



2025



ANNUAL REPORT



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Youngstown OH



If 2025 had a theme, for Lit Youngstown it was Happy 10th Anniversary!

Highlights

- We hired Development Coordinator and Disability Access Coordinator Meagan Albani, who attended the Kennedy Center LEAD Conference on disability access.
 - We hired Outreach Coordinator Sydney Stalnecker to build a new community program of small group writing.
 - The ninth annual Fall Literary Festival continued a tradition of literary excellence by nearly 140 presenters from across the U.S. and Canada.
 - Festival highlights included sessions in the McDonough Museum of Art, Butler Institute of American Art and Fellows Riverside Gardens,
 - This year's Intensives workshop focused on the poetry chapbook manuscript.
 - First Wednesday Reader Series at Westside Bowl featured two dozen regional authors. The open mic gave voice to hundreds of community members, many sharing work publicly for the first time. We provided overnight accommodations for eight readers who traveled in from Parkersburg, WV, Harvey Lake, PA, and Columbus, Athens and Cincinnati, OH.
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Highlights cont.

- RW Franklin and Katie Passerotti ran a successful monthly Writers Guild, providing a welcoming space for writers to meet and talk about their projects.
- The Winter Writing Camp at St. John's Episcopal Church and the main library brought in nearly 100 writers ages 5 and up, with writing workshops, and a cookie table and open mic.
- The Food for Thought book discussion titles explored a wide range of content and styles.
- Community collaborations included an ekphrastic reading with YWCA's Women Artists Show, a Black History Tour with the Mahoning County Historical Society, and a poetry workshop at Ohev Beth Sholom.
- This year's online and archived readings include Uplifting Immigrant Voices and Uplifting Children of Immigrants' Voices, Youngstown Live/d with Youngstown natives Allison Pitinii Davis and Katie Hartsock, and Celebrating the Prose Poem with Nin Andrews, Peter Johnson, Denise Duhamel, Gary Young and Cassandra Atherton.



- Lit at Ten: a Celebration (un)Gala lifted up the literary legacy of Youngstown with readings of historic and contemporary Youngstown region writers.
 - *Lit at the Mic*, an anniversary anthology, received nearly 1000 submissions and will be completed in 2026.
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Mission

Lit Youngstown is home for the literary arts in the Youngstown region.

Our Vision

That readers, writers, and storytellers of all levels, backgrounds, and genre interests advance their craft, learn from each other, and grow creatively in community.



Values

Lit Youngstown balances a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment with the highest standards for creative integrity and accountability.

Lit Youngstown believes in the transformative power of the written word to inspire diverse and authentic voices which in turn enrich our Youngstown community.



Statement on Convicted Writers & Victims/Survivors of Crimes

As an organization with a focus on giving voice to and reflecting on the shared and individual experiences of those within our community, Lit Youngstown acknowledges and embraces those on divergent paths. We believe in restorative justice and welcome incarcerated members of the community and those reentering society. We also recognize the pain of victims and survivors and will continue to work toward providing a safe and brave space with the intention of preventing further harm.

Environmental and Economic Impact Statement

Lit Youngstown is dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint. To that end, we

- look for products such as paper with a high post-consumer waste content
 - reuse materials such as signs and dishes rather than purchasing single-use products
 - continue to hold some meetings and programs remotely
 - hosted a year-long discussion on humankind and the natural world that included books on climate change and biodiversity
 - offer vegetarian and vegan options at events
 - prioritize purchases sold, grown or produced locally
-

Statement of Financial Position Summary

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

ASSETS

Bank Accounts \$13,458

Total Current Assets

\$13,458

LIABILITIES

Restricted Funds \$0

Personal Loan \$3,000

Total Liabilities

\$3,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$13,458

NET ASSETS

\$10,458

Statement of Activity

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025

Support and Revenue

Contract Income	28,930
Corporate Grants	7,404
Foundation Grants	73,250
Government Grants	11,601
Individual Contributions	26,533
Special Event tickets	4,215
Sales/ Donations for Products	4,464
Workshop and Program Fees	17,910
Total Support and Revenue	\$174,307

Expenditures

Administrative	7,637
Programs	36,101
Fundraising	5,215
Staff Wages and Stipends	52,377
Honoraria and Stipends	45,807
Reimbursed Author Sales	2,323
Payroll Taxes	16,132
Total Expenses	\$165,592

Change in Net Assets	3,907
Net Assets Beginning of 2025	6,551
Net Revenue End of 2025	10,458

With Gratitude

Thank you to all those who worked to bring the light to Lit Youngstown in 2025.

Board of Directors: Christopher Barzak, Melissa Birmingham, Kate Caraballo, Tricia D'Avignon (secretary), Craig Duster (vice president), Samantha Ensminger (president), Alex Harper, Jeff Murphy (treasurer), Maria Cougras Pappas, Penny Wells and Shaunda Yancey.

Staff: Director, Karen Schubert; Development Coordinator & Disability Access Coordinator, Meagan Albani; Outreach Coordinator, Sydney Stalnecker; Media Coordinator Ash Dillon; Bookkeeper, Julie Cancio Harper

Advisory Council: Lesley Nneka Arimah, Cynthia Atkins, Jan Beatty, Lauren Camp, Jill Christman, Ama Codjoe, Teri Ellen Cross Davis, Todd Davis, Jeanne Dutton, Matt Forrest Esenwine, Candace Fleming, Kelly Fordon, Mike Geither, David Giffels, David Hassler, David Huebert, Jon Kerstetter, Jacqui Lipton, Philip Memmer, Philip Metres, Kortney Morrow, Caryl Pagel, Craig Paulenich, Sean Prentiss, Bonnie Proudfoot, Joy Priest, Alison Stine, Rachel Swearingen, Judith Vollmer, Janet Wong

Workshop, Winter Writing Camp and Fall Literary Festival Faculty: Molly Akin, Nin Andrews, Jen Ashburn, Christopher Bakken, David J. Bauman, Micah James Bauman, Kristy A. Belton, El Bentivegna, Cherise Benton, Susan Boser, Daniel Bourne, Marion Starling Boyer, Mark Brazaitis, Dustin Brookshire, Jennifer Browne, Diane Callahan, Lauren Camp, Kate Caraballo, Sarah Carson, Robert Case, Jill Christman, Meghan Cliffler, Lawrence Coates, Michael Copperman, Bob Craven, Chelsea Daniel, Allison Pitinii Davis, Todd Davis, Rafaella Del Bourgo, Jody DiPerna, Naazneen Diwan, Danielle N. Dixon, Heather Dobbins, Sean Thomas Dougherty, Lisa M. Dougherty, Michelle Duke, Craig Duster, Cathryn Essinger, Lisa Ferranti, Melissa Fraterrigo, Molly Fuller, Carrie George, Stephanie Ginese, Mike Good, Tiffany Graham Charkosky, Lilace Mellin Guignard, Jeff Gundy, Minal Hajratwala, Joe Hall, Jared Har el,

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Eric Harper, Janine Harrison, A.M. Hayden, Amanda E. Hayes, Dar James, Furaha Henry-Jones, Arlan Hess, Matt Hohner, David Huebert, Jane Huffman, Rebe Huntman, Samantha Imperi, Jason Irwin, Laura Jackson, Kim Jacobs-Beck, Lori Jakiela, Jessica Jones, Madison Kapisak, Diane Kendig, Rosary Joyce Kennedy, Tessa Kilby, Ben Kline, Ellen Kombiyil, Aaron Kreuter, Bridget Kriner, Becca J.R. Lachman, Paula J. Lambert, Adrianna Lamonge, Daniel Lassell, Sarah Layden, Dawn Leas, Michael Loderstedt, Diana Lueptow, CE Mackenzie, Marjorie Maddox, Kristy Mahoney, Charles Malone, Jamie Marich, Chloe Martinez, Nancy McCabe, Jen McConnell, Ray McNiece, Robert Miltner, Ron Mohring, Julie L. Moore, Kortney Morrow, Melanie Murphy, Aimee Noel, Dora Odarenko, Maria S. Picone/수영, Jeannine M. Pitas, Eric Potter, Courtney Poullas, Sean Prentiss, Varun Ravindran, Joan Reardon, Dana Reeher, Phoebe Reeves, Barbara Sabol, Carly Sachs, Inga Lea Schmidt, Jolene ScottRoller, Jessica Sentgeorge, Tabassam Shah, Samira Shakib-Bregeth, Barbara Shoup, Jess Simms, Michelle R. Smith, Judith Sornberger, Marlo Starr, Anne Dyer Stuart, David Swerdlow, L.J. Sysko, Zuggie Tate, Philip Terman, Kristen Tetzmann, Patricia Thrushart, Abby Vandiver, Sara Moore Wagner, Robert Wallace, Michelle Tackla Wallace, Gabriel Welsch, Holly M. Wendt, Karen J. Weyant, Shanna Powlus Wheeler, Cecilia Woloch



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Financial Support

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Donors: Debbie Allen, Mari Alschuler, Pam Anderson, Anonymous, Lee Bahan, Melissa Barger, Rebecca Barnhouse, Daniel Bourne, Marion Boyer, Jeanne Bryner, John Burroughs, Sherris Moreiera Byers, Paula Clarke, Christopher Colon, Christina Costeralla, Deb Cunningham, Tricia D'Avignon & Jordan Karim, Allison Pitinii Davis, Craig Duster, Palma Eckman, Sandra Feen, Kaytlin & Zach Felger, Elizabeth Franklin, Hillary Fuhrman, Samantha Ensminger, Cathy Essinger, Lisa Ferranti, David Lee Garrison, Lisa Gates, Susan Grimm, Julie Cancio Harper, Katie Hartsock, Amanda Hayes, Rebe Huntman, Tiffany Hurlbut, Lanore Jones, Monica Kaiser, Diane Kendig, Athena Kildegaard, Bill Koch, Sujata Lakhe, Paula J. Lambert, Elliot Legow, Sharon Letson, Cora Liderbach, Sarah Lowry, John Marino, Catherine Martell, Luke McDermott, Jen McConnell, Kathleen McGookey, Jonie McIntire, Lauren McNally, Wendy McVicker, Melissa Miller, Ron Mohring, Justin Mondok, Robin Mullet, Caryl Pagel, Holly Brians Ragusa, Maureen Reardon, Novella Rogers, Rebecca Moon Ruark, Barbara Sabol, Karen Schubert, Susan & Gary Sexton, Jacob Shoup, David Simonelli, Mary Slechta, Sojourn to the Past, Philip Terman, Toni Thayer, Roslyn Torella, Molly Toth, Katelyn Urs, Matt Weinkam, Sarah Ann Winn, Youngstown Area Community Concert Band, Carrie Zapka

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First Wednesday Series Readers and Co-hosts:

January Jessica Manack (Pittsburgh) & Marie Vibbert (Cleveland), co-host Carrie Leonard

February Cherise Benton (Cleveland) & Paula J. Lambert (Columbus), co-host Sarah Lowry

March Jennifer Hambrick (Columbus) & Christopher Johnston (Cleveland), co-host W. Rick Schilling

April Amanda Stovicek D'Alessandro (Cleveland) & Jyotsna Sreenivasan (Columbus), co-host Michaela Write

May Jon Graham (Dover, OH) & David Prather (Parkersburg, WV), co-host John Marino

June Marion Starling Boyer (Twinsburg) & Barbara Sabol (Akron), co-host Lena Carson

July Dianne Borsenik (Cleveland) & Steven Concert (Harveys Lake, PA), co-host Karen Schubert

August Melissa Brookins (Kent) & Dana Reeher (Hermitage, PA), co-host Shomore Wright

September Mary Quade (Madison, OH) & Steve Skovensky (Columbus), co-host Sydney Stalneckner

October Mike Dittman (Butler, PA) & Shei Sanchez (Cincinnati), co-host Carrie Zapka

November Wendy McVicker (Athens, OH) & Philip Terman (Grove City, PA) with the Catro Trio, co-host YSU Poetry Club

December Katherine Orr (Kent), Dom Fonce (Youngstown) & Mark Sebastian Jordan (Mansfield), co-host David Wheeler
