary American literature—including Kaveh Akbar, Elif Batuman, Anthony Doerr, Joy Harjo, Samantha Hunt, Porochista Khakpour, and Solmaz Sharif—and celebrated new voices through four annual roundups of debut authors. With articles such as “We Build It Ourselves: A Roundtable on Race, Power, and the Writing Workshop”; “Resistance and Reclamation: Three Poets Revise the Narrative of Transracial, Transnational Adoption”; and “Giving Translators Their Due”; we explored the intersections of writing and identity. We offered practical advice for writers, highlighted new developments in the publishing, bookselling, and literary nonprofit fields, and provided the most comprehensive listing of writing contests and award winners available in print.



Poets & Writers shares news and information and lifts up outstanding writers through two free e-newsletters and social media channels that reach tens of thousands every day.

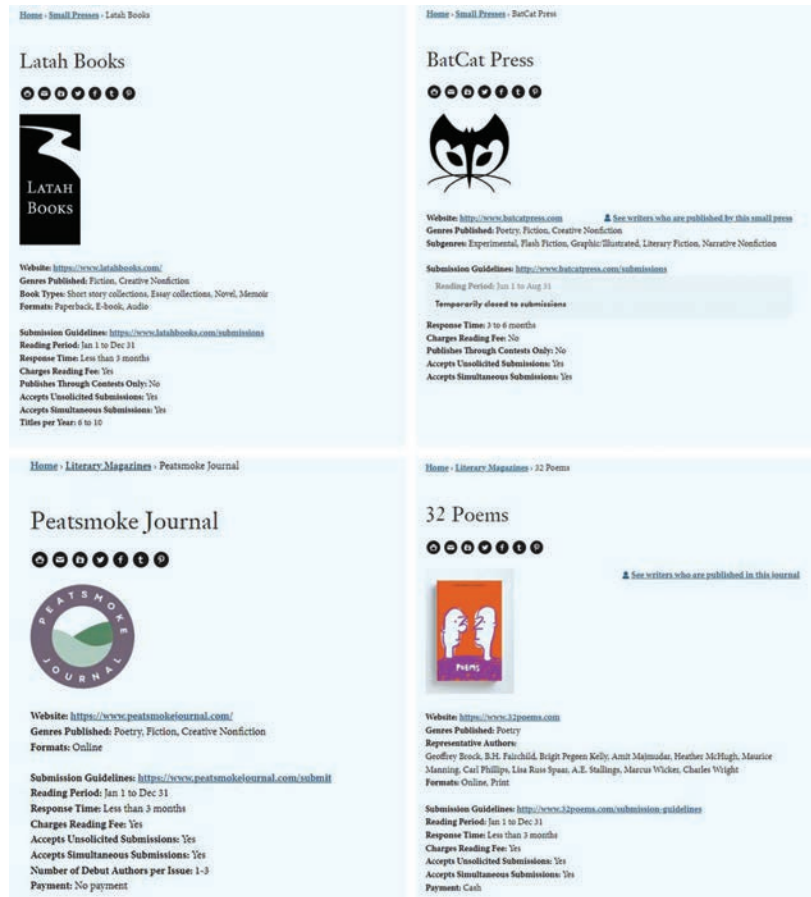
**NEWSLETTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE NUMBERS**

- Weekly Update: ..... **78,000 subscribers**
- The Time Is Now: ..... **21,000 subscribers**
- Twitter: ..... **274,000 followers**
- Facebook: ..... **425,000 followers**
- Instagram: ..... **38,000 followers**

## Our website attracts visitors from around the country and beyond.

There they find fresh editorial content, including select articles from *Poets & Writer Magazine*, and online exclusives like our popular series Craft Capsules, Ten Questions, Writers Recommend, and Agents & Editors Recommend. The site offers audio and video content and weekly writing prompts for poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers. The most frequently visited pages, year after year, are our carefully vetted databases of Grants & Awards, Conferences & Residencies, Literary Magazines, Small Presses, Literary Agents, Literary Places, and more.

The level of engagement on pw.org is high: in FY22, 13,000+ people per month (8% of total visitors) spent 10 to 30 minutes on the site, and 4,500+ spent more than 30 minutes. Many visitors return again and again: more than 10,000 users this year made their ninth through twenty-fifth visit, more than 7,000 returned for their twenty-sixth through one hundredth visit, and over 5,500 had visited the site more than one hundred times.



The most frequently visited pages, year after year, are our carefully vetted databases for writers.

### PW.ORG BY THE NUMBERS

Unique visitors to pw.org each month: ..... **145,000**





## Writers are making connections in Poets & Writers Groups.

Writers can get started in this peer-to-peer networking platform by creating simple profiles that describe what they are looking for in a writers group and share information about their writing experience and publishing credits. Then they can search the index to join an existing group or create a new group and invite others to join. Once a group is formed, members have access to a communications hub where they can

coordinate meetings, chat, share files, and videoconference.

Whether writers are seeking encouragement or critique, an ongoing workshop or an occasional submission party, Poets & Writers Groups offers the flexibility to accommodate a variety of literary gatherings, in person or online.

Poets & Writers Groups grows out of our decades-long commitment to helping writers build community. Its development was supported, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**“What a great way to connect with people. My new group reached its ten-member limit quickly, and each member has so much to offer to our discussion. We are geographically diverse—from New York, to Iowa, to New Mexico, to Italy—but we all agreed on our goals and that we will critique each other’s work with kindness. I feel very lucky to have found my people, which would not have happened without P&W Groups.”**

POETS & WRITERS GROUPS USER

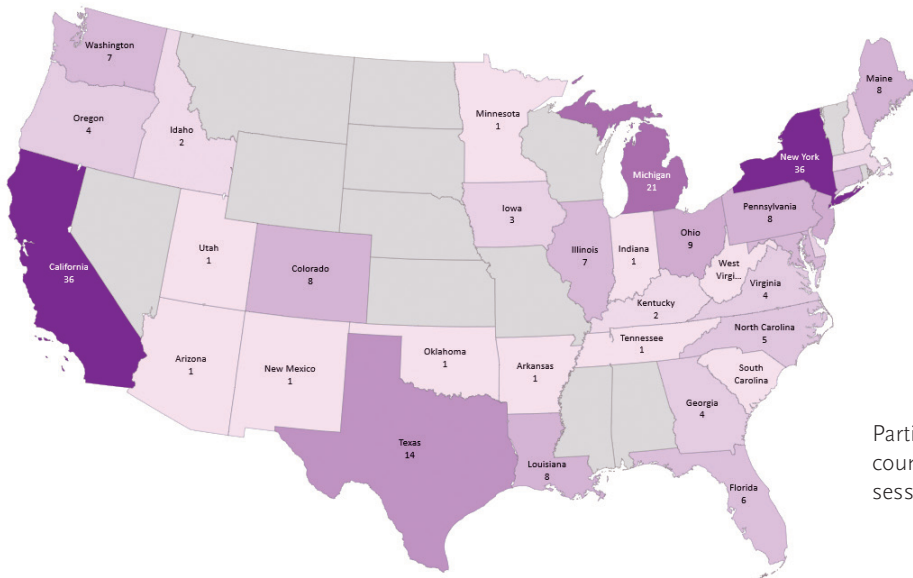
### POETS & WRITERS GROUPS BY THE NUMBERS

Writers active in Poets & Writers Groups: ..... **1,600**

Writers groups formed in Poets & Writers Groups: ..... **130**

**“I feel more enlightened about what to expect from the publishing process, how long it might take, and what it could look like to pursue this as a career.”**

**MAPPING THE MAZE PARTICIPANT**



Participants from around the country joined us for a recent session of Mapping the Maze.



**Mapping the Maze is a new series of online workshops designed to demystify the publishing process, democratize access to information about publishing, and aid writers in developing clear, personalized plans for achieving their goals.**



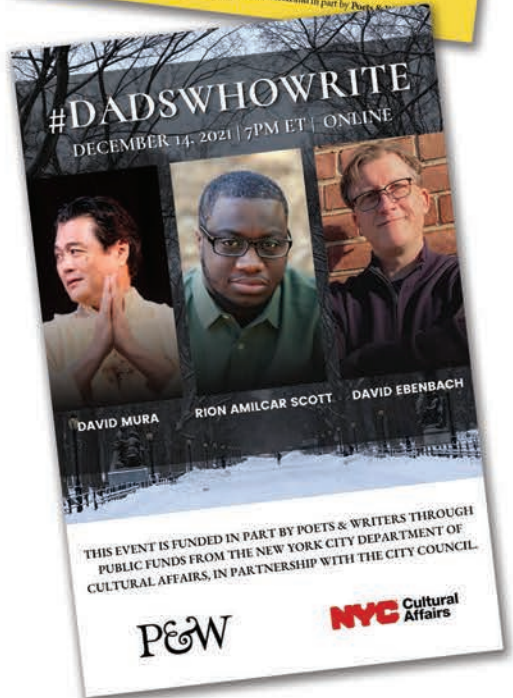
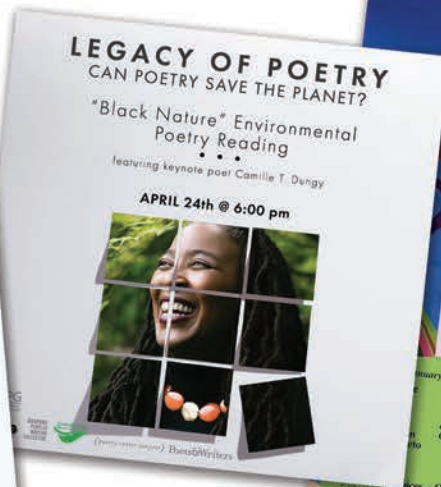
The inaugural sessions quickly sold out, demonstrating writers’ ongoing need for reliable information about the business of writing. To ensure broad access, we offered full or partial fee waivers to many participants, with priority given to BIPOC writers from Detroit, Houston, and New Orleans—cities where we’ve strategically increased our focus under our United States of Writing initiative to expand our reach and deepen our service

to writers from historically marginalized groups. To reach writers in these cities, we partnered with local organizations and publications, including *Bayou Magazine*, *Gulf Coast*, and the Detroit Writers’ Guild. Among the panelists who took part were agents Regina Brooks (Serendipity Literary Agency), Serene Hakim (Ayesha Pande Literary), and Kima Jones (Triangle House); literary magazine editors brittny ray crowell (*Gulf Coast*), Carolyn Hembree (*Bayou Magazine*), and Polly Rosenwaikie (*Michigan Quarterly Review*); book editors Rakia Clark (Mariner Books), Masie Cochran (Tin House), Nicole Counts (One World), Vivian Lee (Little, Brown and Company), and Pilar Garcia-Brown (Dutton); and authors Howard Bryant (*Rickey: The Life and Legend of an American Original*), Bridgette Davis (*The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother’s Life in the Detroit Numbers*), John Keene (*Punks*), and Elizabeth Wetmore (*Valentine*).

Mapping the Maze is supported, in part, by generous gifts from Leonard & Louise Riggio and Macmillan Publishers.

**MAPPING THE MAZE BY THE NUMBERS**

Number of participants in the first season of Mapping the Maze:.....	<b>250</b>
Percentage who received a full or partial fee waiver: .....	<b>40</b>



“This program is vital, vital, vital. To be able to create a two-hour lesson plan and present it in a community setting (no gatekeeping, no bars for entry, just the will to learn) is radical these days. This type of program must be sustained. For the sake of writing communities and for the agency—the power—this gives to writing communities.”

Readings & Workshops supported more than 1,500 events this year—including the ones above.



**Readings & Workshops awards mini-grants to pay writers participating in readings and conducting writing workshops, in partnership with grassroots organizations ranging from cafés and libraries to community centers and worker education programs.**

The program currently supports hundreds of writers each year participating in events throughout New York State, California, and in the cities of Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Seattle, New Orleans, Tucson, and Washington, D.C.

Through Readings & Workshops, we host several community-building gatherings annually to offer writers and literary presenters opportunities to share news and resources, exchange ideas and expertise, make connections, and form partnerships.

Readings & Workshops is supported, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the California Arts Council, and the Cowles Charitable Trust.

**READINGS & WORKSHOPS BY THE NUMBERS**

Writers who received Readings & Workshops mini-grants last year: .....	<b>760</b>
Dollars distributed as mini-grants to these writers:.....	<b>254,000</b>
Percentage of these writers who identify as BIPOC:.....	<b>50</b>
Literary events these writers presented with our support:.....	<b>1,590</b>
Audience members who attended these events:.....	<b>96,000</b>
Community-building literary gatherings hosted:.....	<b>10</b>
Writers and literary presenters who attended these gatherings:.....	<b>250</b>

JACKSON POETRY PRIZE

Endowed by John and Susan Jackson, the Jackson Poetry Prize is one of the most generous for an American poet and in 2022 carried a monetary award of \$80,000. It is awarded annually by Poets & Writers to recognize an American poet of exceptional talent. The 2022 prize recipient was Sonia Sanchez.

Sanchez was selected by three esteemed judges: the poets Mary Jo Bang, Marilyn Chin, and Claudia Rankine. In their citation the judges wrote: “Over her seven-decade career, Sonia Sanchez has distinguished herself as a major figure in American letters. A founding member of the Black Arts Movement, she has taught generations of poets—creating essential spaces for Black Studies where none previously existed.... Her vast and commanding oeuvre of published poetry invokes the power and revolutionary properties of language itself—intoning the struggles and joys of entire communities while reinvigorating traditional forms.... Sonia Sanchez is a national treasure.”

The pandemic precluded an in-person celebration, so Poets & Writers hosted an online reading with Sanchez and all three judges. More than 300 people attended the virtual event.



Credit: Tom Hallock

“Sonia Sanchez is a national treasure.”

FROM THE JUDGES’ CITATION, 2022 JACKSON POETRY PRIZE

JACKSON POETRY PRIZE BY THE NUMBERS

Number of writers who have received the Jackson Poetry Prize:..... 16

Cumulative dollars award by the Jackson Poetry Prize:..... 905,000



CITY ARTIST CORPS

Poets & Writers was proud to partner with the City of New York to help distribute \$15 million in pandemic relief funds to New York City-based artists, including scores of writers.



Credit: Keith Barracough (l),  
Matt Ferrara (r)



Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award winners  
Courtney Denelle and Jodie Noel Vinson

### MAUREEN EGAN WRITERS EXCHANGE AWARD

The Maureen Egan Writers Exchange Award aims to provide promising writers a network for professional advancement. Each year, it offers one poet and one fiction writer from a select state the unusual opportunity to meet with a group of leading agents, editors, authors, and other literary professionals. Winners establish new professional contacts and gain insight and advice—about writing, publishing, and marketing. In addition, they are invited to participate in a one-month residency at the Jentel Artist Residency Program in Banner, Wyoming. The award is generously supported by Maureen Mahon Egen, a member of Poets & Writers’ Emeritus Board.

The winners of the 2021 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award were Rhode Island writers Courtney Denelle for fiction and Jodie Noel Vinson for poetry. The judges were Prageeta Sharma (poetry) and Madeleine Thien (fiction).

### WRITERS EXCHANGE BY THE NUMBERS

Year the Writers Exchange Award began: .....	<b>1984</b>
Number of writers who have won: .....	<b>110</b>
Number of states selected: .....	<b>44</b>

## “The Open Door Grant has been crucial to my growth as a poet over the past year.”

ARIANA BENSON, OPEN DOOR GRANT RECIPIENT



Congratulations to Open Door Career Advancement Grantees! P&W and @ReesesBookClub's The Readership are delighted to offer grants to 12 promising BIPOC women writers. Learn more: [at.pw.org/PWOpenDoor](https://at.pw.org/PWOpenDoor)

#PWOpenDoor #BIPOCWriters #Womenwriters #IndigenousWriters #WritersofColor



### OPEN DOOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

We partnered with Reese’s Book Club’s The Readership to provide career advancement grants to BIPOC women writers. Four grants of \$1,000 and eight grants of \$500 were awarded to recipients from Alaska, Arizona, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Virginia, and Washington. They are writers of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Grant funds helped them take advantage of creative and career-making opportunities.

### OPEN DOOR BY THE NUMBERS

Open Door Career Advancement grantees: .....	<b>12</b>
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## We held our first in-person gala since the pandemic on March 29, 2022—and what a festive occasion it was!

Nearly 600 writers, agents, editors, publishers, and readers gathered to celebrate writers and writing. Dennis Abboud, president, CEO, and chairman of ReaderLink, chaired the event, which raised more than \$971,000 for Poets & Writers. The Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award was presented to Viet Thanh Nguyen, James Patterson, and Sonia Sanchez in recognition of their service to other writers and the broader literary community. Sally Kim, senior vice president and publisher of G.P. Putnam’s Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House, received the Editor’s Award. Comedian, television personality, and author Seth Meyers served as host.



Credit: Margarita Corporan



From top (clockwise):  
 1. Viet Thanh Nguyen and Seth Meyers  
 2. James Patterson  
 3. Sally Kim  
 4. Sonia Sanchez

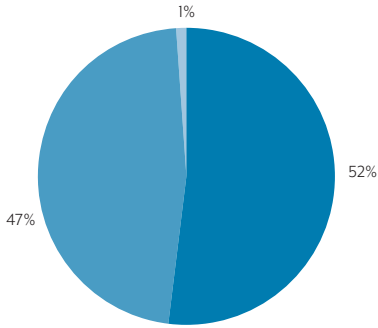
### GALA BY THE NUMBERS

Number of gala attendees:..... **570**  
 Number of literary table hosts:..... **51**  
 Dollars raised:..... **971,000**



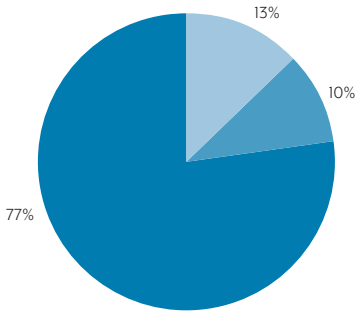
UNRESTRICTED ACTIVITY

FY 2022



REVENUE BY SOURCE

- CONTRIBUTED
- EARNED
- OTHER



EXPENSE BY FUNCTION

- ADMIN
- FUNDRAISING
- PROGRAM

UNRESTRICTED OPERATING REVENUE

Earned Program Revenue .....	604,918
Earned Non-program Revenue .....	1,619,014
<b>Total Earned Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$2,223,932</b>
Investment Revenue .....	11,792
Contributed Revenue .....	2,493,274
In-Kind Services .....	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Operating Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$4,753,998</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program .....	3,592,837
Fundraising .....	450,372
General & Administrative .....	626,292
<b>Total Operating Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$4,669,501</b>
Net Unrestricted Activity .....	\$84,497
Net Donor Restricted .....	(277,617)
<b>Net Total Activity .....</b>	<b>(\$193,120)</b>

Our FY22 Audited Financial Statement and Form 990 are available on our website at [pw.org/AnnualReport](http://pw.org/AnnualReport)

## DONORS

*We are grateful to every donor who helps support our programs and publications for creative writers. Due to space limitations, we list below only donations of \$1,000 and above.*

### **\$100,000 AND ABOVE**

The E.H.A. Foundation  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
New York State Council on the Arts  
Penguin Random House  
ReaderLink  
Leonard and Louise Riggio  
Ellen Sargent and Stephen Nicholas

### **\$50,000 TO \$99,999**

Literary Arts Emergency Fund  
Macmillan Publishers  
National Endowment for the Arts



(From left): author Marie Benedict, P&W executive director Melissa Ford Gradel, board member Janet McCarthy Grimm, and author Victoria Christopher Murray at a recent gathering of the Poets & Writers Patrons Circle.

### **\$25,000 TO \$49,999**

Apple Books  
Estate of Philip Appleman  
Audible  
Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Book of the Month  
California Arts Council  
Maureen Mahon Egen  
Hachette Book Group  
HarperCollins Publishers  
Meta Platforms, Inc.  
OverDrive  
Janet and Michael Pietsch

### **\$10,000 TO \$24,999**

ABRAMS  
Astra Publishing House  
Amy Berkower and Daniel Weiss  
Blue Yonder, Inc.  
Bertelsmann Printing Group  
Books-A-Million  
Cushman & Wakefield  
Kassie Evashevski  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer  
Graham Company  
Janet McCarthy Grimm and Stephen Grimm  
Hello Sunshine  
Hudson, a Dufry Company  
ICM Partners  
Ingram Content Group  
Susan Isaacs and Elkan Abramowitz  
Lakeside Book Company  
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The Numina Group  
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Ann and Richard Sarnoff Family Foundation  
SAS Retail Services  
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Eric and Meredith Simonoff  
Sourcebooks  
Abbey K. Starr Charitable Trust  
UBS Financial Services  
Wall Street Journal BOOKS  
WME  
Yen Press  
Zando  
Zibby Books

### **\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Maria B. Campbell Associates  
Chronicle Books  
The Cowles Charitable Trust  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Domtar Paper  
DreamWorks  
Google Play Books  
Tayari Jones  
Willys Schneider Kals  
Kensington Publishing Corp.  
Mazars USA LLP  
NPD BookScan  
Jane Rotrosen Agency  
Richard and Monica Schoenberger  
Scholastic Inc.  
Robin B. Smith  
Sikich LLP  
Paul Vidich and Linda Stein  
W. W. Norton & Company  
Willis Towers Watson



**\$1,000 TO \$4,999**

Arlene Alda  
 Cristina Alger  
 Kofi and Stephanie Appenteng  
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 BGJ Group  
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 Literary Agents, Inc.  
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 The Cheney Agency  
 Miles Coon  
 Creative Artists Agency  
 Arlene and Randy Cronk  
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 The Friedrich Agency  
 Ana Gasteyer and Charlie McKittrick  
 The Gernert Company  
 Steven Gillis  
 Susan Ginsburg and Jerry Webman  
 Lynn C. Goldberg  
 Laura Gross Literary Agency  
 Grove Atlantic  
 Merrilee Heifetz and Brian DeFiore  
 Andrew W. Hughes  
 Marilyn Kallet  
 Judith Kelman  
 Angela Kelsey  
 Sue Monk Kidd  
 Larry and Barbara Kirshbaum  
 Levine Greenberg Rostan  
 Literary Agency  
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 Whispering Bells Foundation  
 Fred Wistow  
 Margaret V. B. Wurtele  
 Renée Zuckerbrot

**DONORS BY THE NUMBERS**

Total dollars contributed in FY22: ..... **2,493,274**  
 Number of Friends of Poets & Writers: ..... **1,944**  
 Number who have been Friends  
 for more than ten years: ..... **397**  
 Number of Patrons Circle members: ..... **56**

## Poets & Writers welcomed four new board members this year: Kofi Appenteng, Rochelle Riley, Kwame Spearman, and Yvonna Stevens.

Kofi Appenteng is president of the Africa-America Institute. He has extensive experience in philanthropy governance, having served as board chair of the Ford Foundation and in his current role on the board of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Author, activist, and award-winning journalist Rochelle Riley is director of arts and culture for the City of Detroit. A *Detroit Free Press* columnist for nearly twenty years, Riley used her nationally syndicated platform to advocate for racial justice, literacy, community building, and children. Riley is the author of the books *That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed the World* and *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery*.

Kwame Spearman is chief executive officer and co-owner of the Denver-based independent bookstore chain the Tattered Cover. Spearman is committed to the vital role and legacy of independent bookstores as a community resource, is a vocal supporter of small businesses, and has a passion for justice. He is an accomplished management, operations, and strategy professional.

Yvonna Stevens is executive vice president and chief financial officer of the International Youth Foundation. A committed advocate, Stevens also serves on the boards of the Latin American Youth Center and the Global Health Council and as a mentor for the Obama Foundation Scholars program and serves as the United States country representative of International Financial Reporting for Nonprofit Organizations (IFR4NPO).



(Clockwise, from top left): Kofi Appenteng, Rochelle Riley, Kwame Spearman, Yvonna Stevens



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Willys Schneider Kals  
*Treasurer*

Helen Macioce  
*Secretary*

Kofi Appenteng

Johanna Castillo

Allison J. Davis

Kassie Evashevski

Elliot Figman

Janet McCarthy Grimm

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Tayari Jones

Katie Mahon

Madeline McIntosh

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Rochelle Riley

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**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

This year, there was a frightening increase in efforts to restrict access to books—especially books by BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ authors—that escalated to threats and violence against authors. Poets & Writers stands with writers—and readers—in staunchly defending freedom of expression and opposing censorship in all its forms. We are a member of the National Coalition Against Censorship and endorse the American Library Association's Unite Against Book Bans campaign.



**This year, Bonnie Rose Marcus retired from her position as Director of Readings & Workshops (East) and the Writers Exchange after twenty-two years of dedicated service.**



During her tenure, Bonnie stewarded the distribution of over \$3 million dollars in mini-grants to thousands of writers, introduced dozens of writers to their professional heroes through the Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award, and immeasurably strengthened the literary community. In her farewell note to the community, Bonnie said: “I am truly and especially proud of our mission to support a diverse range of writers and marginalized and underserved communities. Thank you all for making my years at Poets & Writers so worthwhile!”

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# Poets & Writers