

Poetry Foundation Annual Report

2024



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Introduction

EACH OF US COMES FROM SOMEWHERE WITH BLOSSOMS.

Victoria Chang
Poetry, January/February 2024



light



Gwendolyn Perry Davis

As I reflect on my first year as board chair, I am drawn to the profound simplicity of Aram Saroyan's one-word poem "lighght"—a work that captures both immediacy and continuous presence. Like this deceptively simple poem, the Poetry Foundation's vision reflects urgent action and enduring influence.

This year marks a significant milestone as we conclude our ambitious three-year grantmaking commitment. Through this initiative, we have invested \$9 million in organizations serving poetry and the literary arts, strengthening the field's ecosystem and future. Just as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe explored light's physical and metaphorical effects on human experience, the Foundation's grantmaking efforts have illuminated new pathways for our grantee-partners and the communities they serve.

The call for more "lighght"—more poetry, more voices, and more innovation—continues to drive our mission forward. The pages that follow detail our year's journey, each initiative and lesson learned, adding to the spectrum of our collective achievement.

In gratitude and verse,

Gwendolyn Perry Davis
Poetry Foundation board chair



Michelle T. Boone

At the beginning of 2024, the Poetry Foundation pledged to elevate poetry to new heights alongside our partners and communities with hope as the guiding force behind everything we do. Hope was our beacon, helping us navigate the challenges of the year, and through it all, we were reminded of poetry's ability to shine light.

To quote Petra Bachmaier and Aram Saroyan, collaborators on our exhibition *More Light!*, "Light is everywhere...[and] poetry is everywhere. Once you notice it, it's everywhere."

With mounting opposition to expression in the form of book bans, suppression of dissent, and the proliferation of hate speech, poetry consistently shines a light on diverse perspectives, extending beyond these barriers. We are grateful to our grantee-partners, 155 organizations over three years of grantmaking creating outlets for expression through poetry amid increasingly difficult circumstances. It has been a privilege and honor to amplify poetry and celebrate poets alongside them.

Beyond communicating our admiration for the work supported in the first three years of our grantmaking strategy, this report reflects how poetry brought more light to our communities throughout 2024 and presents a hopeful path for our collective future.

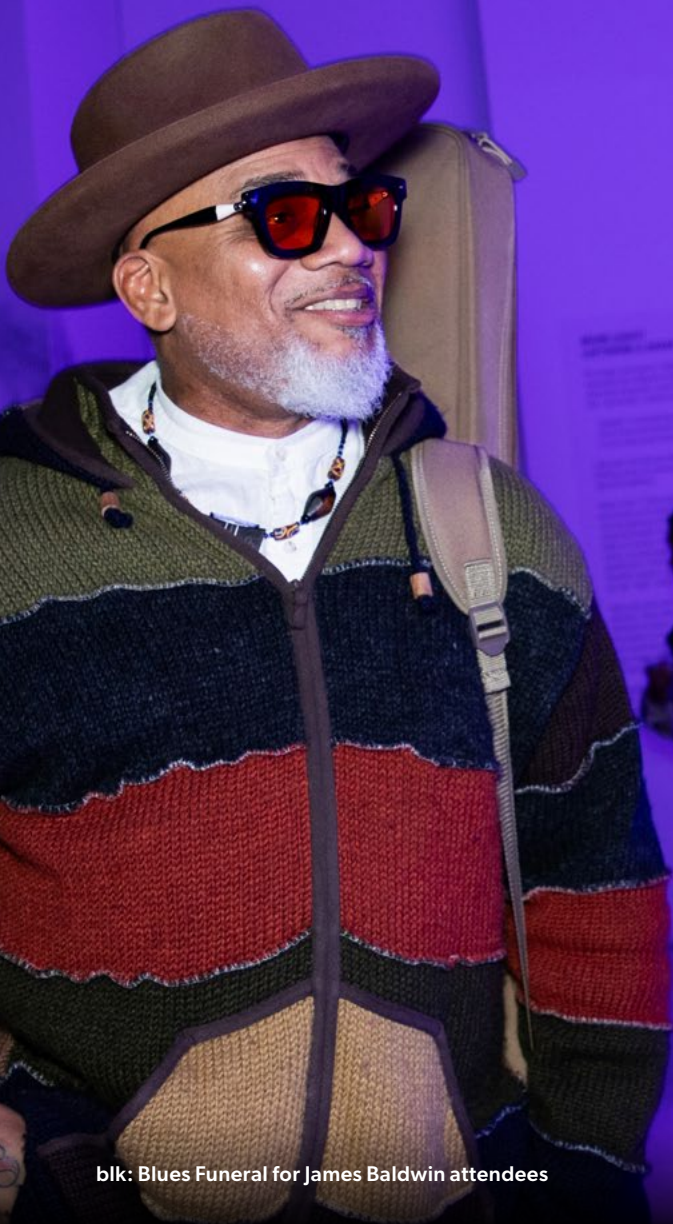
Sincerely,

Michelle T. Boone
Poetry Foundation president and CEO

2024 Key Updates

TIME IS A BODY
THAT RESEMBLES
A SOUND WITHOUT A SCALE.

Alison C. Rollins
Poetry, March 2024



Shining More Light Through Poetry

- The Poetry Foundation continued the pledge to foster the vitality of the nonprofit poetry, literary arts, and publishing communities by [distributing \\$3 million in grants and fulfilling our initial three-year grant commitment](#).
- In response to the abrupt closure of Small Press Distribution in March, we provided \$150,000 in grant funding to establish a [bridge fund for small presses](#) to help cover unanticipated costs.
- In April, we welcomed [new board chair, Gwendolyn Perry Davis](#), and several new trustees while thanking outgoing board chair, Caren Yanis, and other outgoing trustees for their service to the Foundation and poetry.
- In May, we crowned [Niveah Glover the 2024 Poetry Out Loud champion](#) and with the start of the 2024–2025 school year, we kicked off the [20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud](#).
- In July, we honored the [Chicago Poetry Center's 50th anniversary](#) with an exhibition of archival materials, a documentary film premiere, and live readings and performances from CPC poets. At the end of the year, the Poetry Foundation and Chicago Poetry Center were voted [Chicago's Best Poetry Organization and First Runner-Up](#), respectively.
- In August, [PoetryFoundation.org](#) introduced enhanced and upgraded functionality to make it easier for the 48.7 million active users to engage with the archive of free vital poetry resources.
- Also in August, we awarded [\\$135,000 to five outstanding young adult poets](#) through the annual Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship.
- In September, we brought more than 500 people together across four Chicago neighborhoods for [ECOS: A Latine Poetry Festival](#).
- In October, we celebrated the [20th anniversary of the Pegasus Awards](#) and honored four extraordinary award recipients.
- Throughout the year, we hosted dozens of [free public events](#), including poetry readings, writing workshops, book clubs, exhibitions, and more, all celebrating poetry and poets.
- [Poetry magazine](#) maintained its commitment to publishing diverse perspectives and emergent voices, including 155 first-time contributors, representing 54% of the poets published.

you will love on opposite ends of a compass
to quiet the lacuna between your two suns.

Excerpt from "M A S H" by [Kush Thompson](#),
featured in *Poetry*, May 2024



Grants

I('LL) SPROUT ANY HOW (FLOURISH!)

Samiya Bashir
Poetry, April 2024



2024 marked the third year of the Poetry Foundation's **three-year commitment to supporting poetry and literary arts nonprofits in the United States through grantmaking**. Grant recipients have included poetry, literary, and cultural nonprofits that offer fellowships, retreats, and residencies for poets; poetry and book festivals; in- and after-school poetry programs; poetry presses and publications; and poetry workshops for adults, including workshops for those who are incarcerated. The Poetry Foundation also established the Small Press Bridge Fund, which provided \$150,000 in emergency funds to 37 small, nonprofit poetry presses impacted by the sudden dissolution of Small Press Distribution in March 2024.

2024 GRANTS

\$3,150,000

in grants awarded to nonprofit organizations

166

grants awarded to 155 organizations

63%

of funds went toward general operating support; the remaining funds went toward program support

IMPACT OF THREE-YEAR GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

Since 2022, the Foundation has awarded 445 grants totaling more than \$9 million to 277 nonprofit organizations, presses, and publications across 42 US states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Key Highlights

- Grants helped grantee-partners serve more than 10 million people
- Grants enabled grantee-partners to pay more than 13,000 poets
- Grants funded 127 organizations (46% of grantee-partners) with annual operating budgets under \$500,000
- 60% of grants provided general operating support
- 22% of grants supported organizations based in Illinois, the Poetry Foundation's home state



WordPlay Cincy board of directors by the Creative Hub mural. Photo courtesy of WordPlay Cincy.

GRANTEE-PARTNER PERCEPTION SURVEY RESULTS

The Poetry Foundation partnered with the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) to conduct our first Grantee-Partner Perception Survey. With a 65% response rate, grantee-partners shared candid feedback that highlighted:

Strengths

- The Foundation's commitment to supporting organizations led by and supporting historically underserved poets and communities
- The Foundation's contributions to cultivating knowledge in the field of poetry
- The approachability and responsiveness of our grants staff

Opportunities

- Providing multi-year funding
- Offering capacity-building support and hosting convenings
- Using the Poetry Foundation's platforms to amplify grantee-partners' work

"AT ANY POINT IN TIME, ESPECIALLY AS A FIRST-TIME GRANTEE, they answered questions in a way that made me feel they were rooting for us to apply and to be considered. That speaks volumes for those of us whose organizations heavily depend on grant opportunities."

— 2024 grantee-partner perception survey respondent

"I FEEL LIKE THERE IS A TONE OF COLLABORATION MORE THAN CHARITY—the communications and organizational systems appear to be structured in ways that make my organization feel a sense of partnership with the Poetry Foundation."

— 2024 grantee-partner perception survey respondent

The full survey results are available as [a report on CEP's website](#). This feedback has been invaluable in refining our grantmaking practices. We are deeply grateful to the CEP for their partnership and to our grantee-partners for sharing their thoughtful insights.



WriteGirl mentee and mentor at a WriteGirl Fiction Workshop. Photo courtesy of WriteGirl.

GRANTEE-PARTNER PROFILES

In 2024, the Poetry Foundation published 23 [grantee-partner profiles](#) on the website, broadening their reach with posts on social media and inclusion in newsletters. These profiles provide a snapshot of our grantee-partners' work to advance poetry and the literary arts, raising awareness of the individual organizations and the Foundation's grantmaking efforts.



In-Na-Po poets with Joy Harjo in Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of In-Na-Po.

2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Equity in Verse

- [Atelos](#) - \$10,000
- [Alegria Bilingual Bookstores & Arts Collective](#) - \$25,000
- [American Poetry Museum](#) - \$30,000
- [Artes de México En Utah](#) - \$20,000
- [Bamboo Ridge Press](#) - \$35,000
- [Brew & Forge](#) - \$15,000
- [Burst Into Books](#) - \$25,000
- [CantoMundo](#) - \$20,000
- [Cardboard House Press](#) - \$40,000
- [Cave Canem Foundation](#) - \$55,000
- [CityLit Project](#) - \$40,000
- [Community Literature Initiative](#) - \$50,000
- [ConTextos](#) - \$30,000
- [contratiempo](#) - \$15,000
- [Fogliifter Press](#) - \$10,000
- [Furious Flower Poetry Center at James Madison University](#) - \$40,000
- [Guild Literary Complex](#) - \$40,000
- [Infrarrealista Review](#) - \$15,000
- [In-Na-Po, Indigenous Nations Poets](#) - \$50,000
- [InsideOut Literary Arts](#) - \$30,000
- [John Walt Foundation](#) - \$20,000
- [Kuumba Lynx](#) - \$40,000
- [Letras Latinas at University of Notre Dame](#) - \$35,000
- [Lucky Jefferson](#) - \$10,000
- [Lugar Comun](#) - \$25,000
- [Noemi Press](#) - \$40,000
- [Northwest New Mexico Arts Council](#) - \$15,000
- [Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora at Illinois State University](#) - \$50,000
- [O, Miami](#) - \$40,000
- [Poetry Online](#) - \$10,000
- [Puha Hubiya](#) - \$15,000
- [Radical Reversal](#) - \$40,000
- [Reading Between the Lines](#) - \$35,000
- [SISTORIES](#) - \$20,000
- [Split This Rock](#) - \$40,000
- [Stomping Grounds Literary Arts Initiative](#) - \$25,000
- [Taller Comunidad La Goyco](#) - \$45,000
- [Teachers and Writers Collaborative](#) - \$30,000
- [The Beautiful Project](#) - \$30,000
- [The Philly Pigeon](#) - \$20,000
- [The Watering Hole Poetry Organization](#) - \$25,000
- [Third World Press Foundation](#) - \$50,000
- [Torch Literary Arts](#) - \$40,000
- [Young Chicago Authors](#) - \$45,000
- [Youth Speaks](#) - \$40,000
- [WordPlay Cincy](#) - \$20,000
- [Words of the People](#) - \$35,000
- [Words To Power](#) - \$20,000

Poetry Programs, Partnerships, and Innovation

- [826CHI](#) - \$20,000
- [Academy of American Poets](#) - \$40,000
- [Alice James Books](#) - \$30,000
- [CavanKerry Press](#) - \$20,000
- [City of Asylum / Detroit](#) - \$10,000
- [Community of Literary Magazines and Presses](#) - \$60,000
- [Chicago Poetry Center](#) - \$50,000
- [Flood Editions](#) - \$15,000
- [Futurepoem](#) - \$10,000
- [Gemini Ink](#) (The Gemini Series) - \$20,000
- [Green Linden Press](#) - \$5,000
- [Hermitage Artist Retreat](#) - \$20,000
- [Hub City Writers Project](#) - \$30,000
- [Kalamazoo Poetry Festival](#) - \$15,000
- [MAKE Literary Productions](#) - \$25,000
- [Mass Poetry](#) - \$40,000
- [Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop](#) - \$40,000
- [National Poetry Series](#) - \$25,000
- [Nightboat Books](#) - \$30,000
- [O, Miami](#) - \$35,000
- [One Book One New Orleans](#) - \$10,000
- [People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos](#) - \$20,000
- [Poetic Justice](#) - \$40,000
- [Poets House](#) - \$50,000
- [Public Poetry](#) - \$10,000
- [San Antonio Book Festival](#) - \$10,000
- [Shout Mouse Press](#) - \$25,000
- [Sinister Wisdom](#) - \$15,000
- [Snow City Arts](#) - \$10,000
- [Street Poets](#) - \$30,000
- [Sundress Publications](#) - \$20,000
- [The Care Center](#) - \$35,000
- [The Poetry Forum \(RHINO Poetry\)](#) - \$10,000
- [Thurber House](#) - \$14,000
- [Ugly Duckling Presse](#) - \$25,000
- [Under the Volcano International](#) - \$25,000
- [Woodland Pattern](#) - \$45,000
- [Words Beats and Life](#) - \$30,000
- [Words Without Borders](#) - \$25,000
- [World Poetry Books](#) - \$35,000
- [WriteGirl](#) - \$25,000



2023 Torch Retreat fellows with Torch Literary Arts staff. Photo courtesy of Torch Literary Arts.

Special Opportunity Grants and Sponsorships

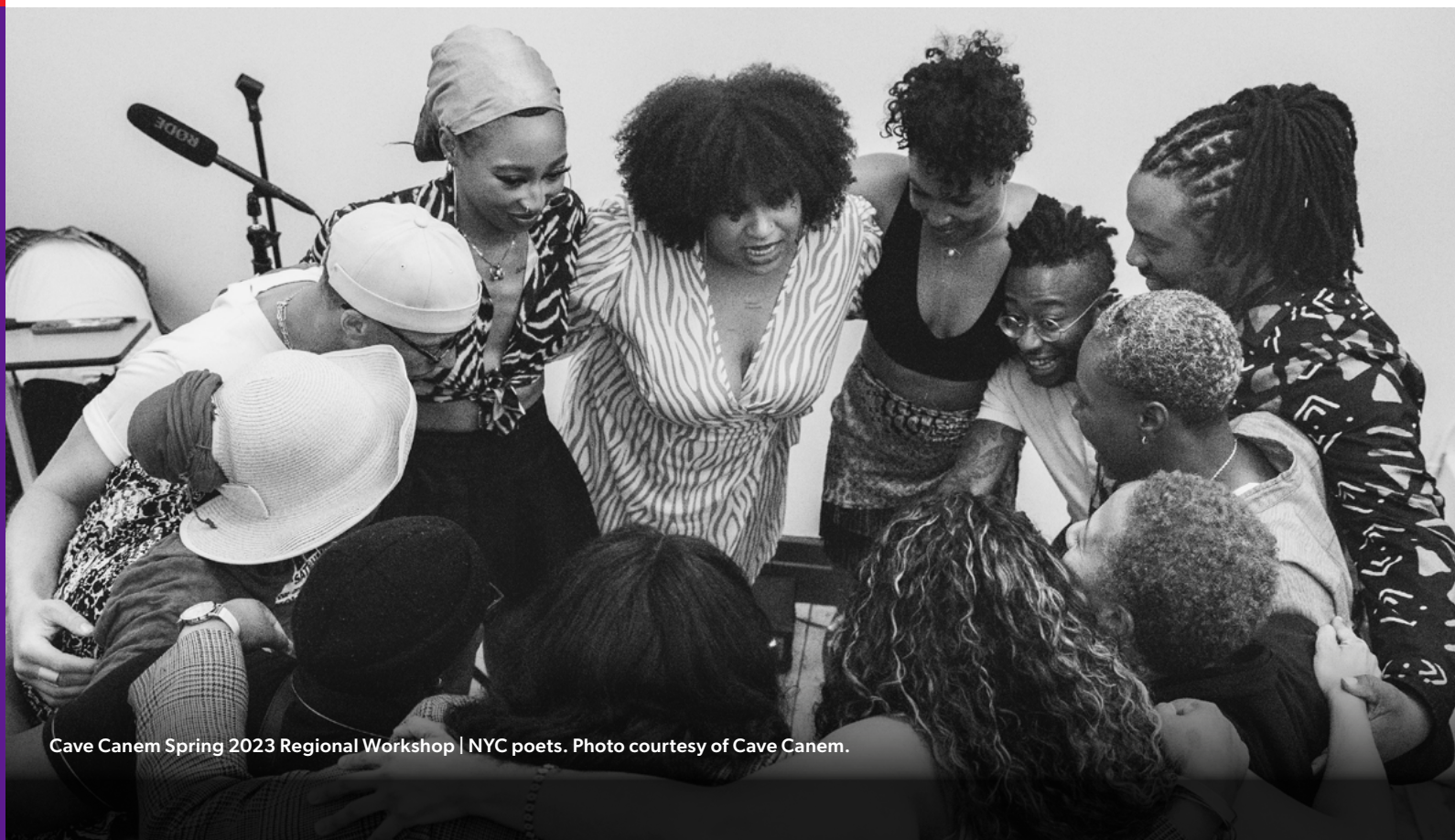
- [826CHI](#) - \$2,500
- [Academy of American Poets](#) - \$21,500
- [American Library Association](#) - \$20,000
- [American Writers Museum](#) - \$25,000
- [Before Columbus Foundation](#) - \$2,500
- [Brooks Permissions](#) - \$26,000
- [contratiempo](#) - \$5,000
- [Court Theatre](#) - \$10,000
- [FJC—A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds](#) - \$5,000
- [Flint Zeta Foundation](#) - \$10,000
- [Goodman Theatre](#) - \$25,000
- [Grantmakers in the Arts](#) - \$25,000
- [Griot & Grey Owl Black Southern Writers Conference](#) - \$1,500
- [Harris Theater for Music and Dance](#) - \$10,000
- [Illinois Arts Alliance](#) - \$5,000
- [Lambda Literary](#) - \$5,000
- [MacDowell](#) - \$25,000
- [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) - \$20,000
- [National Book Awards](#) - \$25,000
- [Near South Planning Board](#) - \$10,000
- [PEN America](#) - \$25,000
- [Philadelphia Ave Black Arts District](#) - \$20,000
- [Poetry Northwest](#) - \$10,000
- [Puerto Rican Arts Alliance](#) - \$5,000
- [Sarabande Books](#) - \$10,000
- [Small Press Distribution](#) - \$20,000
- [Small Press Traffic](#) - \$20,000
- [The Griot Collective of West Tennessee](#) - \$15,000
- [Third World Press Foundation](#) - \$5,000
- [University of Nebraska, Lincoln—African Poetry Book Fund](#) - \$121,122
- [Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University](#) - \$10,000
- [Woodland Pattern](#) - \$525

Small Press Bridge Fund

- [Airlie Press](#) - \$3,000
- [Ashland Poetry Press](#) - \$2,000
- [Atelos](#) - \$4,000
- [Aunt Lute Books](#) - \$4,000
- [Belladonna Series](#) - \$5,000
- [Birds, LLC](#) - \$1,500
- [Black Square Editions / Off The Park Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Bordighera Press](#) - \$2,500
- [Bridge Art](#) - \$2,000
- [Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center](#) - \$3,250
- [Chax Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Counterpath Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Dos Madres Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Drunken Boat](#) - \$3,500
- [ELJ Editions](#) - \$2,500
- [Fonograf Editions](#) - \$6,000
- [Green Linden Press](#) - \$1,800
- [Grid Books](#) - \$6,000
- [Hanging Loose Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Kelsey Street Press](#) - \$4,600
- [Kenning Editions](#) - \$2,500
- [Kore Press](#) - \$6,000
- [Krupskaya Books](#) - \$2,750
- [Litmus Press](#) - \$6,500
- [Marsh Hawk Press](#) - \$4,000
- [Passager Books](#) - \$4,000
- [Perugia Press](#) - \$3,500
- [Roof Books](#) - \$5,400
- [Rose Metal Press](#) - \$4,200
- [Silverfish Review Press](#) - \$4,500
- [Sixteen Rivers Press](#) - \$3,000
- [Switchback Books](#) - \$500
- [Tupelo Press](#) - \$6,400
- [The Word Works](#) - \$4,000
- [Un-Gyve Press](#) - \$5,500
- [Veliz Books](#) - \$4,000
- [Verge Books](#) - \$1,200

Program Partnership Support

- [Chicago Public Library Foundation](#) - \$5,000
- [Chicago Public Media](#) - \$5,000
- [Ideas xLab — Creativity America](#) - \$50,000
- [Illinois Humanities — Gwendolyn Brooks Youth Poetry Awards](#) - \$15,000
- [Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation — Poetry Out Loud](#) - \$500,000
- [Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project](#) - \$15,000
- [Reader Institute for Contemporary Journalism](#) - \$5,000
- [University of Chicago — Logan Center](#) - \$11,250



Cave Canem Spring 2023 Regional Workshop | NYC poets. Photo courtesy of Cave Canem.

Awards



MY HANDS LET FLY ANOTHER LETTER

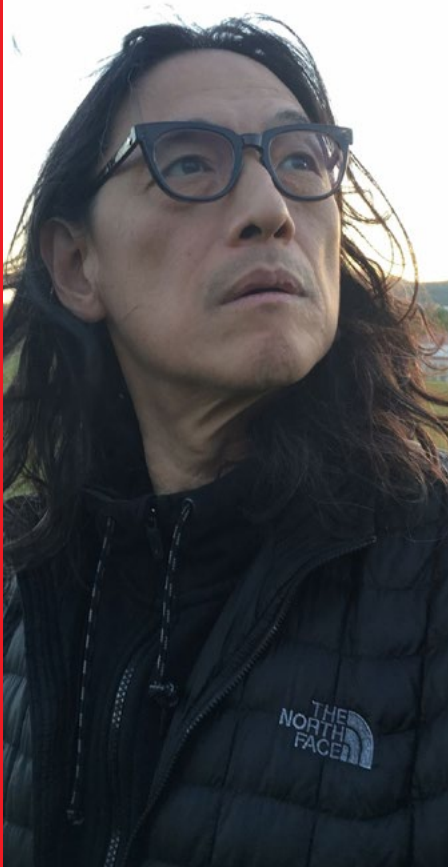
Bei Dao, tr. by Jeffrey Yang
Poetry, May 2024

Pegasus Award ceremony attendees

THE PEGASUS AWARDS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The [Pegasus Awards](#), the Poetry Foundation's suite of literary prizes, were established in 2004. The first Pegasus Awards ceremony was held on October 5, 2004, in Chicago's Millennium Park and honored Samuel Menashe and Billy Collins.

The 20th annual Pegasus Awards were held on October 24, 2024, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. A vibrant crowd of more than 300 guests, including staff and trustees, enjoyed performances and remarks from Poetry Foundation president and CEO, Michelle T. Boone; founder and director of Burst Into Books, Jurema Gorham; *Poetry* magazine editor, Adrian Matejka; *The Paris Review* poetry editor, Srikanth Reddy; executive director of the Chicago Poetry Center, B. Metzger Sampson; and Chicago Poet Laureate, avery r. young, with performances by JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound, DJ Rae Chardonnay, Chicago Repertory Ballet, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, and Young Chicago Authors.



Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize

Awarded annually, the \$100,000 [Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize](#) honors a living American poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition. Established in 1986 by Ruth Lilly, the prize is among the most prestigious awards given to poets in the United States.

2024 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize recipient **Li-Young Lee** is a poet, translator, and author of five poetry collections and the memoir *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance*. Lee's honors include a Lannan Literary Award, Whiting Award, PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award, I. B. Lavan Award, three Pushcart Prizes, a William Carlos Williams award, fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Academy of American Poets, and many others. Lee often uses narrative, personal experience, and memories to investigate the spiritual and universal; he writes on family, memory, and mortality, and his work's relationship with these concepts has evolved over the course of his career.

Pegasus Award for Service in Poetry

Awarded annually, the [Pegasus Award for Service in Poetry](#) is bestowed in recognition of commitment and extraordinary work in poetry and the literary arts through administration, advocacy, education, publishing, or service. Established in 2023, the award includes a cash prize of \$25,000.

2024 recipient of the Pegasus Award for Service in Poetry **Jen Benka** is the author of two poetry collections, an artist book, and an Xeric-winning and Eisner-nominated comic book series. Benka has worked in service to poets and poetry for 25 years, including as president and executive director of the Academy of American Poets, managing director of *Poets & Writers*, and the director of marketing and development at 826 National. Benka now works as a consultant to nonprofit and philanthropic institutions.



Jen Benka by Molly Burnett Walsh

Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism

The [Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism](#) is an annual \$10,000 prize that commends an outstanding book-length work of poetry criticism published in the United States in the prior calendar year. Eligible works include biographies, essay collections, and critical editions that consider the subject of poetry or poets.

Elizabeth Sarah Coles is the winner of the 2024 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism for *Anne Carson: The Glass Essayist*, which examines and celebrates Carson as an experimental scholar and reader. Coles's previous honors include a T.R. Henn Prize for English, Wood-Whistler Medal and Scholarship, and a Gradiva Award. Coles is the director of Performing the Lecture, a program of lecture-performances held in partnership with Barcelona's Centre Cultura Contemporània.

2024 PEGASUS AWARD FOR POETRY CRITICISM FINALISTS

- Terrance Hayes for *Watch Your Language: Visual and Literary Reflections on a Century of American Poetry*
- Roger Reeves for *Dark Days: Fugitive Essays*



Elizabeth Sarah Coles
by Amador Vega

Young People's Poet Laureate

Appointed every two years, the title of [Young People's Poet Laureate](#) (YPPL) is awarded to a poet in recognition of a career devoted to writing exceptional poetry for young readers while working to instill a lifelong love of poetry among developing readers. The two-year appointment comes with a \$25,000 annual stipend and additional programmatic funding in support of a project that promotes poetry to young people and their families, teachers, and librarians.

2025–2027 Young People's Poet Laureate **Carole Boston Weatherford** has written more than 70 books and received numerous awards, including multiple Caldecott Honors and Coretta Scott King Honors. Her career achievements have been recognized with a Ragan-Rubin Award for Literary Achievement, a North Carolina Award for Literature, and induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. A retired Fayetteville State University professor, she lives in Maryland.



Carole Boston Weatherford
courtesy of the poet



Pegasus Awards reception

FELLOWSHIPS

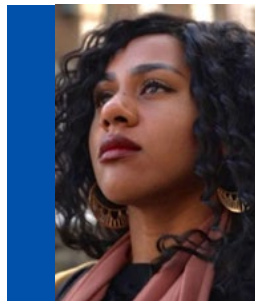
Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowships

Since 1989, the Poetry Foundation has awarded [Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowships](#) to outstanding young poets in recognition of their current and potential future contributions to the field. The \$27,000 prize makes the fellowships among the largest awards available to young poets in the United States. Each fellow receives a subscription and an invitation to publish in *Poetry* magazine. The Poetry Foundation also sponsored their attendance at the Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark, New Jersey, where the 2024 fellows participated in their first public reading as a cohort.

2024 RUTH LILLY AND DOROTHY SARGENT ROSENBERG FELLOWS



Rob Macaisa Colgate



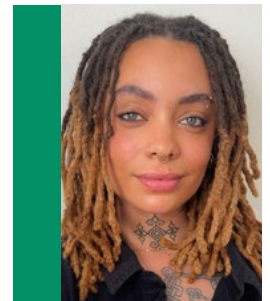
Marissa Davis



Hermelinda Hernandez
Monjaras



Chandanie Somwaru



marion eames white

Fellows photos by Felicia Byron, Kalilinoe Detwiler, Alex Peterson, and the poets

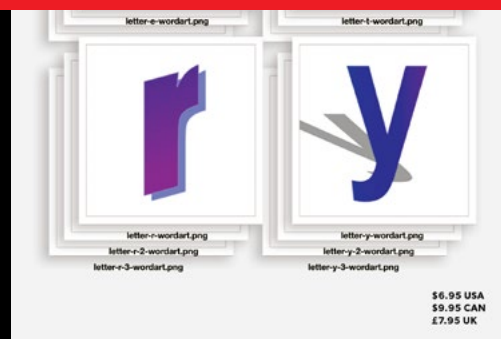
2024 FELLOWSHIP FINALISTS

- Adedayo Agarau
- Threa Almontaser
- Shlagha Borah
- Isabella DeSendi
- Stefania Gomez
- Abhijit Sarmah
- Kira Alexis Tucker



Michelle T. Boone at the Pegasus Awards ceremony

Poetry Magazine



THE POETS HAVE EMERGED!
THE POETS HAVE EMERGED!

Joe Carrick-Varty
Poetry, June 2024



Poetry magazine remains as committed to being innovative and collaborative as when it was founded by Harriet Monroe in 1912. In 2024, *Poetry* expanded its folio offerings, featuring organizations like Letras Latinas and the Fire & Ink Festival, along with poets who had not been previously featured in the magazine, such as Melvin Dixon, Nicolás Guillén, and Salima Rivera.

Poetry Publishing

10 issues, including
two double issues

502 poems

288 poets

155 (54%)
were first-time contributors

377 [audio poems](#)

49 prose pieces

9 folios

Poetry Administration

19,959 submissions
received

\$336,954 paid to
poets

21,500 print subscribers
received *Poetry*

3,000 issues donated
to community
organizations, visitors,
and event attendees

Poetry Magazine App Users

33,536

"POETRY IS MOSTLY LIKE OTHER ARTS:

work and more work, curiosity and contemplation, studying and more studying. But one of the things that differentiates the art of poetry is that poems always start with a question while hoping to find an answer....It's more magnanimous to move through the world with wonder than with unearned certainty. Certainty is for football coaches and mathematicians, not poets."

—Adrian Matejka, editor, *Poetry*

Content Highlights: Folios

- Salima Rivera (March)
- Melvin Dixon (April)
- Fire & Ink (July/August)
- Gwendolyn Brooks (September)
- Nicolás Guillén (September)
- Li-Young Lee (October)
- Jayne Cortez (November)
- Letras Latinas (December)



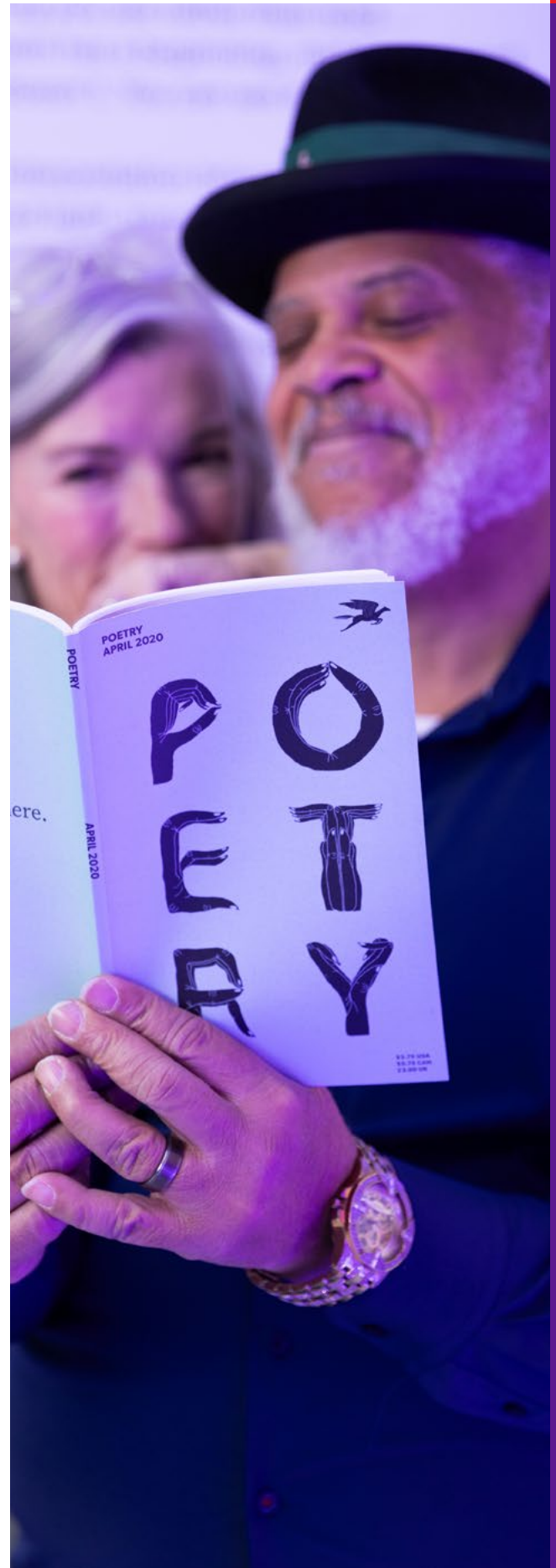
Photo by Joe Alicea from the Salima Rivera folio, *Poetry*, March 2024

Awards Poetry Administered

Several prizes are awarded annually for work printed in *Poetry* during the preceding year. Only poems already published in the magazine are eligible for consideration, and no formal application is necessary.

- The **Levinson Prize** of \$500 was awarded to Ishion Hutchinson for his poem "The Anabasis of Godspeed," *Poetry*, October 2023.
- The **Bess Hokin Prize** of \$1,000 was awarded to Tayi Tibble for her poem titled "Lil Mermaidz," *Poetry*, March 2024.
- The **Frederick Bock Prize** of \$500 was awarded to Jackie Sabbagh for her poems "Female CEO" and "Having a Great Time Being Transgender in America Lately," *Poetry*, June 2024.
- The **J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize** of \$5,000 was awarded to Henneh Kyereh Kwaku for his poems "In Praise" and "A short note on writing a joyful poem," *Poetry*, October 2023.
- The **John Frederick Nims Memorial Prize for Translation** of \$500 was awarded to Monika Cassel for her translations from the German of Daniela Danz's poems, "Come wilderness into our homes" and "The signals come in from the dark," *Poetry*, December 2023.
- The **Friends of Literature Prize** of \$500 was awarded to Danielle Vogel for her poem "Drifts," *Poetry*, March 2024.
- The **Editors Prize for Visual Poetry** of \$1,000 was awarded to Kate Asche for her poem "[Untitled]," *Poetry*, May 2024.
- The **Editors Prize for Feature Article** of \$1,000 was awarded to two authors: Joe Alicea for his essay "'I Am a Contradiction': On the Poetry of Salima Rivera" from *Poetry*, March 2024, and the late Melvin Dixon for his speech "I'll Be Somewhere Listening for My Name," from *Poetry*, April 2024.

Many thanks to the judges of 2024 magazine prizes, Laura Da', LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, Trace Peterson, Arisa White, and Timothy Yu.

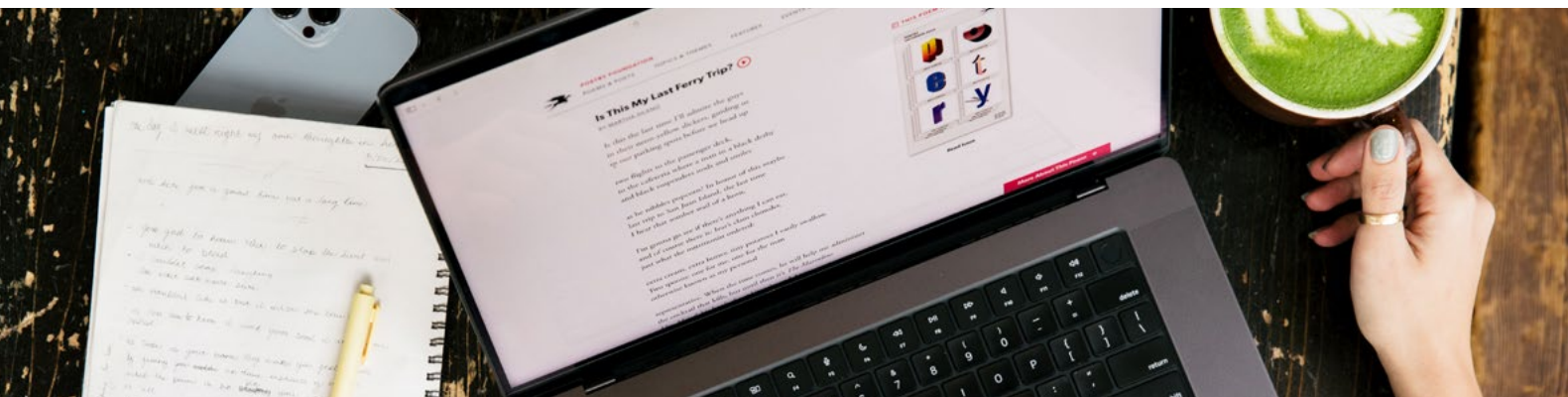


Poetry, Prose, and Podcasts

The background of the page is a dark, textured green. On the left side, there are three vertical, glowing yellow-green stripes that resemble light beams or stylized trees. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted shapes that look like figures or trees. The overall mood is mysterious and artistic.

MAY ALL LIVING THINGS
BE HAPPY ONE DAY.
BUT LET THEM TAKE THEIR TIME.

Jessica Abughattas
Poetry, July/August 2024



[PoetryFoundation.org](https://www.poetryfoundation.org) remains **one of the world's largest free online English-language poetry resources**. Continuously updated with poems, author biographies, and editorial content, this digital archive serves as a vital resource for anyone looking to connect with poetry.

POETRYFOUNDATION.ORG BY THE NUMBERS

48,841 poems in the archive

830 poems added in 2024*

48.7 million active users

4.1 million average monthly website visits

364 poet bios added or updated

12 new glossary entries

3 Remembrances essays published by three authors

35 web features written by 32 authors

26 *Poetry Off the Shelf* podcast guests

306 new audio poems

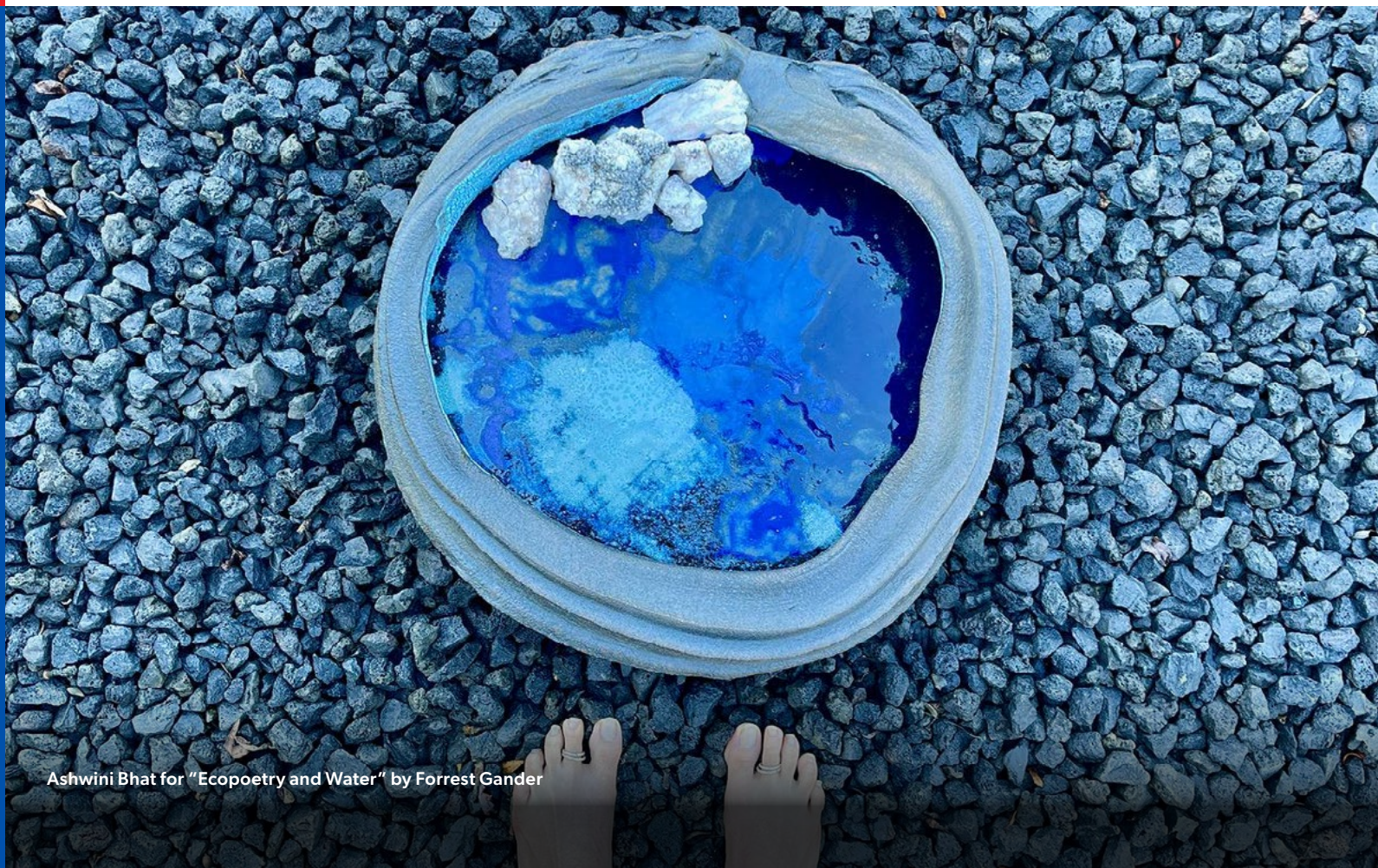
*inclusive of poems published in *Poetry*

2024 WEBSITE UPDATES

In August 2024, PoetryFoundation.org underwent extensive sitewide updates after months of research, planning, and testing led by the IT team alongside colleagues and partner agency, Happy Cog. The updates included transitioning to a new content management system to address performance and workflow issues and setting the groundwork for continual, iterative improvements over time.

Highlights

- Enhanced user experience through navigation and updated page templates
- Major updates to categories, including more nuanced categories for emotions
- Themes to unite content from related topics, encouraging a deeper browsing experience
- Grouping works by translations or related works
- Improved awards, grants, events, and programs pages
- More photos throughout, including more featuring people, particularly on the homepage and Poets page



Ashwini Bhat for "Ecopoetry and Water" by Forrest Gander

POETRY

New Collections

[Poetry collections](#) are thoughtfully curated compilations of poems, articles, audio, and more digital resources dedicated to a specific theme, poet, or movement.

- [Nomad for Love: A Tilsa Otta Folio](#)
- [Ecopoetry and Water](#)
- [Planting Our Poetry Garden](#)

New Poem Sampler

[Poem samplers](#) take a deep dive into the work of an individual poet with a selection of poems that exemplify aspects of their art and practice.

- [Li-Young Lee](#), 2024 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize recipient

New Poem Guides

[Poem guides](#) feature in-depth essays and interactive elements on the themes, techniques, and context of individual poems.

- ["A Division of Gods" by Ariana Brown](#)
- ["Fragment 36" by H.D. and Sappho](#)
- ["The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot](#)
- ["Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost](#)
- ["Dreamwalking Ballad" by Federico Garcia Lorca](#)
- ["Speaking Alone" by Tristan Tzara](#)
- ["A Bird in Bishopwood" by John Tickhill](#)
- [Metamorphoses: "Erysichthon" by Ovid and "Erysichthon's Seed" by Shanta Lee](#)



PROSE

Feature Essays

Features—which include criticism, profiles, interviews, and hybrid essays—explore a single book or poet in depth. Subjects range from contemporary poets to archival deep-dives to digital folios that span a poet’s career. Many features are also accompanied by original commissioned artwork.

34 features

31 writers

Harriet Books

The **Harriet Books** series featured micro-reviews written by a rotating team of poets. Reviews focus on poetry books published by small and independent presses, authored by poets from marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds, poetry in translation, and chapbooks. Reviews were sunsetted at the end of 2024.

89 book reviews

5 book reviewers

Not Too Hard to Master

2024 introduced the *Not Too Hard to Master* series in which poets write on form and share a prompt. Three essays were released in the series in 2024 with the next iterations publishing in spring 2025.

Remembrances

The *Remembrance* series, which pays tribute to poets who died recently, was launched in November with three essays published in 2024 and more to come in 2025.



Changyu Zou for "There's Nothing in the World Smaller Than the Universe" by Ed Simon



Poetry Off the Shelf producer Helena de Groot



VS cohosts Brittany Rogers and Ajanaé Dawkins

PODCASTS

1,044,747

podcast episode listeners
across five podcasts

- [Audio Poem of the Day](#) - 613,564
- [Poetry Magazine Podcast](#) - 50,675
- [Poetry Off the Shelf](#) - 295,041
- [Poem Talk](#) - 35,881
- [VS the Podcast](#) - 49,586

VS the Podcast

In 2024, VS kicked off its eighth season, the third hosted by Brittany Rogers and Ajanaé Dawkins and produced by Cin Pim. Brittany and Ajanaé focused on global voices, uplifting Congolese, Palestinian, and Sudanese poets like Sarah Ghazal Ali, Farah Chamm, Sarah Lubala, and Daad Sharfi. The mostly joyful, always contemplative conversations confronted the ideas that moved the poets through the lens of poetic and personal lineages.

In the fall, VS partnered with the Furious Flower Poetry Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for a live episode. It was recorded with Mahogany L. Browne and Yona Harvey at the fourth Furious Flower Poetry Conference, which celebrates Black poetry by bringing Black poets from around the world together every 10 years.

11

episodes

25,834

unique listens

13

guests

49,586

episode downloads

Engagement and Outreach



I DID NOT KNOW HOW
BEAUTIFUL WE ARE!

Mei-mei Berssenbrugge
Poetry, September 2024

The Poetry Foundation leads and supports several initiatives that **cultivate an appreciation for poetry** from its space in River North to the classroom, the stage, and the greater community.

LIBRARY

The Poetry Foundation **library** is the Midwest's only library dedicated to poetry. Visitors can access more than 40,000 volumes of poetry, experience audio and video recordings, and view exhibitions of poetry-related materials in the reading room. Library staff believe that poetry is something to be shared, and the collection is curated to encourage engagement. In addition to books, guests can participate in writing activities, reading challenges, and art-making stations. Writers of all experience levels can refine their craft in workshops and readers can connect from anywhere through online book clubs.

Book Clubs

Library staff moderate a book club featuring works by a wide range of classic and contemporary poets. Guests can join from anywhere thanks to a virtual format.

11 book clubs

7 of the books discussed were by BIPOC poets

184 participants

7 of the books discussed were by living poets



Writing Workshops

Forms & Features, the library's long-standing writing workshop, brings writers together to learn about different poetic forms and techniques from poets, teaching artists, and each other. Many of the sessions center work appearing in *Poetry* or other Poetry Foundation programming.

The "Celebrating the Poets of Forms & Features" reading series allows past participants the opportunity to share work they have developed in the workshops. In 2024, two events featured readings by the 12 Visiting Teaching Artists.

96 workshop sessions

1,296 participants

12 teaching artists

"I HAVE SO ENJOYED YOUR ONLINE WORKSHOPS; every time I participate in a session, I just want to write and write and write afterward. The topics and readings you choose are so interesting and have really helped me to grow as a writer and to be increasingly thoughtful of my process and my work. This has been a huge blessing in my life, and I'm so grateful."

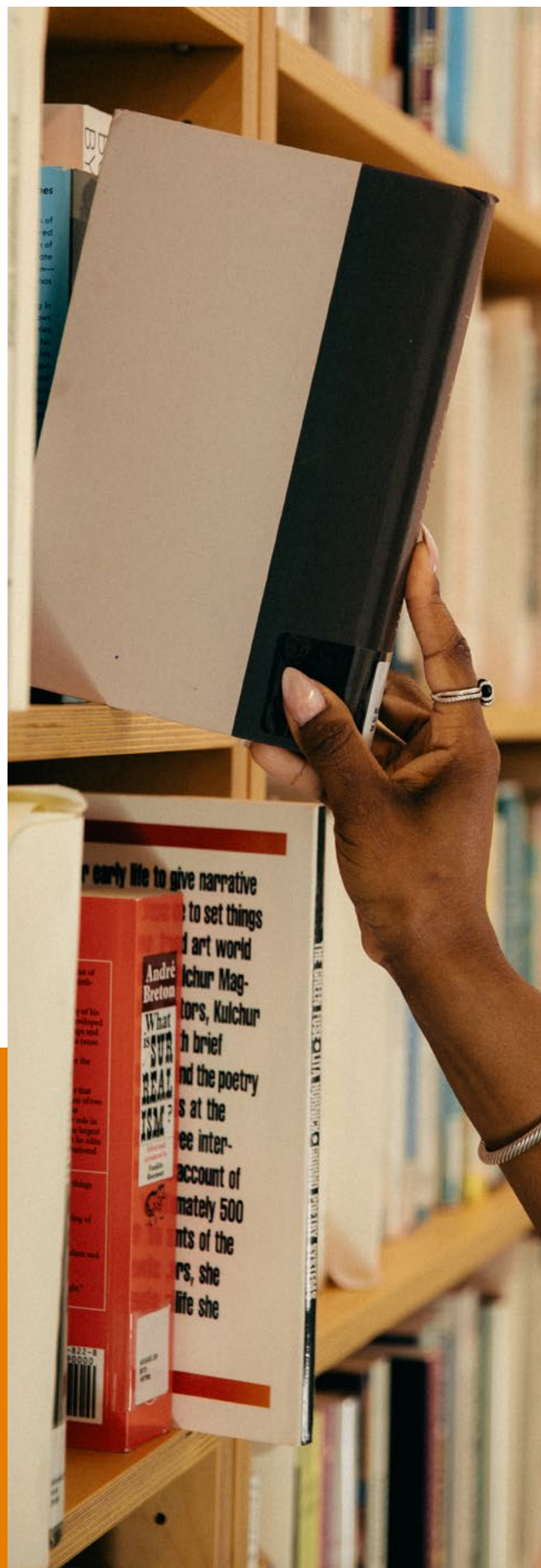
—2024 Forms & Features workshop participant



Top 10 Library Books Consulted

(in descending order)

1. *Glass, Irony, and God*, Anne Carson
2. *S O S: Poems 1961–2013*, Amiri Baraka
3. *The Cantos*, Ezra Pound
4. *The Colossus and Other Poems*, Sylvia Plath
5. *A Thousand Mornings*, Mary Oliver
6. *Dream Work*, Mary Oliver
7. *Jimmy's Blues: Selected Poems*, James Baldwin
8. *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*
9. *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World*, edited and introduced by Ada Limón, 24th Poet Laureate of the United States
10. *Blue Horses: Poems*, Mary Oliver



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud® is a national arts education program that **encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students.** The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation partner with US-state arts agencies to support Poetry Out Loud, which engages thousands of students and educators across every US state, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- 160,739 students
- 1,498 schools and organizations
- \$44,500 awarded to competitors and their schools
- \$60,500 awarded to the top 12 finalists

2024 CHAMPIONS

- First place: Niveah Glover, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida, received a \$20,000 prize
- Second place: Tiana Renee Jones, a sophomore at Whitefield Academy in Mableton, Georgia, received a \$10,000 prize
- Third place: Nyla Dinkins, a sophomore at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, DC, received a \$5,000 prize



2024 Poetry Out Loud national finalists

"POL IS ONE BIG FAMILY. Everyone is in support of each other. It surprised me how much it didn't feel like a competition; instead, it felt like a group of people who were simply passionate about poetry—sharing it with each other and an audience."

—Niveah Glover, 2024 Poetry Out Loud National Champion



Niveah Glover

Summer Poetry Teachers Institute

In July, educators from across the United States gathered in Chicago at DePaul University for the annual [Summer Poetry Teachers Institute](#). Participants attended seminars and workshops presented by poets and educators, breakout sessions led by expert teachers, and a curriculum fair. They connected with peers over meals and in grade-specific sessions built to enhance skills in teaching poetry.

115

educators

18

presenters

4.5

days

42

breakout sessions, seminars,
workshops, and readings

"I HAVE 16 YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE, AND THIS IS THE BEST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) I'VE EXPERIENCED. A message circulating through the speakers expressed that poetry should be experienced/felt, and that takes precedence over form and analysis."

—2024 Summer Poetry Teachers Institute participant

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

ECOS: A Chicago Latine Poetry Festival

ECOS: A Chicago Latine Poetry Festival celebrated Chicago's relationship with and influence on Latine poetry. Echoing ("ecos" is "echoes" in Spanish) the Nezahualcóyotl Poetry Festival, organized in 1991 by the National Museum of Mexican Art and Chicago poet Carlos Cumpián, the three-day series of free Spanish and English programming aligned with the September release of *Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology*.

The Poetry Foundation partnered with the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture in Humboldt Park, and the North River Commission in Albany Park to present public events throughout the three Chicago neighborhoods.

500 attendees

30 poets and performers

14 public events

Victoria Martinez, an artist from Pilsen, provided her sculpture *Puzzle Pieces* as the visual motif for festival design and branding

ECOS HIGHLIGHTS

- Eduardo Arocho helped curate the headlining performance at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, a reading honoring David Hernandez and Salima Rivera. He also curated a pop-up exhibit in the Humboldt Park Galleries featuring broadsides and other visual works by or inspired by Hernandez and Rivera.
- Local poet Marta Collazo read at the Albany Park Poetry Lot Jam and David Hernandez and Salima Rivera Tribute reading. Deeply connected to the Chicago poetry community for decades, Collazo's readings are the only way to experience her poetry since she is unpublished.
- The Poetry Foundation hosted a private luncheon for ECOS participants, other local poets, and staff to connect over food and games. Photographer Diana Solís provided portrait sessions in the library.
- Local muralist John Vergara helped organize an open mic in front of his *Legends Mural* in Humboldt Park, which pays tribute to Puerto Rican poets Julia de Burgos, David Hernandez, Gamaliel Ramirez, and Salima Rivera.
- Many people read poems out loud in front of an audience for the first time at one of the three open mic events.
- Marimacha Monarca Press led a bookbinding workshop.
- Viva Los Libros! cohosted a bilingual story hour for kids led by their storyteller Cuentinflas.



Arantza Preciado, a fourth grader and the youngest ECOS poet, gave a stunning performance in front of Chicago Poet Laureate, Avery R. Young



Moises and Maria joined us all the way from Panama and participated in two open mics, two headlining events, and two writing workshops



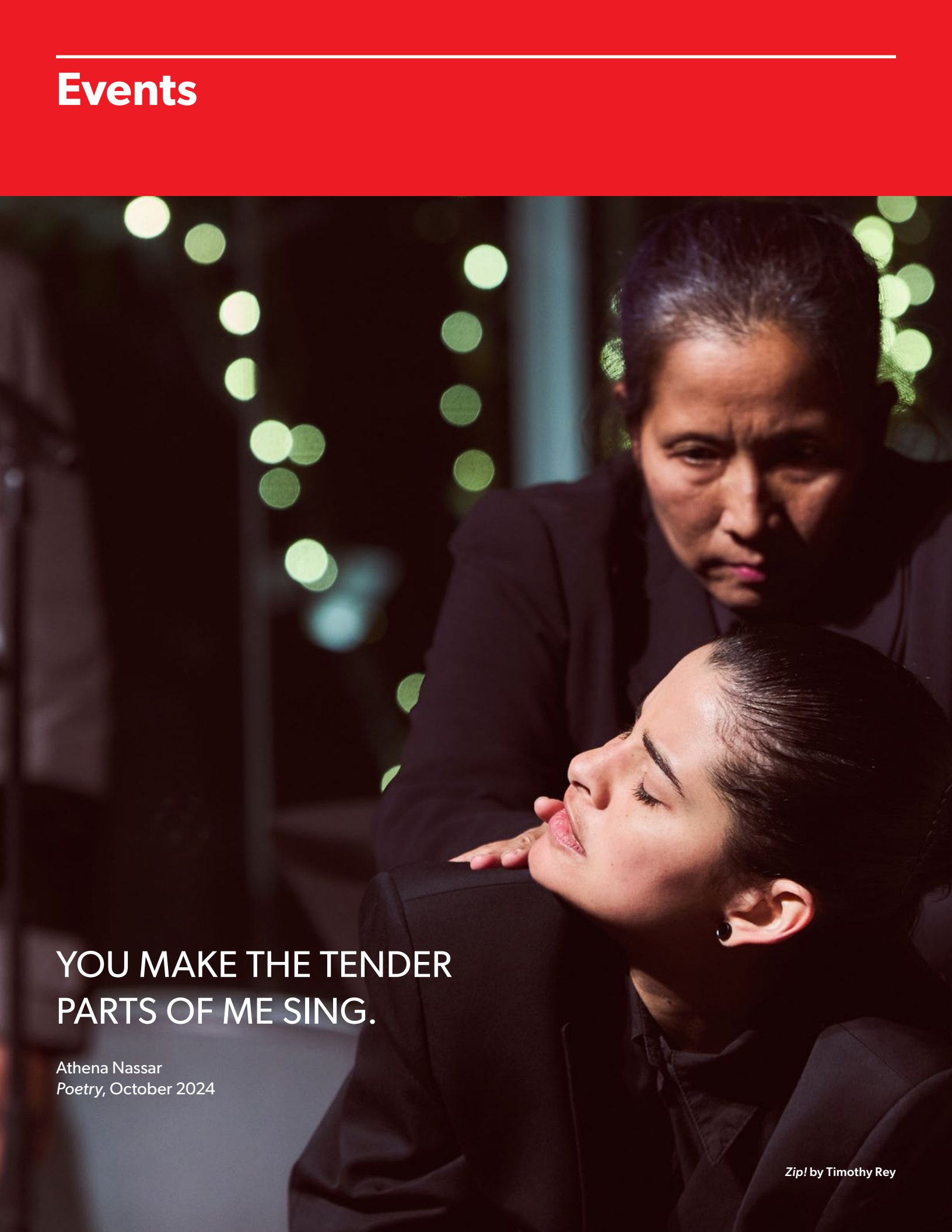
The opening event at the Poetry Foundation culminated in salsa dancing in the courtyard, which passersby joined

ECOS GRANTEE-PARTNER COLLABORATION

Several of the Poetry Foundation's Chicago-based grantee-partners helped facilitate ECOS events.

- Chicago Poetry Center co-organized a student reading and two writing workshops, one held in a community garden.
- contratiempo cohosted pop-up poetry readings in Spanish in the National Museum of Mexican Art's galleries.
- Guild Literary Complex cohosted pop-up poetry readings in the National Museum of Mexican Art's galleries with poets from the *eXpuetxs* anthology and their long-standing bilingual poetry series, *Palabra Pura*.

Events



YOU MAKE THE TENDER
PARTS OF ME SING.

Athena Nassar
Poetry, October 2024

Zip! by Timothy Rey

Events are just one of the ways that the Poetry Foundation highlights Chicago poets and **amplifies poetry as an expansive art form**. During the 2024 spring and fall event seasons, the Poetry Foundation hosted 27 live events in Chicago. The option to connect remotely continued, and all events included live captioners (CART) and/or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

2 virtual events

6,588

building visitors, not including event attendees

25 hybrid events

1,711 in-person attendees

\$429,421

paid to poets and artists who performed and supported the delivery of public programs, including VS podcast hosts, producers, and guests, Summer Poetry Teachers Institute leads and presenters, and workshop teaching artists

630 virtual attendees



Good Dress: Brittany Rogers and Kush Thompson

**"THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME
ATTENDING AN EVENT HERE
AFTER MY FRIEND INVITED ME! I
would love to come to more events
and incorporate art and poetry into
my everyday life."**

—In-person event attendee

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

- We hosted 50th-anniversary celebrations of [Kelsey Street Press](#) and [Graywolf Press](#) and a 20th-anniversary celebration of [Letras Latinas](#).
- We introduced staged readings of new plays by Chicago poet-playwrights [Sarah Ruhl](#) (*Letters from Max*) and [Timothy Rey](#) (*Zip!*).
- We [presented Patricia Smith with the Fuller Award](#) for her lifetime contributions to literature. 2024 Poetry Out Loud champion Niveah Glover had the opportunity to perform alongside Smith, one of her poetry idols.
- We organized the fall event season under the theme, [Murmuring Americas](#). Inspired by Chicago poet Daniel Borzutzky's book *Murmuring Grief of the Americas*, the season highlighted murmuring voices against the backbeat of the election cycle in the United States and included [an event](#) featuring Borzutzky with Rae Armantrout and Forrest Gander.
- We honored James Baldwin's centennial at [blk: Blues Funeral for James Baldwin](#), which featured poetry, music performances, and conversations with Chicago poet laureate avery r. young, Samiya Bashir, Toronzo Cannon, T'ai Freedom Ford, and Jamila Woods.
- We celebrated the release of VS cohost Brittany Rogers's debut poetry collection, [Good Dress](#), which relates formative experiences of intimacy, pleasure, and belonging growing up as a Black woman in Detroit.
- We concluded the long-running Open Door series, which highlighted creative relationships and collaborations rooted in the Midwest, inviting two featured pairs to share work that opens up poetry as an expansive art.

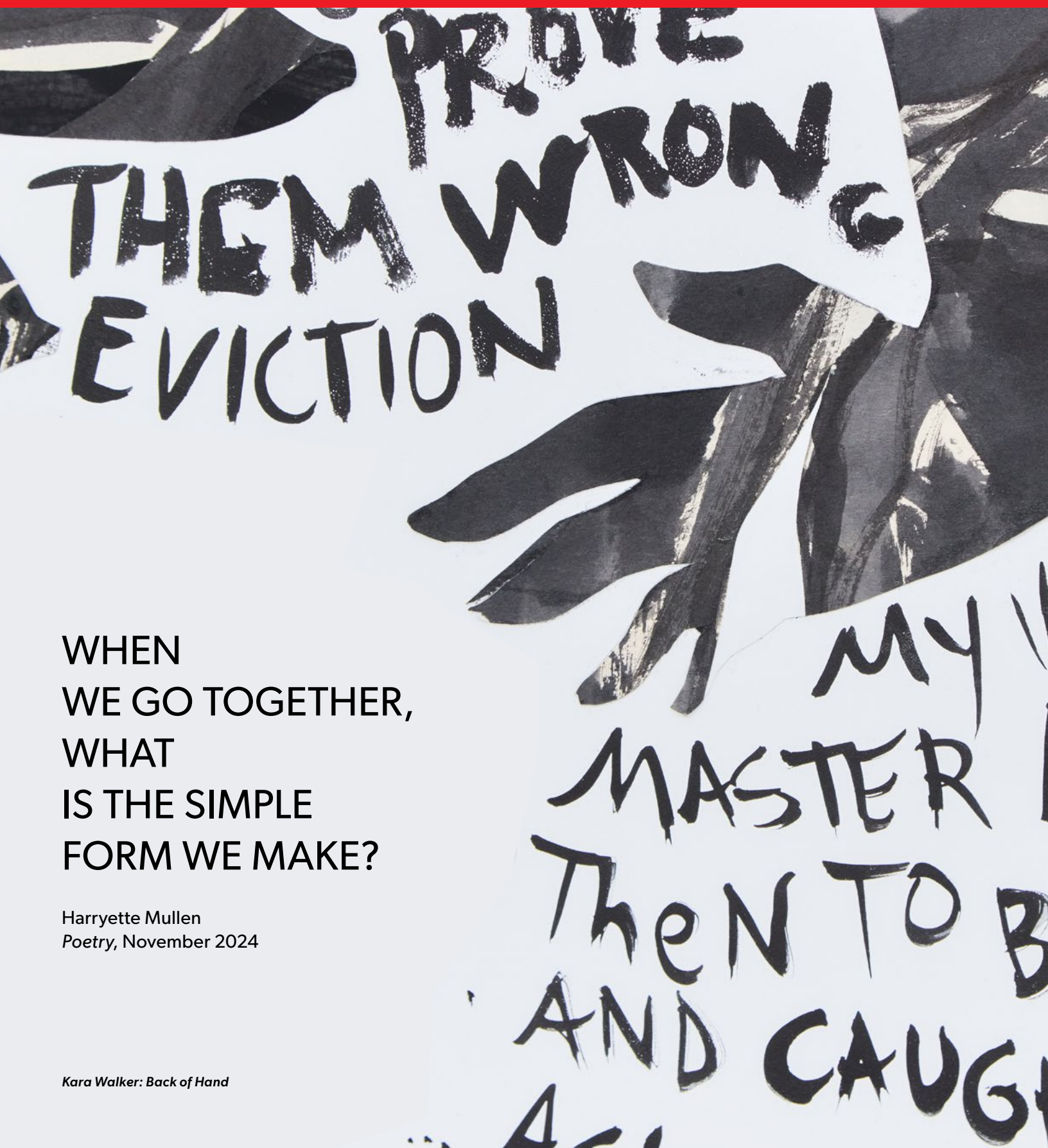
"I ALWAYS APPRECIATE HOW WELL-ORGANIZED THE EVENTS ARE— the intentionality of making them as accessible as possible and having online access. Staff is always so welcoming. I am grateful for everything y'all do. Thank you!"

—Virtual event attendee



Jamila Woods at blk: Blues Funeral for James Baldwin

Exhibitions



WHEN
WE GO TOGETHER,
WHAT
IS THE SIMPLE
FORM WE MAKE?

Harryette Mullen
Poetry, November 2024

Kara Walker: *Back of Hand*

A BIGGER TABLE: 50 YEARS OF THE CHICAGO POETRY CENTER

June 27–September 14, 2024

A Bigger Table: 50 Years of the Chicago Poetry Center celebrated the remarkable five-decade legacy of the Chicago Poetry Center (CPC). The exhibition highlighted CPC's vital role in Chicago's literary culture and its mission to champion diverse voices in poetry. The title *A Bigger Table* reflects CPC's foundational commitment to creating space for poets and audiences from all backgrounds, fostering an inclusive and vibrant community. Since its establishment in 1974, CPC has enriched Chicago's literary landscape by supporting poetry education for thousands of Chicago Public School students and providing platforms for nearly a thousand poets to share their work.

The exhibition was a testament to the enduring impact of the Chicago Poetry Center and its collaborative relationship with the Poetry Foundation in advancing the art of poetry. It was organized by Katherine Litwin, B. Metzger Sampson, Fred Sasaki, and the CPC community.

- 50 broadsides showcasing the work of celebrated poets
- Iconic vintage poetry event posters capturing pivotal moments in CPC's history
- Archival materials and ephemera illustrating CPC's evolution over 50 years
- The premiere of the documentary film *A Bigger Table: 50 Years of the Chicago Poetry Center*, by Moyo Abiona, which traced CPC's transformation from a platform for censored writers to a beacon of inclusivity within Chicago's poetry scene



MORE LIGHT! LUFTWERK X ARAM SAROYAN

October 17, 2024–February 15, 2025

More Light! Luftwerk x Aram Saroyan was a striking site-specific installation inspired by Aram Saroyan's iconic minimalist poem, "lighght." Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero of the art duo Luftwerk transformed the Poetry Foundation's gallery into an immersive lightbox, enveloping visitors in a shifting prism of color and bringing Saroyan's vision of poetry as a visual experience to life. This collaboration seamlessly bridged language and light, offering audiences an innovative exploration of minimalistic expression.

More Light! was conceived and curated by Petra Bachmaier, Sean Gallero, Katherine Litwin, and Fred Sasaki.



Media Partnerships, Newsletters, and Social Media

THE HOOT OF BEING ALIVE. NAME IT
WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

Steven Leyva
Poetry, December 2024



blk: Blues Funeral for James Baldwin attendees

Through a variety of collaborations, the Poetry Foundation invests in **poetry programming to reach audiences across the full media spectrum**. Partners help extend the Foundation's efforts to foster spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry through podcasts, video, print, digital publications, and beyond.

THE SLOWDOWN

A weekday poetry podcast and newsletter produced by American Public Media and sponsored by the Poetry Foundation, *The Slowdown* broadcast its fifth season in 2024. In addition to current host, Major Jackson, listeners heard from guest hosts, including Victoria Chang and Leslie Sainz.

30 million all-time downloads

310,000
average monthly downloads

51% of poet contributors identify as BIPOC



"I LOVE THAT *THE SLOWDOWN* CONSISTENTLY OFFERS BEAUTIFUL, ACCESSIBLE POETRY READ BY SOMEONE PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE AND THE CRAFT. I often use *The Slowdown* in the classroom and professional development teaching workshops as a powerful opener to spark curiosity and discussion."

—*The Slowdown* listener

POETRY CORNER

The Poetry Foundation has sponsored Poetry Corner in the *Chicago Reader*, an independent, nonprofit alternative newspaper, since 2020. This special segment uplifts established and emerging poets—as both contributors and curators—and provides Chicagoans with free print and online access to poems by some of their own.

38
poems published

4
local curators

\$5,620
paid directly to poets

60,000
print editions distributed every week as the *Chicago Reader* returned to weekly print issues in 2024

NEWSLETTERS

The Poetry Foundation's newsletters connect readers to poetry through listings of upcoming events, poems from the latest issue of *Poetry* magazine, essays from the website, content for educators, grantee-partner profiles, announcements, and more.

Poem of the Day

The popular [Poem of the Day newsletter](#) delivers a daily poem selected by an editor every day. It launched a guest editor program in 2024.

2024 GUEST EDITORS

- [S.J. Fowler](#), poet and artist with [Rebecca Kamen](#), sculptor and lecturer
- [Theaster Gates](#), artist and founder of Rebuild Foundation
- [Rick Kogan](#), author and journalist
- [Sarah Ruhl](#), playwright, poet, and essayist

65,767

subscribers to [Poem of the Day](#)

Poetry Foundation Newsletter

The *Poetry Foundation Newsletter* merged with the *POETRY Magazine Newsletter* in August 2024 to address audience overlap and deliver a more streamlined, integrated experience for readers.

46,051

subscribers to the weekly combined
Poetry Foundation Newsletter



SOCIAL MEDIA

1,125,614

followers across [Facebook](#),
[Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter/X](#)

1.2% audience growth
over 2023

3,437

posts published

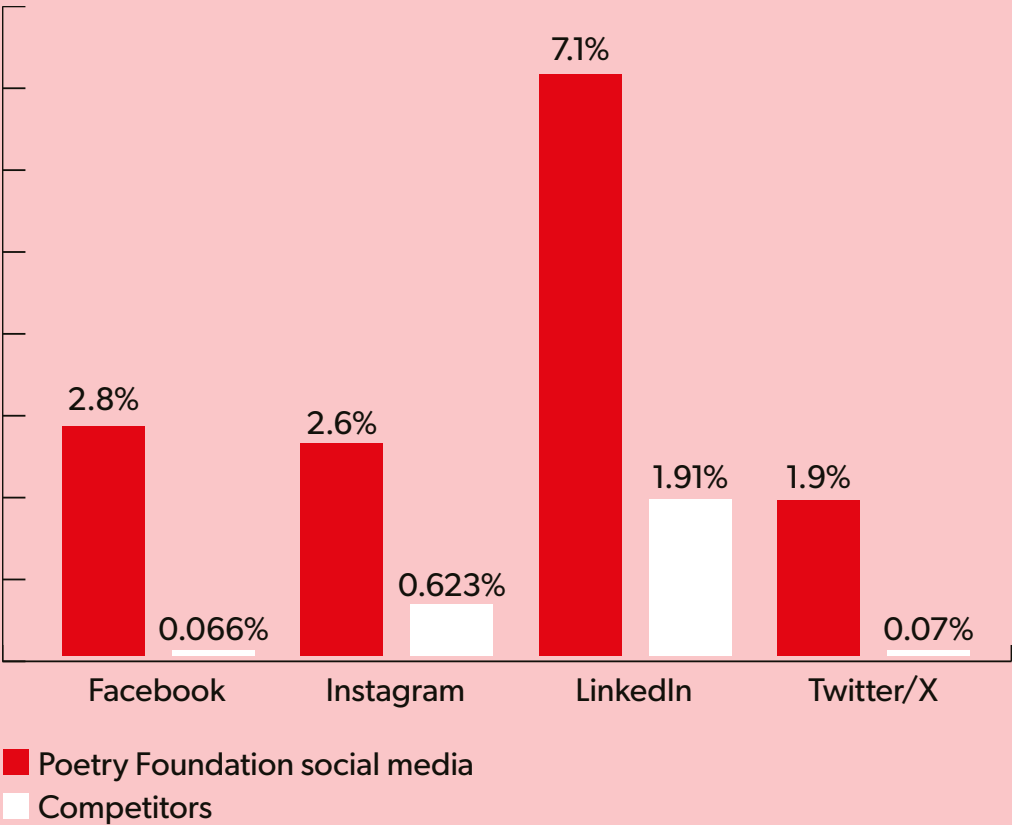
141,157

clicks from social media posts
to PoetryFoundation.org

2,016,176

video views

ENGAGEMENT RATES COMPARED TO OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:



"While Everything Else Was Falling Apart"
by Ada Limón from the December 2024
issue of *Poetry* had the highest number of
engagements of any poem shared in 2024,
with the following metrics on Instagram:

6,214 total
engagements

5,106 likes

25 comments

1,083 saves

One of the most popular
videos, which had

53,860

views on Instagram, featured Poetry
Foundation public programs manager Noa
Fields introducing the fall events season,
Murmuring Americas.

Social media metrics source: Sprout Social.

Nonprofit social media benchmarks source: Nonprofit Tech for Good.

Newsletter metrics source: MailChimp.



ADA LIMÓN

Ada Limón is the twenty-fourth poet laureate of the United States, recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, and a TIME magazine woman of the year.



Most popular post by engagement



Attendees at the exhibition opening event for *A Bigger Table: 50 Years of the Chicago Poetry Center*

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Rebecca Sword and Moyo Abiona

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