

# Annual Report

2023



TEACHERS  
& WRITERS  
COLLABORATIVE

January 2024

Dear Friend,

Teachers & Writers Collaborative's history is rooted in the belief that writers and other artists could partner with teachers in public schools to find innovative approaches to inspire students as writers. Then, as now, our program impact extends far beyond the writing; our programs help students build confidence, gain literacy, and develop key social and emotional skills that help them in the classroom and in life.

Our New York City programs are on the front lines of public education. We serve students experiencing academic delays following the pandemic, neuro-diverse students and students with mental health challenges, recent immigrant and refugees, and students impacted by tragedy overseas. Our programs offer students a creative outlet that honors their experiences and ideas in a safe and supportive space.

Beyond New York City, we continue to increase access to the arts through the Poetry Out Loud program in New York State and through *Teachers & Writers Magazine* globally. These programs form an active network of students, teachers, and teaching artists who believe in the transformative power of the literary arts.

As we look to the year ahead, I thank our many supporters for standing with us in this important work. Our shared vision to increase access to the literary arts will continue to move us forward.

Sincerely,  
Asari Beale, Executive Director

"As T&W continues its work of increasing access to the literary arts in New York City public schools, we do so with ongoing belief in celebration as an antidote to oppression. When students can celebrate themselves through their writing, they know their own power. And empowered youth are the fuel of movements of social change."

Asari Beale  
"Serious Play: Creating Liberated  
Spaces for the Making of Poetry,"  
*Teachers & Writers Magazine*

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Executive Director

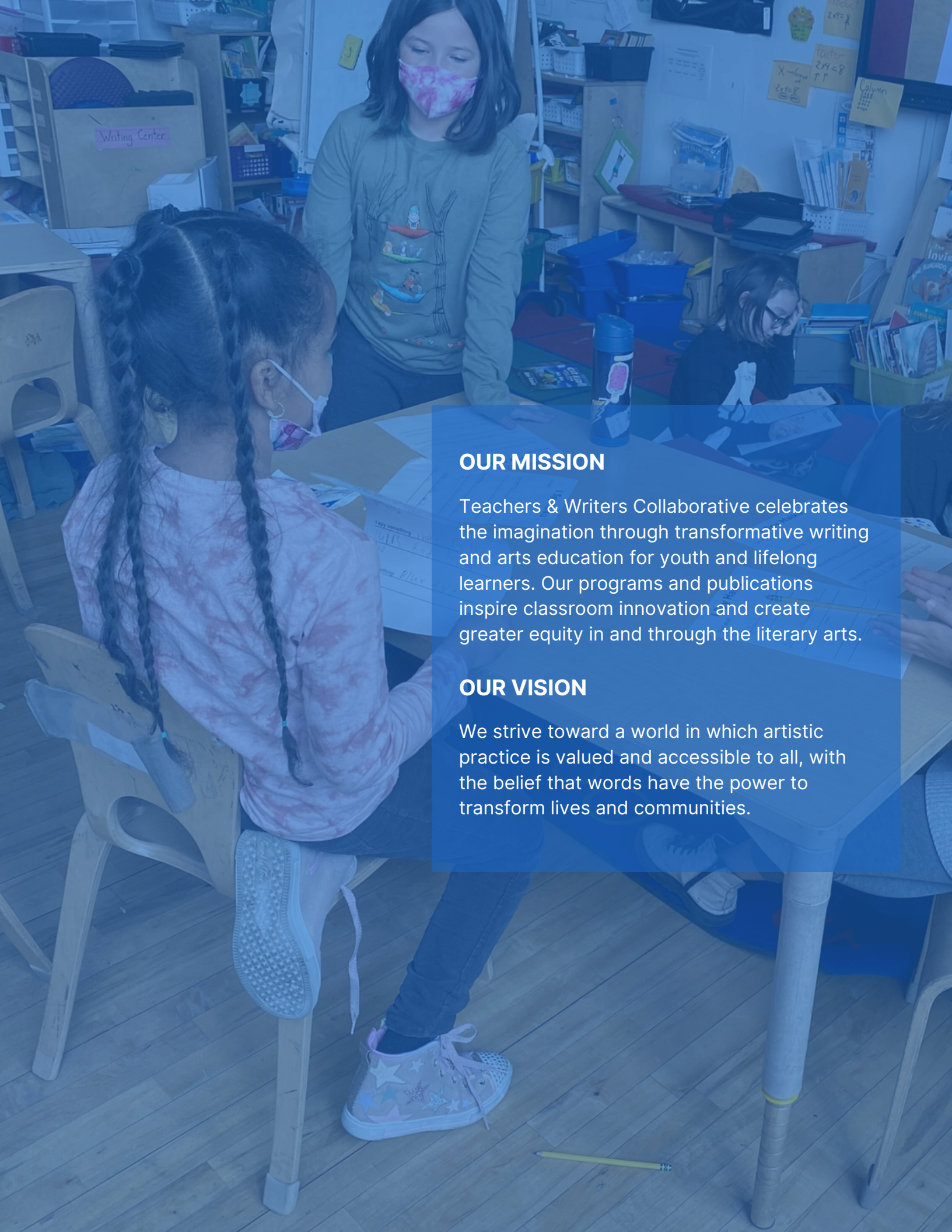
**Nancy Weber**  
Education Director

**Joshua Garcia**  
Office Manager

**Alice Pencavel**  
Program Coordinator

**Lanxing Fu**  
Grant Writer





## OUR MISSION

Teachers & Writers Collaborative celebrates the imagination through transformative writing and arts education for youth and lifelong learners. Our programs and publications inspire classroom innovation and create greater equity in and through the literary arts.

## OUR VISION

We strive toward a world in which artistic practice is valued and accessible to all, with the belief that words have the power to transform lives and communities.



# 2023 Program Innovation

## Youth Programs

Students in grades 3-12 explored their imaginations in 20 workshops at NYC public schools led by T&W teaching artists. Workshop themes ranged from eco-poetry to personal narratives for college applications.

Elementary school programs included an ongoing collaboration with five Title I schools in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx for the sixth consecutive year, offering students a deeply immersive workshop experience writing poetry, fiction, and other forms of imaginative writing. Two programs for young students focused on the environment: at P.S. 19/East Village Community School students wrote poems inspired by the city's water systems; at P.S. 90 students wrote and performed a documentary on environmental justice.

For middle school students, T&W offered a series of play-making programs during which students wrote and performed original plays. High school programs included poetry and college essay writing: students received one-on-one support as they developed winning personal narratives for their college applications.

## New Initiatives

In partnership with New York State Poet Laureate Willie Perdomo, T&W launched the East Harlem Poets Collective, a project made possible by the Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellowship award. The project reaches youth in the community of East Harlem through a series of poetry workshops and performances offered in English and Spanish.

T&W also partnered with the New York City Poetry Festival to host their Youth Festival on Governor's Island, New York City. Over the course of the festival we offered writing activities for children and poetry enthusiasts of all ages, including creating a collaborative 100-foot poem, a project published in *The Adventures of Dr. Alphabet* by Dave Morice (Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 2007).

## Creative Aging

Our Creative Aging programs give older adults an opportunity to learn new skills and build communities through art making. Programs are offered on-site with our community partners and include drawing and watercolor painting, memoir writing, story telling, and multi-genre writing classes. Our partners are Griot Circle, Selfhelp Services, Visions Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, JASA, and Morningside Heights Retirement Services.

In 2023, T&W also partnered with the Early Alzheimer's Foundation to support its Memory Tree program, offering creative writing workshops in Spanish and English for people with early stage memory loss and their caregivers.



Teaching artist Dave Johnson holds the mic at a program celebration at Visions Selis Manor. This program for older adults who have visual impairment featured mask-making and storytelling.

## Cultivating Community for Teachers and Teaching Artists

Teachers became students in two “Summer of Soul” workshops, online poetry and memoir writing programs for NYC public school teachers. In this professional development program, educators engaged in writing activities led by T&W teaching artists while learning to nurture student writing using similar techniques and practices.

T&W teaching artists also saw new opportunities for growth in a series of Artist Meetings: workshops led by and for teaching artists in order to foster a peer-to-peer learning exchange.

T&W continues to build community and mentor young writers and teaching artists through its Editorial and Education Fellowship program. MFA candidates gain hands-on experience and mentorship while assisting in T&W teaching artists in schools. They also host literary events and serve as editors of *Teachers & Writers Magazine*, an important resource for writers and educators all over the world.

2023 Poetry Out Loud State Finalists  
at the Center for Fiction, Brooklyn, NY



## An Upgrade for *Teachers & Writers Magazine*

In 2022, the staff embarked on a project to update the look & functionality of *Teachers & Writers Magazine* website, with support of a grant from LitNYS. The new site, launched in January 2023, increases access to the magazine's lesson plans and essays, and makes the archive of articles available in print readily available.

The magazine's editorial board selected William Camponovo's essay, "You Must Change Your Life: Demystifying and Remystifying Poetry in the Classroom," as the winner of the 2023 Bechtel Prize. The Bechtel Prize is named for Louise Seaman Bechtel, who was an editor, author, collector of children's books, and teacher. This award honors her legacy.

## Poetry Out Loud

In March 2023, 20 high school students from around the state gathered at the Center for Fiction in Brooklyn to perform for the title of New York State Poetry Out Loud champion. This event was the culmination of months of activity, engaging high school students through poetry in 56 schools throughout the state. POL is a national poetry recitation competition, open to students in grades 9-12, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts.

# Our Reach

In 2023, T&W increased access to high-quality arts education throughout New York, focusing on communities of the highest need.

**27,000+** PROGRAM REACH

**1,800** NYC WORKSHOPS PARTICIPANTS

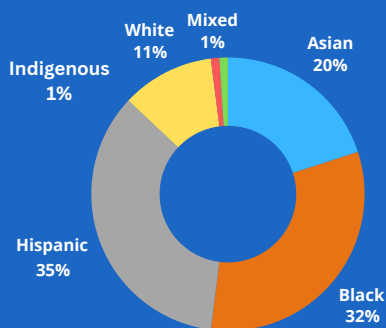
**5,500** NY STATE POETRY OUT LOUD PARTICIPANTS

**19,000+** T&W MAGAZINE READERS WORLDWIDE

**32** SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SITES

**32** TEACHING ARTISTS

## T&W Student Demographics



**17.5%** STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

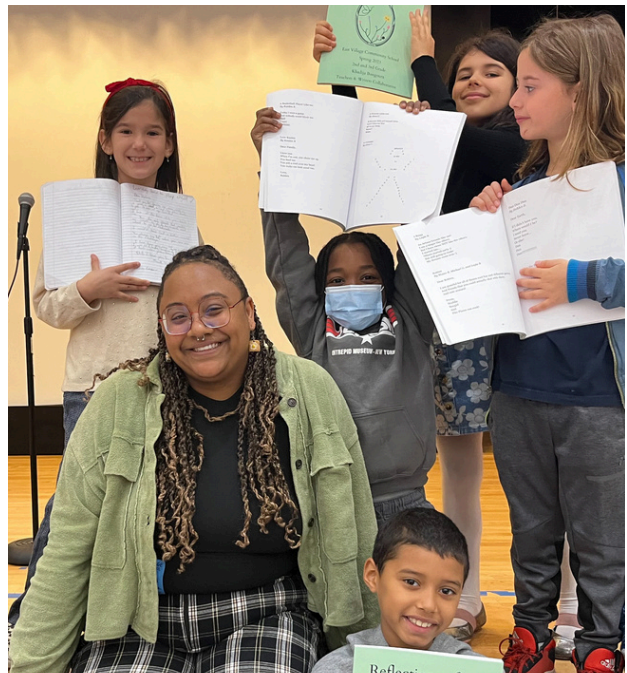
**75%** STUDENTS LIVING AT OR BELOW POVERTY

**10.6%** ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**75% of youth programs in NYC are in Title I public schools where children from low-income families make up at least 40% of enrollment**

*"Working with Jessie and Natalee this year with my sixth grade classes has been a pleasure throughout the residency. Their enthusiasm and engaging lessons inspired my students to elevate the quality and quantity of their writing."*

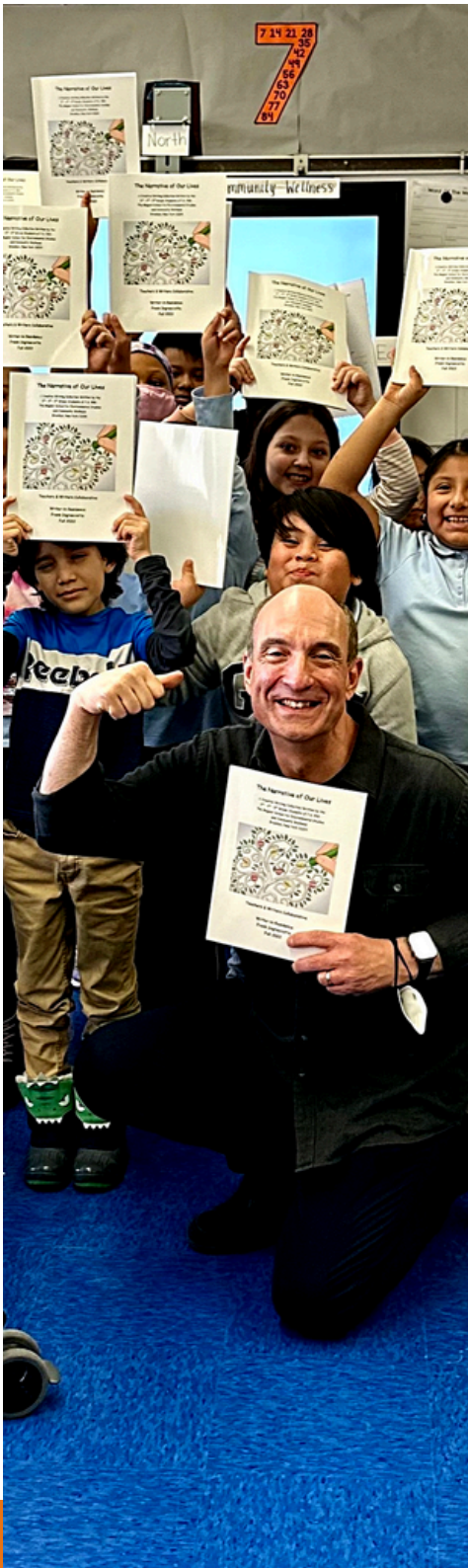
-A.M. Terranova, Teacher, PS122Q



Teaching Artist Khadija Bangoura with students in Manhattan

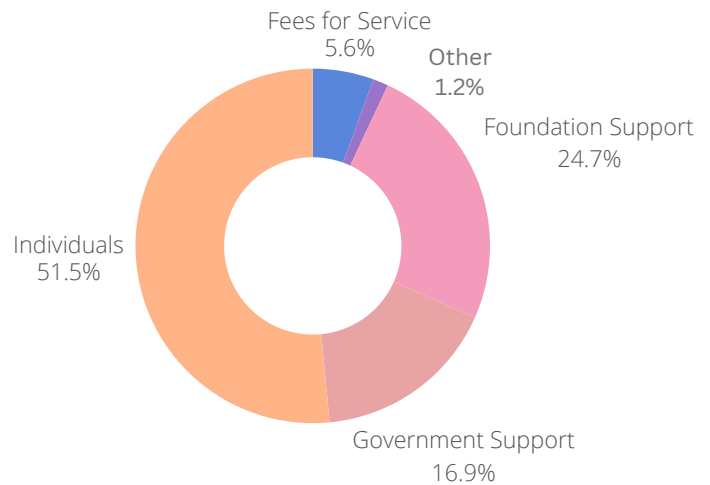


# Investing in Creativity

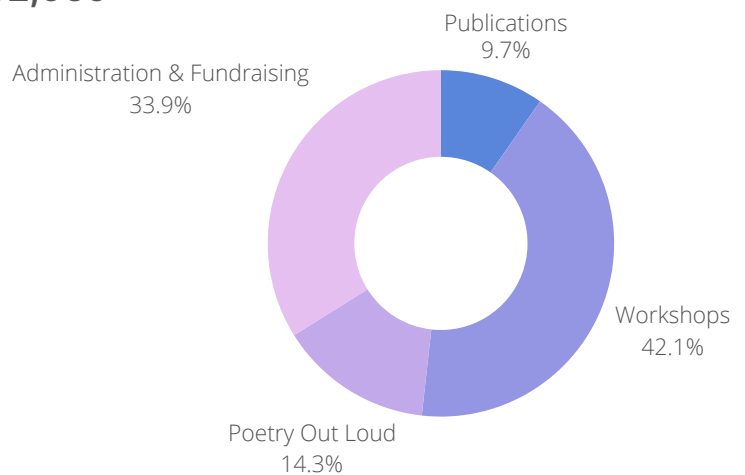


With the generous support of our partners, Teachers & Writers Collaborative is investing in strengthening the quality of our programs, creating new teaching opportunities, and building our staff capacity. T&W remains fiscally resilient despite financial fluctuations over the past three years. T&W maintains a healthy reserve fund that can support operating expenses, as needed.

## FY 2023 Revenue \$1,036,749



## FY 2023 Expenses \$702,959



Playwright and teaching artist Frank Ingrasciotta with students in Brooklyn

# Your Support Matters

## ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of American Poets  
Cerimon Fund  
Charles Lawrence Keith and  
Clara Miller Foundation  
EHA Foundation  
Hyde and Watson  
Laura B. Vogler Foundation  
Lilah Hilliard Fisher Foundation  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation  
Macquarie Group  
Perrigo Company Charitable  
Foundation  
Poetry Foundation  
S&P Global  
Simon and Eve Colin Foundation  
Stonewall Community Foundation  
William T. Grant Foundation  
New York State Council  
on the Arts  
New York City Department  
of Cultural Affairs

## INDIVIDUALS

Kostas Anagnopoulos  
Kathy Bakkenist  
*In honor of Nancy Larson Shapiro*  
Asari Beale  
Michele Bedoya  
Zachary Bribiesca  
Gay Brookes  
Beverly Brown  
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Thomas Buehler  
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*In memory of Eri Reith*  
Carol Conroy  
*In honor of Steve Schrader and*  
*Nancy Larson Shapiro*  
Lisa Conway  
Patricia Cooper  
*In honor of Nancy Larson Shapiro*  
Adriana DiScipio

Chris & Amy Edgar  
Cami and Peter Elbow  
Kenward Elmslie  
Abouali Farmanfarmaian  
Judy and David Feigin  
*In honor of Nancy Larson Shapiro*  
Karen Fitzgerald  
The Grace Fund  
Karen Gardner  
*In honor of the teachers who make*  
*writing come alive for their students*  
Drew Gitomer  
Joanne Glenn  
Harley and Janet Goff  
Ed Goldman  
Karen Goodheart  
Agnes Gund  
Carolyn and Tim Halpin-Healy  
*In honor of Nancy Larson Shapiro*  
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Patricia Hampl  
Alan Herman and Annie Hayes  
Helen Hershkoff and  
Stephen Loffredo  
Jimena Martinez and Michael  
Hirschhorn  
Marv Hoffman and  
Rosellen Brown  
Donald Inniss  
*In honor of Asari Beale*  
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Benjamin Kligler and  
Susan Karwoska  
Toni Katz  
Myra Klahr  
Karen Koch  
Myra Kooy  
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Maury Landsman  
Elizabeth Lee  
Dr. Amy Lemmon  
Ping Li  
Maria Lisella  
*In memory Gil Fagiani*  
Phillip Lopate  
Gerard Lynch and Karen Marisak  
Theresa and Dan Mack  
*In memory of Karen Huberth*

Fatima Malik  
*In memory of Javed Iqbal Malik*  
Carol Malthaner  
Amanda McGrew  
Richard McGuire  
Richard Meier  
Lorrie Millman  
Jean Moore  
In honor of Linda Morel  
Rosemary Moore  
David Barclay Moore  
Linda Morel  
Bruce Morrow  
Sidney Offit  
Daniel Ovardia  
Kate Overgaard  
Ron Padgett  
*In memory of Kenneth Koch*  
Julie Ezelle Patton  
*In honor of Mr. Robert Wells*  
Mary Jane Peterson  
Jeffrey Pflaum  
Catherine Pikula  
Li Qiao  
Mary Reardon  
Jodi Sabra  
Jodi Sabra  
*In honor of Matthew Burgess*  
Steve Schrader  
Lynne Schwartz  
Prartho M. Sereno  
Nancy Larson Shapiro  
and Steve Shapiro  
Myra Shapiro  
Sam Shapiro  
Dean Spencer  
Barbara Stallworth  
Chris Stern Hyman  
Holly Thompson  
Lynda Beth Unkeless  
David Wagner  
David Wilk  
Susan Willerman  
In honor of Harry Arpadi  
Zelda Wirtschafter  
Jaime Wolf  
Alison Wylegala  
Amy Young  
Aaron Zimmerman  
Robert Zupperoli