



2023

LIT YOUNGSTOWN



www.lityoungstown.org



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Youngstown OH



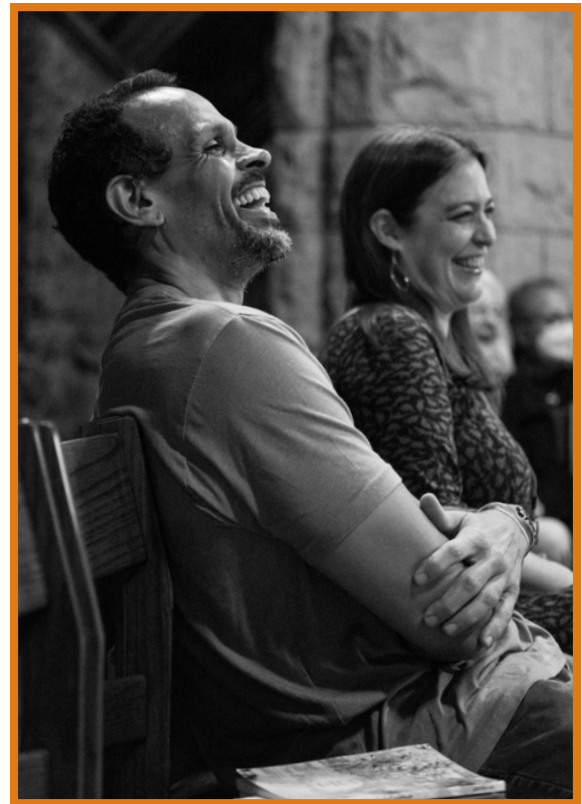
If 2023 had a theme, for Lit Youngstown it would be **Hitting Our Stride.**

Highlights

- We hired Ashley Dillon to serve as our first Media Coordinator.
 - Development Coordinator Katie Urs brought in a record amount of funding for programs and operations.
 - The Seventh Annual Fall Literary Festival saw a spike in presenters (150) and attendance (nearly 400), with two dozen presses, journals and programs in the book fair.
 - A K-12 language arts educators track gave dedicated space to teachers and librarians for discussion and the sharing of best practices.
 - The Creative Nonfiction Intensives, attended by 12 women writers, met monthly to focus on shaping their true stories.
 - Our First Wednesday Series moved from the Soap Gallery to the Westside Bowl and featured two dozen published authors. The open mic gave voice to hundreds of community members, many sharing their work publicly for the first time. We provided overnight accommodations for several readers who traveled in, as we expand our invitation circle.
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Highlights cont.

- RW Franklin ran a successful online writing workshop and the Lexiphiles Unite! Writers Guild. Along with Third Thursday Writers Circle, we continued to provide a welcoming space for writers to meet and talk about their projects.
- The Winter Writing Camp registration enjoyed pre-pandemic numbers, with workshops, a singalong led by singer-songwriter Jon Locketti, and a cookie table and open mic.
- The Food for Thought book discussion group finished a series of books that won major literary prizes and began a new series of books that embody the literary element of place.
- Community collaborations included ekphrastic readings with YWCA's Women Artists Show and the Youngstown Area Community Concert Band; a bilingual reading with Thrive MV; staffing a tent at the Summer Festival of the Arts with LOOP Youngstown, the Hopewell and Millennial theaters; and leading writing workshops for kids at the YWCA STEAM Camp and Your Arts Summer Camp at Stambaugh Auditorium.
- We hosted an online poetry reading centered around labor, and a live reading of the Rust Belt City Poetry Tour—poets from Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Youngstown and Pittsburgh.



- The first Youngstown Live/d benefit reading featured Youngstown natives Ross Gay and Rochelle Hurt in a reading and conversation with one another about their books.
- The first Just Desserts: A Lit Winter Gala included a costume contest, music, readings by Philip Brady and David Giffels, testimonials, desserts and cocktails.



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 grown or produced locally

Board of Directors

We saw some changes to the board, wishing a fond farewell and thank you to RW Franklin, Barbara Marie Minney and Cassandra Lawton Norton. New members Mia Allonby, Craig Duster, Samantha Ensminger, Alex Harper, Maria Cougras Pappas and Shaunda Yancey joined Tricia D’Avignon (chair), Chris Gibowicz, Rebe Huntman, Jeff Murphy (treasurer) and Penny Wells, forming a dedicated and hardworking board.



Statement of Financial Position Summary

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

ASSETS

Bank Accounts \$10,641

Total Current Assets \$10,641

LIABILITIES

Restricted Funds \$0

Total Liabilities \$0

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$10,641

NET ASSETS \$10,641

Statement of Activity

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

Support and Revenue

Contract Income 500

Foundation Grants 31,250

Government Grants 10,700

Corporate Grants 40

Individual Contributions 19,970

Special Event tickets 2,000

Sales/ Donations for Products 6,312

Workshop and Program Fees 13,625

Total support and Revenue \$84,397

Expenditures

Administrative 3281

Programs 30,400

Fundraising 550

Staff Wages and Stipends 35,154

Honoraria and Stipends 5,905

Reimbursed Author Sales 3,277

Intern Stipends 1,000

Payroll Taxes 12,392

Total Expenses \$91,959

Change in Net Assets (7,562)

Net Assets Beginning of 2023 18,203

Net Revenue End of 2023 10,641

With Gratitude

Thank you to all those who worked to bring the light to Lit Youngstown in 2023.

Current Board of Directors: Mia Allonby, Tricia D'Avignon (chair), Craig Duster, Samantha Ensminger, Chris Gibowicz, Alex Harper, Rebe Huntman, Jeff Murphy (treasurer) Maria Cougras Pappas, Penny Wells and Shaunda Yancey.

Staff: Director, Karen Schubert; Development Coordinator, Katelyn Urs; Media Coordinator Ashley Dillon; Bookkeeper, Autumn Murphy

Advisory Council: Cynthia Atkins, Christopher Barzak, Jan Beatty, Jill Christman, Teri Ellen Cross Davis, Jeanne Dutton, Matt Forrest Esenwine, Candace Fleming, Kelly Fordon, Mike Geither, David Giffels, David Hassler, Jon Kerstetter, Jacqui Lipton, Philip Memmer, Philip Metres, Craig Paulenich, Bonnie Proudfoot, Joy Priest, Alison Stine, Judith Vollmer, Janet Wong

Workshop, Winter Writing Camp and Fall Literary Festival Faculty: Saida Agostini, Mari Alschuler, Amy M. Alvarez, Pam Anderson, Ellen Austin-Li, Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Tina Banks, Chris Barzak, Laura Beadling, Sandra Beasley, B. Elizabeth Beck, Adam Blackman, Tanesha Bokally, Kristy Boyce, Marion Starling Boyer, Conor Bracken, Liz Breazeale, Russell Brickey, K.J. Bryant, John Burroughs, Sheila L. Carter-Jones, Julie Centofanti, Kim Chinquee, Bob Craven, Jill Christman, Jessica Cuello, Jelisa Dallas, James De Monte, Darren C. Demaree, Matt Dettmer, Joanna Eleftheriou, Nikki Ericksen, Christina Fisanick, RW Franklin, Sarah Freigh, Jane Ann Fuller, Molly Fuller, Pamela Gay, Ross Gay, Stacy Gnall, Kari Gunter-Seymour, Katie Hartsock, Mollie Hartup, Hayley Mitchell Haugen, Jocelyn Heath, Nora Hickey, Erin Hill, Amanda Hoover, John Hoppenthaler, Ann K. Howley, Jason Irwin, Kim Jacobs-Beck, Clarissa Jakobsons, Mitchell James, Arya F. Jenkins, Jessica Jones, Jeremy Jusek, Jason Kapcala, Ed Karshner, Hannah Allman Kennedy, Rebecca Kilroy, Bob King, Jen Knox, Ellen Kombiyil, Virginia Konchan, Kellie Rose Kordinak, Paula J. Lambert, Ananda Lima, Crystal Lin,

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Cont.

Anne Garwig Lucas, David Lucas, Meagan Lucas, Marjorie Maddox, Jennifer Martelli, Rod Martinez, Chloe Martinez, Jacob Martzaklis, Marissa McCabe, Nancy McCabe, Ryan McCarthy, Jonie McIntire, Wendy McVicker, Jackie Mercer, Robert Miltner, Barbara Marie Minney, Jennifer Moore, Sylvia Moran, Deni Naffziger, Susan Nason, Renée K. Nicholson, Aimee Noel, Lauren Olesh, Carolyn Oliver, Caryl Pagel, Maria Cougras Pappas, Loustella Perry, Susan Petrone, Georgia A. Popoff, Bonnie Proudfoot, Stacy Joy Quiñones, Nicole Ravas, Phoebe Reeves, Debbie Rigaud, Sandra Rivers-Gill, Nicole Robinson, Juan Rojas, Sarah Rose, Jennifer Roth, Barbara Sabol, S. Renay Sanders, Miranda Scharf, E.F. Schraeder, Joline ScottRoller, Sara Shearer, Sarah Shotland, Lindsay Sinkovich, Larry R. Smith, Rose M. Smith, Marissa Snyder, Judith Sornberger, John Sorvillo, Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, Alison Stine, David Swerdlow, Natalie Sypolt, Patricia Thrushart, Katelyn Urs, Laura Maylene Walter, Rachel Walton, Randi Ward, Gabriel Welsch, Karen J. Weyant, Brianna Wilkoff, Sarah Ann Winn, Shaunda Yancey, Mary Kay Zuravleff



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Financial Support

Patrons and Foundation funders (\$500 or more): Pamela Anderson, Natalie & James Andrews Foundation, Barbara Brothers, Centofanti Foundation, Ross Gay, KO Consultants, William Mullane & Betsy Barrickman, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Humanities, Craig Paulenich, Pollock Personal Foundation, POP! Art Books Culture, Purple Cat, Thomases Family Foundation, Wean Foundation, Youngstown Foundation

Donors: Jennifer Ashburn, Karen Brody, Jennifer Browne, Catherine Calla, Gayle Catinella, Rosemary Dapolito, Marie Davidson, Tricia D'Avignon, Allison Pitinii Davis, Shari Della Penna, Matthew Dettmer, Craig Duster, Lisa Ferranti, Christine Gibowicz, Julianna Cancio Harper, Liz Hill, Christine Howey, Rebe Huntman, Jason Irwin, Arya Jenkins, Jason Kapcala, Sarah Kiepper, Miriam Klein, Jen Knox, Charles Krell, Nancy Krygowski, Sujata Lakhe, John Marino, Don Martin, Reagan McCann, Nancy McGarry, Jonie McIntire, Ellen Perduyn, Bonnie Proudfoot, Rebecca Moon Ruark, Barbara Sabol, Lowell & Ellen Satre, Janet Schueller, Carolyn Shamaeingar, Dee Smith, Sojourn to the Past

With Gratitude

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First Wednesday Series Readers and Co-hosts:

January: Joy Mistovich (Youngstown) & Debra Derrenbacher (Sharpsville, PA)
co-host Rebecca Banks

February: Olney Review editors Brandon Noel & Tony Wade (both of Warren)
co-host Jim Jordan

March: Jim Daniels (Pittsburgh) & Jeff Gundy (Bluffton) co-host Debbie Allen

April: Genevieve Jencson (Cleveland)

May: Elizabeth Beck (Lexington, KY) & Richard Ferris (Cleveland) co-host RW
Franklin

June: Rose M. Smith (Columbus) & Arya Jenkins (Youngstown) co-host Alex
Harper

July: Stephanie Ginese (Cleveland) & Julio Montalvo Valentin (Buffalo) co-host
Ana Torres

August: Gina Tabasso & Russell Vidrick (both of Cleveland) co-host Julie
Cancio Harper

September: Chuck Salmons & Andy Roberts (both of Columbus) co-host Tony
Armeni

October: Terry Murcko (Youngstown) co-host RC Wilson

November: Jeremy Proehl (Alpena, MI) & Jean Reinhold (Cleveland) co-host
Bill Mullane

December: Christopher Barzak (Youngstown) & Carrie George (Akron) co-host
Craig Duster
