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INTRODUCTION

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in culture. We exist to discover and celebrate the best poetry, and to place it before the largest possible audience.

We share a storied history with Chicago beginning with Poetry magazine, founded by Harriet Monroe in 1912. The oldest, boldest and most distinguished monthly dedicated to poetry in the English-speaking world, Poetry is famous for discovering poets very early in their careers, including T. S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, Anne Sexton, and more.

The lifelong love of Poetry by philanthropist Ruth Lilly inspired her nearly $200 million gift which supported the establishment of the Poetry Foundation in 2002.

We extend this legacy in Chicago, and around the world, as a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry through creating new avenues for discovery, celebrating yesterday’s and today’s poets, and fostering the next generation of poetry readers with innovative partnerships, grants, prizes, and programs.
23,452
ANNUAL
SUBSCRIBERS
Poetry remains committed to founder Harriet Monroe’s Open Door policy to “keep free of entangling alliances with any single class or school” by discovering new voices that speak to this time, this moment. Though the magazine regularly presents new work by the most famous poets in the world, over half of all contributions are from poets appearing in the magazine for the first time – many before they become established figures. Subscribers hail from all 50 states and 45 countries around the world. No other literary magazine has a more devoted or discriminating audience. In fact, Poetry is yet again ranked the number one magazine that publishes poetry – far ahead of the competition – in the annual 2019 Perpetual Folly Literary Magazine Ranking for Poetry.

Also this year, Poetry published a record 34 poems that were nominated for 2018 Pushcart Prizes. Poetry was also represented with five poems in The Best American Poetry 2018, more than any other publication included in the book.

11 issues published featuring 332 poems and 34 prose pieces

Selected from 170,000 submissions
“WE DESERVE POEMS.”

- Kara Jackson, *Poetry* November 2018

“Amid these things, refusing to settle down, the author grew a life.

*Couldn’t you also perhaps try to do likewise?*”

By Henri Michaux, tr. Richard Sieburth, *Poetry* May 2018
POETRY IS A PLACE IN CHICAGO

Located in downtown Chicago, the Poetry Foundation offers a home for poetry in a serene, minimalist building designed by Chicago-based architect John Ronan. In 2018, nearly 10,000 visitors explored the Midwest’s only library dedicated to poetry, experienced Gallery exhibitions from around the world, attended immersive workshops, or participated in weekly youth poemtime readings.
In the Gallery, we showcase work that resonates with poetry, including archival exhibitions of established and forgotten poets, visual art, and special collections.
Krista Franklin
“...to take root among the stars.”
Krista Franklin “...to take root among the stars.”
137 adult workshops hosted in libraries, senior centers, and patient care settings

1,250 items added to the library collection

3,500 items referenced by library visitors
48
KIDS’ POEMTIME READINGS
“...MADE A PILGRIMAGE TO VISIT YOUR LIBRARY WITH MY WIFE AND CHILDREN DURING MY LAST VISIT TO THE US. WONDERFUL PLACE WITH A LOVELY STAFF. AND A SECTION OF POETRY FOR THE KIDS TOO!”

@Daviddeyoung on Instagram, July 2018
The Poetry Foundation building boasts its own adaptable performance space that is acoustically perfected for the human voice. Each season we host events for poetry lovers and the culturally curious. In 2018 we offered dozens of free and diverse events in Chicago featuring a cross-section of poetry readings, musical and dance performances, film screenings, and more.
67
CHICAGO EVENTS

Poetry & Art: Nathanaël, Judd Morrissey, & Jennifer Scappettone
**HARRIET READING SERIES**
The Harriet Reading Series features talks, performances, or readings by poets who have appeared on Harriet, the Poetry Foundation blog.
Kimberly Lyons
Cedar Sigo
Patricia Spears Jones

**JOHN BARR READING SERIES**
The John Barr Reading Series, through the generosity of the Poetry Foundation’s first president, annually presents one or two poets of extraordinary accomplishment and promise.
Sarah Lindsay
Jamaal May
The Open Door series presents work from Chicago’s new and emerging poets, presented by their teachers, and highlights the area’s outstanding writing programs on a monthly basis.

TINA BOYER BROWN & KENYATTA ROGERS
TARA BETTS & RACHEL GALVIN
AARON BAKER & LAURA GOLDSTEIN
T CLUTCH FLEISCHMANN & MARTY MCCONNELL
DURIEL E. HARRIS & VALERIE WALLACE
HANNAH GAMBLE & JONAH MIXON-WEBSTER
ERIC ELSHTAIN & JENNIFER NELSON
ED ROBERSON & AVERY R. YOUNG
OLIVIA CRONK & LARRY O. DEAN
5,700 EVENT ATTENDEES
POETRY OFF THE SHELF
The Poetry off the Shelf series features readings and conversations with some of the brightest lights in poetry today.

Emily Jungmin Yoon

Kazim Ali
Amy Sayre Baptista
Tara Betts
David Biespiel
Dionne Brand
Sarah Browning
Rafael Campo
Grady Chambers
Jos Charles
Chen Chen
Suman Chhabra
Henri Cole
Kyle Dargan
Geoffrey Davis
Toi Derricotte
Duy Ba Doan
Mark Doty
Cornelius Eady
Carolina Ebeid
Jorie Graham
Kimiko Hahn
Tracie D. Hall
Ishion Hutchinson
Emily Jungmin Yoon
Quraysh Ali Lansana
Joseph Legaspi
Lingua Franca
Rachel Long
Manuel Paul López
Erika Meitner
Maggie Nelson
José Olivarez
Elise Paschen
Tom Pickard
Ed Roberson
Natalie Scenters-Zapico
Solmaz Sharif
Matthew Shenoda
Jacob Shores-Argüello
Mathias Svalina
Elizabeth Taylor
Kristen Tracy
Natasha Trethewey
Melissa Tuckey
Chase Twichell
Mai Der Vang
Vanessa Angélica
Villarreal
Anne Waldman
Wendy Willis
LECTURES
Poets of the Podium: The Art of Speechwriting with Mary Kate Cary, David Litt & Robert Pinsky
No One Will Ever Love You As Much: A Glimpse into One Hundred Years of Lithuanian Poetry
The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 2: Black Girl Magic
The Poetry of Lawrence Durrell

POETRY & MUSIC
CAIC Collaborative Works Festival The Wayfarer
Fonema Consort
Kay Ryan & the Apollo Chorus with Jeff Beal
Mahler’s Wunderhorn Songs: A Soldier’s Tale
Notorious RBG in Song Album Release
Poetry-inspired pieces by Missy Mazzoli, Augusta Read Thomas, Toru Takemitsu, Iannis Xenakis, Daniel Temkin, and Tonia Ko.
Rush Hour Concert: Rachel DeWoskin & Civitas Ensemble with Pavel Šporcl, violin
Stephen Alltop & Josefien Stoppelenburg
Zafa Collective

Poetry Fall Party
Zafa Collective
CELEBRATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

826CHI Teen Writers Studio Book Release
ChiTeen Lit Fest
Chicago Public Library Poetry Fest with Safia Elhillo and sam sax
Chicagoland Poetry Out Loud Champions
Drinking Gourd Prize Launch with Marcelo Hernandez Castillo
Fuller Awards Celebrating Stuart Dybek
Fuller Award Ceremony honoring Angela Jackson
French Slam Connection
Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards Ceremony
Hands on Stanzas All Schools Reading
Hippocrates Prize Reading
Lit & Luz
Literature for All of Us Poetry Bash
Middle Eastern Poetry Festival
Open House Chicago
Peace in Chicago: An Intergenerational Celebration with CM Burroughs, Ed Roberson, et al
Poesía en Abril with Vanessa Droz & Homero Aridjis
Poetry Day with Linda Bierds, Peter Cole, & Brad Leithauser
Poetry Fall Party
Poetry Spring Party
Printers Row Lit Fest featuring Joyce Carol Oates & Henry Bienen
The Voice Within Us Presentation
Young People’s Poetry Day with Margarita Engle
Wikipedia Edit-a-thon for Latinx & Latin American Literature

POETRY & VISUAL ART

Ellen Rothenberg, Nathanaël, Jennifer Scappettone, & Judd Morrissey
Ellen Rothenberg & Cecilia Vicuña

Cecilia Vicuña
SCREENINGS

World Premiere of The Fitting Room

World Premiere of Manual Cinema’s Poem
(I lived in the first century of world wars)

World premiere of Manual Cinema’s Three World War I Poems
STUDENTS & EDUCATORS

For poetry-loving and verse-averse students and teachers alike, we offer entry points for deeper understanding and appreciation of poetry through field trips, teacher trainings, and recitation competitions.

We welcome group visits from students of all ages and lifelong learners, having hosted 66 field trips in 2018.
66
FIELD TRIPS
POETRY OUT LOUD
Created by the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005, Poetry Out Loud reaches students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life through poem recitation.

295,381 students representing 2,379 schools

118 Prizes to High School Students, totaling $59,900
“I LEARNED THAT PERFORMING A POEM OUT LOUD OF MY CHOOSING CREATED THIS NEW AND MORE PERSONAL CONNECTION TO POETRY FOR ME. DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT IS A COMPETITION, I THINK THAT SHARING THE POEMS THAT I PICKED OUT IN A WAY VALIDATED MY EXPERIENCES WITH MY IDENTITIES AND HEARING OTHERS MADE ME SEE A NEW FORM OF SELF-EXPRESSION. IN ADDITION TO THAT, POL GAVE ME CONFIDENCE THAT I NEVER THOUGHT I HAD AND IT TAUGHT ME THAT I COULD TAKE IT AND APPLY IT EVERYWHERE I WENT.”

– Cheryl Minde, Poetry Out Loud 2018 Minnesota State Champion
TEACHER TRAININGS

We offer free training to provide strategies, expertise and resources to demystify poetry for teachers and their students, demonstrate how to make time for writing, teach craft and structure, and create opportunities for student voice and choice. In 2018, we hosted two- and five-day programs, as well as a full-year program, to support more than 100 teachers’ efforts to integrate poetry into the classroom.

132 teachers from 24 states trained representing:

- 28 Community Colleges
- 35 High Schools
- 19 Middle Schools
- 20 Elementary Schools

2018 Summer Poetry Teachers Institute
“THE WORKSHOPS ARE AMAZING – PRACTICAL, USEFUL, THOUGHTFUL, IMAGINATIVE.”

– Anonymous teacher, Teachers Institute July 2018
COMMUNITY

We bring poetry off the page and into underserved communities through special events, programs, and grants.
**POETRY INCUBATOR & POETRY BLOCK PARTY**

The Poetry Incubator, a partnership between the Poetry Foundation and Crescendo Literary, brings emerging poets from across the United States to Chicago to spend three days learning from esteemed poetry faculty about how to enhance their craft while proactively serving their communities with art.

This year’s program culminated with the third annual Chicago Poetry Block Party, a celebration of poetry, music, and art, hosted in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood.
23 INCUBATOR FELLOWS REPRESENTING 13 STATES AND CANADA
“I’M RETURNING TO THE OSTIGUY RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM TO BEGIN A SECOND POETRY WORKSHOP SERIES WITH THE STUDENTS. I RECENTLY RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE CITY OF BOSTON TO DO THIS, WHICH OF COURSE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE PROOF OF CONCEPT ESTABLISHED THROUGH MY LAST WORKSHOP SERIES, SUPPORTED BY THE POETRY FOUNDATION. AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INCLUDING ME IN THE INCUBATOR AND GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT ART IN MY COMMUNITY.”

– Christian Arthur, 2017 Incubator Fellow who received a seed grant for a workshop series launched in 2018
Headliner Eve L. Ewing

CPBP Writing Workshop
POETRY ACROSS THE NATIONS

In 2018 we partnered with Dream Warriors, an artist collective, and Arizona State University to bring artists to Indigenous communities to speak, perform, and teach self-empowerment workshops, helping others find healthy outlets to address personal, historical, ancestral, and intergenerational trauma through art.

Image by Brian Skeet.
ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND WRITING PROGRAMS CONFERENCE
Tampa, Florida

BREAD LOAF WRITERS CONFERENCE
Ripton, Vermont

BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL
Brooklyn, New York

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL
Chicago, Illinois

DODGE POETRY FESTIVAL
Newark, New Jersey

DREAM WARRIORS, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Tempe, Arizona

MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL
Iowa City, Iowa

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL
Washington, DC

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH CONFERENCE
Houston, Texas

O, MIAMI FESTIVAL
Miami, Florida

PEN WORLD VOICES FESTIVAL
New York, New York

POETRY BY THE SEA CONFERENCE
Madison, Connecticut

PORTLAND BOOK FESTIVAL
Portland, Oregon

PRINTER’S ROW LIT FESTIVAL
Chicago, Illinois

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POETRY FESTIVAL
Los Angeles, California

SPLIT THIS ROCK POETRY FESTIVAL
Washington, DC
POETRY ONLINE & IN THE MEDIA

We reach a national and international audience of poem enthusiasts, students and educators, and the culturally curious through digital and media efforts, including on poetryfoundation.org with the most robust online poem archive available, a resource of more than 4,000 poet biographies, six poetry podcasts, and multiple newsletters.

In 2018, we reached audiences through media partnerships, including PBS NewsHour, the PBS special documentary series Poetry in America hosted by Lisa New, and the weekly newspaper column American Life in Poetry with former US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. In November, we launched the new weekday podcast The Slowdown with current US Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, produced in partnership with the Library of Congress and Minnesota Public Radio.
30 ARTICLES FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS

Illustration by Caroline Cracco
6 poetry podcasts

3.8 MM average monthly web visitors

300 new poet biographies added to website

900 new poems added to archive

35 new online feature articles

49,500 Poem of the Day newsletter subscribers

82,700 Poetry and Poetry Foundation newsletter subscribers
AWARDS, GRANTS & PARTNERS

We support and celebrate yesterday’s and today’s poets through innovative partnerships, grants, prizes, awards, and programs.
AWARDS

RUTH LILLY POETRY PRIZE
$100,000 prize each year
The prize honors a living US poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition.

Martín Espada, Shutesbury, MA

2018 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize recipient Martín Espada

RUTH LILLY AND DOROTHY SARGENT ROSENBERG POETRY FELLOWSHIP
$25,800 prize each year
Five prizes for poets early in their careers to encourage the further writing and study of poetry.

Safia Elhillo, Washington, DC
Hieu Minh Nguyen, Minneapolis, MN
sam sax, Oakland, California
Natalie Scenters-Zapico, Lincoln, NE
Paul Tran, Saint Louis, Missouri

2018 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellows, illustrated by Laura Callaghan
YOUNG PEOPLE’S POET LAUREATE
$25,000 prize for two-year term
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. Last awarded in 2017.

Margarita Engle, Clovis, CA

THE PEGASUS AWARD FOR CRITICISM
$7,500 prize
This award honors the best book-length works of criticism published in the prior calendar year, including biographies, essay collections and critical editions that consider the subject of poetry or poets.

Liesl Olson, Chicago, IL

2017-19 Young People’s Poet Laureate, Margarita Engle
POETRY MAGAZINE AWARDS

J. HOWARD AND BARBARA M.J. WOOD PRIZE
$5,000 PRIZE
Danez Smith

BESS HOKIN PRIZE
$1,000 PRIZE
Solmaz Sharif

EDITORS PRIZE FOR FEATURE ARTICLE
$1,000 PRIZE
Matthew Bevis

EDITORS PRIZE FOR REVIEWING
$1,000 PRIZE
Paul Batchelor

LEVINSON PRIZE
$500 PRIZE
Carl Phillips

FREDERICK BOCK PRIZE
$500 PRIZE
Noah Baldino

THE FRIENDS OF LITERATURE PRIZE
$500 PRIZE
Eboni Hogan

JOHN FREDERICK NIMS MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION
$1,000 PRIZE
Karen Leeder
GRANTS & GIFTS

$1,000 - $9,999
Chicago Humanities Festival
Festival Sponsorship

Chicago Latino Theater Alliance
DESTINOS 2018, Chicago International Latino Theater Festival

Contratiempo
Poesía en Abril Program Support

CUNY Graduate Center
Publishing American Sign Language Poetry Sponsorship

Guild Literary Complex
Poetry programming support

Incubator Seed Grants
Community Engaged Poets Incubator Seed Grants

International Music Foundation
Rush Hour Concert Series

Poets for Puerto Rico
Chicago event support

University of Baltimore Foundation
Passenger Creative Writing Workshop

University of Notre Dame, Letras Latinas
Letras Latinas Andrés Monroya Conference Support

$10,000-$19,999
Academy of American Poets
Sponsorship of April National Poetry Month programming

Arts Alliance Illinois
National Arts Advocacy Day 2018, and luncheon table

Associated Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
Conference Sponsorship

Cave Canem
Programming support and sponsorship

Chicago Poetry Center
Scholarship Support for the Hands-on-Stanzas Poetry Scholarship

Chicago Public Schools Substitute Teachers
Support for Substitutes During CPS Teacher Trainings at the Poetry Foundation

Chicago Literary Hall of Fame
Construction of The Oracle of Bronzeville: Gwendolyn Brooks sculpture

Dark Noise Collective
Support for program at The Kitchen in New York City

Massachusetts Poetry Outreach Project
Poetry programming support

O, Miami
Conference Sponsorship

Poets in Need
Support for relief fund for poets in need

Poetry Society of America
Programming support and contribution to commemorative tribute book

Portland Book Festival
Festival Sponsorship

Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project
Support for the year-long college-level poetry course at Stateville Correctional Center

Snow City Arts Foundation
Poetry programming support for Chicago-area students

Split this Rock
Conference Sponsorship

Verse Video Education
Medicine and Media video support

Woodland Pattern Book Center
Program Support
$20,000-$39,999

Alliance for Young Artists & Writers
National Student Poets Program
The American Writers Museum
Sponsorship for Bob Dylan: Highway 61 and Road to Nobel Exhibit
Brooklyn Arts Council
Alzheimer’s Poetry Project
Court Theatre
Support production of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide…

Literary Classics of the US
Publication support for Herman Melville: The Complete Poems

National Poetry Series
Support for publication of the National Student Poets Competition winners’ work

University of Nebraska
Support for American Life in Poetry, Weekly Newspaper Column with Ted Kooser

$40,000-$59,999

L.A. Theatre Works
Sponsorship for Staged Adaptation of Natasha Trethewey’s Native Guard
Lookingglass Theatre Company
Sponsorship for Staged Adaptation of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein
Make-Believe Association
Sponsorship for Inaugural Grown Folks’ Fables
The Museum of Language Arts
Sponsorship for “WordSurround” Poetry Exhibit at Planet Word

$60,000-$99,999

The Joffrey Ballet
Sponsorship of A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Anna Karenina
Minnesota Public Radio
Sponsorship for New Podcast and Radio Program, The Slowdown with Tracy K. Smith

$100,000+

PBS NewsHour
Primary sponsor of in-depth poetry programming on PBS NewsHour
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2018 PROGRAMMING PARTNERS, AND COSPONSORS:

826CHI
Access Living
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Beyond Baroque
Block Museum of Art
BOA Editions
CantoMundo
Cave Canem
Cedille Records
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Chicago Help Initiative
Chicago Hopes
Chicago Humanities Festival
Chicago Literary Hall of Fame
Chicago Poetry Center
Chicago Public Library
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Writers Association
ChiTeen Lit Fest
Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago
Comfort Station
Compound Yellow
Contratiempo
DePaul University
Experimental Sound Studio
Fulcrum Point New Music Project

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology
Graham Foundation
Graywolf Press
Guild Literary Complex
Haymarket Books
Hippocrates Initiative for Poetry and Medicine
Illinois Humanities Institute
International Music Foundation
Intuit: the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art
Iraqi Mutual Aid Society
Jesse Brown VA
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Kundiman
Latinx Writers Caucus
Lawrence Durrell Society
Lurie Garden
Studies
Ligue de Slam
Lit & Luz Festival
MAKE Literary Productions
Manual Cinema
Milkweed Editions
Montgomery Place Retirement Community
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
National Museum of Mexican Art
Noemi Press
North Center Satellite Senior Center
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Northwestern University Poetry & Poetics Colloquium
Northwestern University Program in African Studies
One Poetic Voice
Poetry Coalition
Renaissance Court Senior Center
School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Visiting Artists Program and Writing Program
Smart Museum of Art
Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership
Split This Rock
Youth & Opportunity United
University of Illinois at Chicago, Gallery 400
University of Illinois at Chicago, Health Humanities, Department of Medical Education
University of Illinois at Chicago, Medical Education, Medical Colloquia
University of Illinois at Chicago, Neubauer Collegium
University of New Mexico, Latin American and Iberian Institute
University of Notre Dame, Letras Latinas at the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies
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