Lighthouse Writers Workshop
2012 Annual Report
“Emerson’s insistence [was] that the poet must ‘leave the world and not know any longer the times, customs, graces, politics, or opinions of men, but... take all from the muse....’”
—Carl Dennis, *Poetry as Persuasion*

**Letter from the Executive Director, Also a Poet**

Dear Friend of Lighthouse:

As I write this, overlooking the occasional bustle (car going too fast, hipster biker pedaling by, guy in a cap lighting a cigarette across the street) out my office window, sitting in the old children’s bedroom of the Milheim House, I want to take Emerson’s dictum that I should forget the customs and graces and politics of the busy world for a moment. Which is good, because oftentimes an annual report is terribly uncreative, instead stuffed with bland numbers and figures, and while it captures the official record of the year at a nonprofit organization, it doesn’t always capture the vibe—the heart, the soul, the reverberating muse that sings here, every day.

The year 2012 saw immense growth and success at Lighthouse, and a deepening of our belief in community and creativity. Workshops filled at a frenetic pace. Writers and readers filed in and out of the Milheim House all day long, searching for and finding the muse. Our new summer Lit Fest Book Fair celebrated authors’ work and sold lots of books. Our students read to standing-room only crowds. We welcomed some of today’s most gifted writers—like Cheryl Strayed and Andre Dubus III, Thomas Lux and Junot Díaz. We played poker with raconteur and story writer Steve Almond. To be sure, it seemed as if the muse was with us all the way along, and the power of words sang electric. And while coaxing the muse to hang out with us was work—hard work—the end product was joy. And pride.

All totaled, almost 2,500 individuals met with the muse for a while at 1515 Race Street. Over 1,440 folks believed in this spooky art enough to become members. Over 50 faculty members inspired and cajoled us to write, write, write as if our lives depended on it. And we did—as you’ll see in the pages that follow.

Yours Truly,

Michael Henry, MFA  
Executive Director
“The making of a story... consists of the assiduous application of several very basic ques-
tions: What does the hero want? What hinders him from getting it? What happens if he
does not get it? That’s what keeps the audience in their seats...”
—David Mamet, *On Directing Film*

**Desires vs. Obstacles to Overcome: A Program Report**

The main thing Lighthouse wants is to achieve our mission: to be a thriving literary center
for the art and craft of writing, promoting literary engagement, growth, and connection
among writers and readers.

Our desire, too, is to continue to develop into a well-known institution in the Colorado arts
community, and to continue to inspire writing and reading in this dusty old cow town.

Organizational wishes met and overcome:

* Lighthouse completed a new strategic planning process, and we have a blueprint to
carry us through the next several years.
* We continued to expand offerings and have increased the scope and ambition of some of
our signature programs, like Lit Fest, Writer’s Studio, and Fly-By Writer’s Project.
* We welcomed several outstanding writers to Denver this year—including Oprah’s Book
Club authors Cheryl Strayed and Andre Dubus III, Pulitzer Prize Winner Junot Diaz, the
illustrious Steve Almond and Robin Black, and poet extraordinaire Thomas Lux.
* Many faculty and students found success on the publishing front, signing with major
houses, winning awards, and appearing in some of the best literary journals around.
* Youth outreach in local schools and other locales effectively doubled in size, reaching
over 1,000 kids.
* In-house youth workshop registrations increased almost 25%.
* Event attendance increased exponentially, with over 2,000 attending the Buzz and Draft
series, the inaugural Book Fair, Writer’s Studio and Fly-By Writer’s Project, and other
events.
* We continued an ambitious program of collaboration, with the likes of Stories on Stage,
Ballet Nouveau Colorado, Denver Voice, various public libraries, Tattered Cover, and
other organizations.
* Total revenue increased by 30%, with workshop and class attendance up 15%, to ap-
proximately 5,000 registrations.
* Membership increased to over 1,440, a jump of more than 10%.
* Overall fundraising increased by 16%.
* We successfully added new staff members and new positions; we revised and stream-
lined many administrative procedures; and completed a thorough and successful audit.
What Lighthouse Does

**Adult Programs**
8-week, 4-week, online, one-day, and half-day writing workshops
Alice Maxine Bowie Fellowship
Beacon Award for Excellence in Teaching
Fairplay Retreat
Fly-By Writer’s Project
Grand Lake Retreat
Lit Fest Summer Festival
Reading as a Writer classes
Writerspace
Writership Tuition Remission Program
Writer’s Studio

**Media**
Facebook
Twitter
iTunes Podcasts
The *Beacon* Newsletter
Top-Secret Blog
Weekly E-news

**Free Community Programs**
Friday 500
Lit Fest Book Fair
Monday Writing Hours
The Draft, a Reading Show
Willfully Submit
Writer’s Buzz

**Young Writer’s Program**
After-school and weekend workshops
Outreach Programs
Summer Writing Camp
Teen Council
“Character is Destiny.”
—Heraclitus

Our destiny is tied to all those who make
Lighthouse such a special place.

Board
Jay Kenney, President
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Emily Sinclair, Secretary
Liz Goldin, Treasurer
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Faculty, continued
Dana Elkun, MFA
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Erika Krouse, MA
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Meg Nix, MFA
Sarah Ockler
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Gary Schanbacher, PhD
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Peter Stenson
Seth Brady Tucker, PhD
Lisa Turner, MA
Lynn Wagner, MFA
Jake Adam York, PhD
Paula Younger, MFA

Staff
Andrea Dupree, Program Director, Co-founder
Michael Henry, Executive Director, Co-founder
Dan Manzanares, Creative Curator
Meg Nix, Youth Program Director
Laurie Wagner, Director of Development
Jenny Taylor-Whitehorn, Program Assistant

Amanda Rea, senior writer
Jon Rogers, bookkeeper

Faculty
Mario Acevedo
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John Cotter, MA
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Terry Dodd
Andrea Dupree, MFA
Kathryn Eastburn, MFA
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& Inked In Donors
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Karrie Leib
Ken Lutes
Joel Sayres
Gary Schanbacher
Laurie Sleeper
Robert Speake
Tiffany Tyson
Lia Woodall
Sheila Wright

Literary Mentors
Robbie Dunlap
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Lisa Mahoney
Mariah Quish
Jim Ringel
Gary Schanbacher
Laurie Sleeper
Morgan Smith
Sonya Unrein
Ann Williamson
Sheila Wright

Working Writers
Gary Barnes
Mary Bearman
Jesse Benitez
Helen Benson
Deanette Bielby
Nadia Bolz-Weber
Kathryn Moss Bradford
Eleanor Brown
Michelle Cantwell
Dee Casalaina
Shelly Catterson
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Beth Christopher
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Stella Lillicrop
Marjorie Seawell
Emily Sinclair

Patrons
Stephanie Bruno
Josh Dinar
Patty Fahy
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Joey Porcelli
Jennifer Itell

Literary Mentors, continued

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David Johnston
Kelsey Kenfield
Bryan Koepke
Max Maioli
Joan Manheimer
Dan Manzanares
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Erin Mathiason
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Dale McDonell
James McMaster
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Leora Najera
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Vincent Novak
Ralph Ogden
Heather Ormsby
Susan Osgood
Jere Paulmeno
Jeff Pearson
Curtis Pierce

Robyn Piz
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Mark Ridenhour
Joan Ringel
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Franki Schafrik
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Thank you to our amazing donors!

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Joan Burleson
Michelle Cantwell
Lyn Carr
Sharon Carroll
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Dee Casalaina
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Shelly Catterson
Shari Caudron
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Lisa Kenney  
Nancy Kern  
Jenni Brant  
Ross Kinney  
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Amie Knox  
Jennifer Korman  
Janette Kotichas  
Peter Krumholz  
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Cynthia Lacy  
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Lane Ledbetter  
Sue Leever  
Karrie Leib  
Robert Fichter  
Sarah Lindauer  
Vicki Lindner  
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Whole Foods Market Capitol Hill
Willey’s Painting
David Wroblewski

Many thanks to our other sponsors and funders:
Volunteers

Thanks also to our dedicated and hard-working volunteers, without whom we be a complete mess. Literally. And figuratively.

Deanna Angelo  Elsie Hughes
Valerie Arnold  Kathy Husband
Laura Bond  Doug Jensen
Kerry Booth  Marie Kaufman
Connie Boyle  Ray Kemble
Etan Brandt-Finell  Karen Key
Stephanie Bruno  Edith Knehans
Anne Campbell  Erin Mathiason
Matt Carroll  Jean-Marie McDonnell
Dee Casalaina  Mell McDonnell
Carolyn Clemmersmith  Greg Methany
Christy Clothier  Adrienne Mullinaux
Melanie Colletti  Beth Nelson
Julie Cordova  Alexandra O'Connell
Corey Dahl  Jennifer Randall
Brynn Downing  Jim Ringel
Maggie Ferguson  Judy Satterlee
Darce Freier  Catherine Scott
Susan Friberg  Laurie Sleeper
Fran Fulmor  Steph Spriggs
Jocelyn Green  Betsy Sweeney
Sarah Greenlee  Abby Templeton
Betsy Hedberg  Therese Wenham
Roscoe Hill  Sheila Wright
Laura Hinken  Erin Yepis
Catherine Hope  Courtney Zenner
“It is quite true that Philosophy says: life must be understood backwards. But that makes one forget the other saying: it must be lived—forwards.”
—Søren Kierkegaard

Flash Forward

In the fall of 2012, Lighthouse staff and board of directors embarked on a journey to create a new strategic plan to take the organization into 2015 and beyond.

During these meetings, here’s what we accomplished:

* We used lots of whiteboards, and many sheets of graph paper.
* We ate lots of muffins and bagels, and drank oceans of coffee and tea.
* We saved documents to servers and floated PDFs around to gauge interest and energy.
* We edited out all the “to be” verbs we could find.
* We tried not to use the following words and phrases: leverage, proactive, visioning, SWOT, incentivizing, from the desk of, in perpetuity, cultivate, and more.

Most important, we created a vision that will guide the organization, a vision which is built on three goals:

a. Lighthouse continues to grow as a literary center, and is recognized as a beacon for a diverse group of writers and readers.

b. Lighthouse attains long-term financial stability.

c. The board of directors continues to grow, and actively supports Lighthouse through governance, leadership, and fundraising.

These goals might seem very internally focused at first, but they are imperative if Lighthouse is to continue to provide outstanding creative writing instruction, to build community among writers and readers, and to continually advocate for the transformative power of writing and reading in our culture.
“The rules, that is, are somewhat bendable. The poem, that is, has a second source of energy, which is the individual’s direction: the individual’s sensibility, speech patterns, conscious intent, love of plainness or opulence, and so on.”
—Mary Oliver, *Rules for the Dance*

**2012 Financial Reports**

Yes, what is true for the rules of poetry is *not* true for the rules of financial reporting. Those are not bendable.

And so we give you the (unaudited) financial reports for 2012. And while they are not opulent, we hope they make sense. (And cents.)

**Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.**

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and revenues</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$ 579,540</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 579,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>51,449</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 51,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Grants</td>
<td>163,608</td>
<td>66,113</td>
<td>$ 229,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue, gains, and support</td>
<td>794,597</td>
<td>66,113</td>
<td>860,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>51,729</td>
<td>(51,729)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total support and revenues</td>
<td>846,326</td>
<td>14,384</td>
<td>860,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>733,190.09</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>733,190.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>86,257.66</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>86,257.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>43,128.83</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43,128.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>862,577</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>862,577</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in net assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>(16,251)</td>
<td>14,384</td>
<td>(1,867)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net assets, beginning of year</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(22,290)</td>
<td>64,253</td>
<td></td>
<td>41,963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets, end of year</th>
<th></th>
<th>$ 78,637</th>
<th>$ 40,096</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ (38,541)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.

#### Statement of Financial Position

12/31/2012

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$72,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants receivable</td>
<td>$7,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotional merchandise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$79,894</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment, Net</td>
<td>$5,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>$6,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$6,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$98,060</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**Current liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$4,149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$42,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class deposits</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,930</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>$11,034</td>
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**Total liabilities**

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$57,964</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$(38,541)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$78,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,096</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total net assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$98,060</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Cash flows from operating activities

Change in net assets $ (1,867)

Adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities

Depreciation 3,822

Changes in:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants receivable</td>
<td>8,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expense</td>
<td>(6,805)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Lease</td>
<td>(2,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Deposits</td>
<td>(2,130)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deffered Revenue</td>
<td>(5,147)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash used by Operating Activities $ (4,774)

Cash flows from investing activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of furniture and equipment</td>
<td>(2,421)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Promotional Merchandise</td>
<td>1,178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net cash used by by Investing Activities (1,243)

Net change in cash and cash equivalents $ (6,017)

Cash and cash equivalents, at the beginning of period 78,220

Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period $ 72,204
“Story—sacred and profane—is perhaps the main cohering force in human life. A society is composed of fractious people with different personalities, goals, and agendas. What connects us beyond our kinship ties? Story. As John Gardner puts it, fiction ‘is essentially serious and beneficial, a game played against chaos and death, against entropy.” Story is the counterforce to social disorder, the tendency of things to fall apart. Story is the center without which the rest cannot hold.’”
—Jonathan Gotschall, *The Storytelling Animal*

**Backstory & Exposition**

Our Mission:
Lighthouse Writers Workshop promotes literary engagement, growth, and connection among writers and readers.

Our Vision:
The written word fosters connection and inspires transformative change in ourselves and in the world.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that complies with all federal rules and regulations in providing equal access and opportunities in both learning and employment. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, gender expression, physical disability, sexual orientation, race, or religion. Our mission is to educate, support, and develop community among writers and readers in Denver and Colorado.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is proud to be an SCFD Tier III organization. Additional general support comes from government, foundation, and individual sources, and our 1,440+ members.