

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

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The mission of Lighthouse Writers Workshop is to provide the highest caliber of artistic education, support, and community for writers and readers in the Rocky Mountain Region and beyond. We strive to ensure that literature maintains its proper prominence in the culture, and that individuals achieve their fullest potential as artists and human beings.

Accessibility

Lighthouse welcomes all people who want to learn more about writing, no matter their age, experience, or education. It's important to our vision and mission that we keep our offerings affordable and our facilities convenient for all community members.

Collaboration

Writing is often seen as a solitary art; however, all writers need the inspiration and support of others. Our workshops engage students, teachers, and peers in deeply collaborative relationships. We seek opportunities to explore other arts and media with regional and national partners.

Creativity

Lighthouse believes in the innate creativity of all people by fostering experimentation and innovation.

Community

Lighthouse provides space and spirit for fellowship among working and aspiring writers. We offer readers unique ways to discover the writer's way. We invite everyone who values arts and culture to explore the written word. And we support the vibrancy and diversity of the Colorado artistic culture.

Discovery

We believe that writing empowers greater understanding of self and others and thereby encourages compassion and empathy in our society.

Excellence

Lighthouse is dedicated to supporting the highest potential of each writer, whatever his or her goals and talents. We are committed to increasing awareness of local and national authors producing high quality work.



From the Executive Director



The apples flower. The pear is past.

Winter is suddenly so far away, behind, ahead. From the train

A stand of coarse grass in fuzzy flower. Is it for miracles

We live? I like it when the morning sun lights up my room

Like a yellow jelly bean, an inner glow. May mutters, “Why

Ask questions?” or, “What are the questions you wish to ask?”

—From “Hymn to Life” by James Schuyler

Yes, of course you want to know: what are the questions we wish to ask? Not to mention the answers we hope to find.

I know this is perhaps an unusual opening in what’s normally a pretty dry text: the annual report. And yet, so often the annual report, in its almost nostalgic, frequently diagnostic look back, is also the ground upon which a deep hope for the new year begins to flower. A hint of the hopefulness of spring. A series of memories and plans, away, behind, ahead.

Here’s a quick pass at some of the good things that happened at Lighthouse in 2018—successes worthy of celebration:

- Overall workshop and event attendance grew 21%, which confirms, yet again, that the desire to write creatively and read deeply is healthy and thriving.
- We were one of a select group of local organizations chosen to be a part of Denver’s Bloomberg Philanthropies cohort. In addition to a substantial two-year grant, there are a series of trainings on board development, strategic planning, marketing, and program planning—which come at a perfect time for us as we enter our 22nd year.

- We hosted many incredible writers from around the world, writers like CAConrad, Terrance Hayes, Sheila Heti, Adam Johnson, Min Jin Lee, Carmen Maria Machado, Jenny Offill, and more.
- Lighthouse deepened its commitment to community engagement, with more workshops for young writers, adults experiencing homelessness and/or poverty, individuals coming out of incarceration, veterans, and those living with cancer. This work is sustained by our belief that creative writing has tremendous power to help people overcome challenges and feel less alone in the world.
- Lighthouse launched Writing in Color and Queer Creatives, working in a conscious way to open our doors to all.

None of this would have happened without our loyal members and the hard work of our dedicated staff, board, volunteers, and brilliant faculty. We have big plans for 2019, starting with continuing our efforts toward being a more inclusive community. We’re also engaged in finding more ways to support the writing community and our faculty, and to ensure that writing maintains its proper place in the culture. Because stories matter.

If I had to describe 2018 in a word, it would be *joyfulness*. And if I had to do the same for 2019 in a phrase, it would be *to advance*. I believe we can—and must—build on this sense of joy, solidifying Lighthouse as a world-class literary arts center, a place that consistently delivers outstanding learning experiences, inspired conversation, and a deeper sense of connection.

So what are the questions we wish to ask? No matter what they are, the answer, I believe, is simply this: Let’s tirelessly recommit to our reverence for words, our belief that stories and poems can move the world.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community.

Michael Henry
Executive Director
Co-founder



The Agenda of adult programming is simple: To get writers and readers, two populations who spend a lot of time in solitude, to connect with one another. Doing so, we know from history, helps the art and the spirit.

I'm pleased to say that 2018 was a big, flourishing year to that end: We opened a new location in Louisville; we added classes, instructors, furniture, and tea selections to our Denver location; and we celebrated many great events, artistic breakthroughs, and personal and professional triumphs.

A few highlights:

- Our instructor Diana Khoi Nguyen was a finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry and went on to win the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Other faculty have jumped on the award train, with Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint winning the Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize, David J. Rothman winning a Pushcart Prize, Christopher Kondrich being tapped for the National Poetry Series, and instructors Kali Fajardo-Anstine and David Heska Wanbli Weiden both winning fellowships at MacDowell.
- Instructors Nick Arvin, Ramona Ausubel, Karen Auvinen, and Tiffany Quay Tyson came out with novels and memoirs in 2018 that have landed them on the Colorado Book Awards finalist list.
- Many faculty and workshop participants (some of whom are both) got contracts for over a dozen novels, poetry collections, short story collections, essay collections, and memoirs from presses like Random House, Bloomsbury, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, University of New Mexico Press, Celadon (Macmillan), Flatiron (Macmillan), Split Lip Press, Conundrum Press, and Sourcebooks. Something's working!
- Four authors met and signed with their agents at Lit Fest 2018. We hosted 150 talented writers from all over the world (four continents) in the festival's Master Classes.
- Hundreds of poems, essays, short stories, plays, and excerpts from longer works were accepted to be published in venues as diverse as *The Georgia Review*, *Ploughshares*, *One Story*, *Glimmer Train*, *River Teeth*, *Conjunctions*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Colorado Review*, *SmokeLong*

Quarterly, *The Rumpus*, and the *New York Times Magazine*.

- We hosted sold-out craft talks and on-stage interviews with Carmen Maria Machado and Adam Johnson, and brought in a terrific roster of Lit Fest visiting authors including Robin Black, CAConrad, Charles D'Ambrosio, Sheila Heti, Terrance Hayes, Leslie Jamison, and Jenny Offill.

We feel lucky to be a hub for serious writers and readers in the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. Thank you all for making it possible.

Truly yours in writing and in books,

Andrea Dupree
Program Director
Co-founder

Young Writers Program Update

In 2018, the Young Writers Program at Lighthouse connected children and teens to literature, new friends, and a thriving writing community. Outreach programs served 2,676 students, a 33% increase over 2017. New outreach sites for 2018 included: Rainbow Alley, a safe space supporting LGBTQ youth and their allies ages 11 to 21; the Third Way Center for high risk, mentally ill, disadvantaged and often homeless adolescents and their families; and Medical Day Treatment at Children’s Hospital, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children and teens whose chronic medical illnesses prevent them from attending traditional school settings.

In total, we served 43 outreach sites, reaching students from a variety of backgrounds and opportunities, including Title I schools (who receive federal funding for a majority of students qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch); alternative or adaptive

programs; charter schools; residential treatment centers; and public, private, and parochial schools.

In-house programs kicked off 2018 with our annual Free Creative Writing Lab, one of 47 in-house workshops throughout the year. Our summer camps, Young Authors Collective, school closure day workshops, and Saturday intensives provided creative inspiration and instruction in writing craft for 724 students.

Summer 2018 brought a brand new format for the youth program: four weeks of half-day summer camps for all age groups offered new students an opportunity to engage in unique writing adventures like Fairy Tales Retold, Bookworms Unite, Mysteries and Suspense, and Monsters! And our annual full-day summer camps for middle and high school students completed its ninth year.

Professional development for youth instructors included sessions on writing with English Language Learners; inclusion, equity, and social justice in teaching; and leadership training.

Poetry Out Loud continued with 25 schools participating across the state. Hannah Alexander from Niwot High School was the 2018 state champion.

In all, we served 3,382 young writers, a number that gives us both great pride.

Regards,

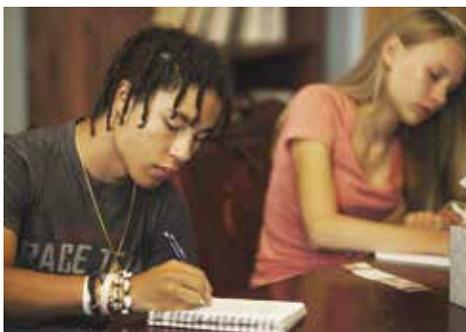
Kim O’Connor
Young Writers Program Director

Roxanne Banks Malia
Young Writers Outreach Coordinator



Without question, Lighthouse has absolutely changed my life.

—2018-19 Young Authors Collective member



Community Programs Update



The Arvada Hard Times Writing Workshop has opened new doors for me. Each week, Joy, our gifted instructor, offers us insightful writing tools and potential subjects... that unlock my subconscious and creativity and allow my feelings and thoughts to pour out of me. I especially appreciate the positive-only feedback we give and receive. This program has helped not only my writing skills, but me as well tremendously. Thank you.

—Laurie L. Meador, Arvada Library Hard Times Writing Workshop participant

2018 was an incredible year of growth and progress for Lighthouse’s community engagement programs.

Building on the success of many partnerships developed during the Denver Talks project, Lighthouse worked with the Denver Mayor’s Office, Denver Arts & Venues, Denver Center for Performing Arts, Denver Public Library, and many other community partners to launch I Am Denver, a city-wide storytelling initiative encouraging Denver area residents to share the stories of the city we call home. Beginning in October 2018, we facilitated seven storytelling labs and heard the stories of nearly 200 participants.

In late November, we introduced Writing In Color, a program focusing on writers of color in Colorado. At Lighthouse, we aim to offer a more demographically complete representation of our writing community, offering a space that celebrates and welcomes the rich diversity of Colorado writers. To that aim, the program connects writers of color with peers to share ideas, inspirations, new work, successes, challenges, and

resources to foster a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive writing community in Colorado. We hosted monthly Writing In Color mixers and attracted 50-60 writers for each event. Through discussion and participant surveys, we learned more about the needs of the writers of color in our community, which informed our plans in 2019 to launch a new fellowship and a new retreat, as well as ongoing meetups.

This year also saw the creation of our first-ever community programs anthology, *All the Lives We Ever Lived*. The collection included poetry, fiction, essays, and creative nonfiction from over 80 contributors in our adult engagement programs—veterans, seniors, individuals experiencing homelessness, women transitioning out of prison, people living with cancer and their caregivers, and more.

Lighthouse’s partner-based events and workshops also flourished. Friday 500 garnered its best attendance in one year with over 800 participants. Drop-In Writing at the Denver Art Museum and Writing the

West at the American Museum of Western Art also enjoyed their best years to date. New partnerships included the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus, Opera Colorado, 30th Annual Podedo (Poetry Rodeo), Denver Botanic Gardens, UCHHealth Anschutz Medical Campus, and Rocky Mountain and Library. Lighthouse also developed new programming with established partners such as “Voices from the Edge” with Stories on Stage, the Stratus Chamber Orchestra’s “Dreams and Aspirations” performance, the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado’s “The Muse Project” show, the 3rd Annual Lit Crawl, and the Clyfford Still Museum.

Many thanks,

Dan Manzanares
Community Programs Coordinator

Suzi Q. Smith
Community Engagement Coordinator

EDUCATION



Adult In-Person

339 classes
3,245 registrations

Adult Online

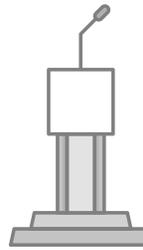
25 classes
227 registrations

Youth In-Person

82 classes
501 registrations

LITERARY EVENTS

(readings, engagement programs, etc.)



107
events &
programs

5,705
events &
programs

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth

395
sessions

2,578
people

Adult

221
sessions

3,334
people

FELLOWSHIPS



5 Lit Fest Fellowships = **\$3,660**

2 Book Project Fellowships = **\$12,000**

WORKSHOP TUITION ASSISTANCE

343
people
offered
writerships

\$42,069
total aid



LIT FEST 2018

Total Attendance

4,207

Total
of offerings

190



Book
tent

784 books
sold

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2018	2017
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$204,225	\$98,067
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful receivables of \$3,750 (2018) and \$-0- (2017)	46,634	213,183
Promises to give, current	25,000	25,000
Prepaid expenses	5,490	11,791
Total current assets	281,349	348,041
Property and equipment	182,662	159,777
Less accumulated depreciation	78,244	46,559
	104,418	113,218
Other assets:		
Intangible asset, net of accumulated amortization of \$972	4,028	-
Deposit	6,250	6,250
Total other assets	10,278	6,250
Noncurrent assets:		
Rose Community endowment (Note 5)	27,830	29,089
Promises to give, noncurrent	-	25,000
Total noncurrent assets	27,830	54,089
TOTAL ASSETS	\$423,875	\$521,598
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$26,938	\$43,137
Payroll liabilities	29,858	32,104
Deferred revenue	113,649	243,904
Class deposits	6,110	8,850
Total current liabilities	176,555	327,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$176,555	327,995
Net Assets (Note 3):		
Without donor restrictions:		
Unrestricted	63,420	4,475
Board designated	7,000	7,000
Total	70,420	11,475
With donor restrictions:		
Purpose restricted	14,822	14,456
Time restricted	141,248	145,583
Endowment Fund	20,830	22,089
	176,900	182,128
Total net assets	247,320	193,603
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$423,875	\$521,598

2017-2018 Audited Financial Reports (cont.)

Statement of Activities

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support, revenue, and gains:			
Earned income	\$1,268,363	-	\$1,268,36
Memberships	69,745	-	69,745
Donations	378,033	160,048	538,081
In-kind donations	23,023	-	23,023
Investment income (expense)	441	(1,259)	(818)
	1,739,605	158,789	1,898,394
Satisfaction of program restrictions	164,017	(164,017)	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	1,903,622	(5,228)	1,898,394
Expenses:			
Workshops	1,356,776	-	1,356,776
Other activities	178,991	-	178,991
Management and general	150,032	-	150,032
Fundraising	158,878	-	158,878
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,844,677	-	1,844,677
Change in net assets	58,945	(5,228)	53,717
Net assets, beginning of year	11,475	182,128	193,603
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$70,420	\$176,900	\$247,320



\$50,000+

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Scientific, Cultural, and Facilities District
(SCFD)

\$20,000-\$50,000

Anonymous Donors (1)
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation
Colorado Creative Industries
Kenney Brothers Foundation
National Endowment for the
Arts/Art Works
Stranahan Foundation

\$10,000-\$20,000

Amazon Literary Partnership
Denver Office of Children's Affairs
Harvey Family Foundation
McWethy Family Foundation
The Bloomfield Family Foundation

\$2,500-\$10,000

Anonymous Donors (2)
Comcast Technology Solutions
Confluence Foundation
Rich Devlin and Kim Linin
Steve and Kim Davis
Sarah Gilbert
Himalayan Writing Retreat
Ireland Writing Retreat
Rudy and Lori Melena
Mile High MFA at Regis University
Kirsten Morgan
Peter H and E Lucille Gaass Kuyper
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Gary and Sheri Schanbacher
Sheila Fortune Foundation
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Annette Taylor
Trinna Tressler and Ted Eckles
Wide Open Writing
Michelle Yee



\$1,000-\$2,500

Anonymous Donors (2)
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Clara M. Whittington Fund
Community First Foundation
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Deanne Gertner
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Karis Foundation
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Mike Nugent
Andi Pearson
Pink Pangea
Joey Porcelli and Randy Pharo
Steve and Janie Radcliffe
Shadowcliffe Lodge
Springboard for the Arts
Ray Sutton
Tattered Cover, Inc.

\$500-\$1,000

Anonymous Donors (2)
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Plus 394 generous donors under \$500

About Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is Colorado's nonprofit literary arts center whose mission is to ensure literature maintains its proper prominence in the culture and individuals achieve their fullest potential as artists and human beings. For over 20 years, Lighthouse has offered award-winning writing workshops, author events, and community engagement programs to people of all ages and backgrounds in Denver and beyond. For more information, visit lighthousewriters.org.



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