

# Lit Youngstown 2022 Annual Report



While 2021 was still tentative and making the best of things, 2022 hit the ground running.

## Highlights of our 2022 Accomplishments



- The Sixth Annual Fall Literary Festival saw a spike in attendance (200+). Nearly 30 presses, journals and programs participated in the book fair and the conference included several films, including a community screening of the documentary *The Place That Makes Us*.

- The Poetry Intensives, attended by 20 poets from across Ohio, met monthly with experienced regional poets to focus on elements of poetry writing. Next year's

intensive focus will be on True Stories.

- Our First Wednesday Series, fully back in person, hosted 26 writers, working in various styles and genres. At each event we celebrated with a food from the National Food Holiday Calendar, ranging from hoagies to cotton candy. We paid for overnight accommodations for several of our 2022 readers who traveled in, as we expand our invitation circle.



- Three Ohio writers spent 2-3 days in Youngstown: poet Manuel Iris of Cincinnati, playwright Mike Geither of Cleveland, and Ohio Poet of the Year Quarte Harris of Cleveland. These visits reached hundreds of public school students, took nearly 100 residents on a Black History tour; and supported local restaurants, musicians, galleries, and theatres. Funding for this project came from an Ohio Arts Council Community Projects Award and a grant from Rob Briggs and Alyssa Lenhoff-Briggs.
- The Winter Writing Camp resumed for a day in February, with a smaller-than-pre-pandemic group. Working with playwright Kelly Bancroft, the children wrote and read a play. The Teen Writers Workshop met monthly throughout the year.
- We hosted two ongoing series for readers: a Fantasy Book Club, and the Food for Thought series, which took up the theme of major literary prizes. Film scholar Laura Beadling led us in screenings and discussions of a series of





writer bio pics.

- We collaborated with the Hopewell Theatre on Whitman and Brass, celebrating Walt Whitman and the music of his day.
- We hired our first Development Coordinator, Katelyn Urs, who has been successful in writing grants and improving our grantwriting system. Outreach Coordinator Cassandra Lawton moved from staff to board member, in anticipation of her graduation and move out of state.
- Karen and Cassandra were presenters at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference in Philadelphia. Karen represented Lit Youngstown at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies hosted in Columbus by the Ohio Poetry Association.
- Community collaborations included hosting an ekphrastic reading at the YWCA's Women Artists Show, staffing a tent at the Summer Festival of the Arts, and providing a fun writing prompt at Oh Wow!'s Silly Science Sunday.



## Mission

The mission of Lit Youngstown is to provide opportunities for writers and readers to experience and enjoy the literary arts. We support beginning and experienced writers in their goals to hone their craft, and share and publish their work. We believe that the acts of writing and reading serve as both window and mirror: fostering creativity and increasing understanding of the self and our diverse community.

## Values

**Our values help us achieve our goals.**

- We provide a platform for writers to share their work
- We offer access to visiting writers with a wide range of styles and experience
- We pay teaching artists
- We design classes and events to be affordable and inclusive
- We foster a nurturing environment for helpful critical feedback
- We collaborate with community organizations to extend our reach and build on the work being done here
- We recruit volunteers to engage our members' interest and talents, broaden the face of our organization, and strengthen our connection to individuals



## Vision

We envision a society where literacy, reading, literary creativity and ideas are valued and celebrated, promoting empathy, self and cultural awareness, critical analysis, active citizenship, information and knowledge.

## 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
- purchased a white oak for our office host, St. John's Episcopal Church

We also strive to have a positive economic impact on our community by supporting local businesses.

## Board

We saw some changes to the board, wishing a fond farewell to Sarah Davis, Chelsea Ellington, Quincy Flowers, Daniel Gage, Liz Hill, Anthony Manna, Tommy Mihalopoulos and Nicole Robinson. New members RW Franklin, Chris Gibowicz, Rebe Huntman and Barbara Marie Minney join Tricia D'Avignon (chair), Jeff Murphy (treasurer) and Penny Wells, forming a dedicated and hardworking board.

Lit Youngstown  
Statement of Financial Position Summary  
As of December 31, 2021

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS                       |                 |
| Bank Accounts                | \$13,104        |
| Total Current Assets         | <u>\$13,104</u> |
| LIABILITIES                  |                 |
| Restricted Funds             | \$0             |
| Total Liabilities            | <u>\$0</u>      |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$13,104        |
| NET ASSETS                   | \$13,104        |

Lit Youngstown  
Statement of Financial Position Summary  
As of December 31, 2022

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS                       |                 |
| Bank Accounts                | \$18,203        |
| Total Current Assets         | <u>\$18,203</u> |
| LIABILITIES                  |                 |
| Restricted Funds             | \$0             |
| Total Liabilities            | <u>\$0</u>      |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$18,203        |
| NET ASSETS                   | \$18,203        |

**Statement of Activity**  
**January - December 2021**

**Support and Revenue**

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Contract Income                  | 480              |
| Foundation Grants                | 42,275           |
| Government Grants                | 34,536           |
| Religious Grants                 | 200              |
| Corporate Grants                 | 25               |
| Individual Contributions         | 9,677            |
| Special Event tickets            | 835              |
| Sales/ Donations for Products    | 4,074            |
| Workshop and Program Fees        | 9,789            |
| <b>Total support and Revenue</b> | <b>\$101,891</b> |

**Expenditures**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Administrative           | 5,876           |
| Programs                 | 31,648          |
| Fundraising              | 550             |
| Staff Wages and Stipends | 24,670          |
| Honoraria and Stipends   | 23,281          |
| Reimbursed Author Sales  | 2,367           |
| Intern Stipends          | 1,500           |
| Payroll Taxes            | 6,899           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>    | <b>\$96,791</b> |

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Change in Net Assets           | 5,100         |
| Net Assets Beginning of 2021   | 13,103        |
| <b>Net Revenue End of 2022</b> | <b>18,203</b> |



## With Gratitude

Thank you to all those who worked to bring the light to Lit Youngstown in 2022.

**Current Board of Directors:** Tricia D'Avignon (Chair), Jeffrey Murphy (Treasurer), RW Franklin, Chris Giwobicz, Rebe Huntman, Cassandra Lawton, Barbara Marie Minney and Penny Wells

**Staff:** Director Karen Schubert, Development Coordinator: Katelyn Urs, Bookkeeper Heather Best

**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, Judith Vollmer, Janet Wong

**Workshop, Winter Writing Camp and Fall Literary Festival Faculty:** Rebecca Asmo, Erica Anderson-Senter, Kelly Bancroft, Christopher Barzak, Janet Beard, Mary Biddinger, Ali Black, Cherise Benton, Dianne Borsenik, Marion Sterling Boyer, Daphne Carr, Christina Consolino, Juliet Cook, Ashley Cowger, Allison Pitinii Davis, Mixby Dickon, Michael Dittman, Heather Dobbins, Meredith Doench, Melissa Dunlap, Jim Ferris, Erin Flanagan, Candace Fleming, Timothy Francisco, Karen Frank, Molly Fuller, Mike Geither, Carrie George, Christian Anton Gerard, June Gervais, Chris Gibowicz, Joe Goheen, Mike Good, Matthew Graham, Susan Grimm, Jeff Gundy, Amy Gustine, Pauletta Hansel, Quartez Harris, William Heath, Christine Howey, Isaiah Hunt, Manuel Iris, Kim Jacobs-Beck, Jeremy Jusek, Christen Noel Kauffman, Diane Kendig, Jen Knox, Jacqueline Kunkel, Rebecca Lachman, Jan LaPerle, Cynthia Larsen, Mary Leoson, Marjorie Maddox, Jonie McIntire, Susan McKenzie, Jackie Mercer, Anastasios Mihalopolous, Jennifer Militello, Amanda Miller, Robert Miltner, Charity Morris, Dylan Morris, Lauren Olesh, Mary Ozbolt, Amanda Page, Steve Reese, Mario Ricciardi, Amy Rosenbluth, Barbara Sabol, Rikki Santer, Miranda Scharf, Vince Shivers, Larry Smith, Lannie Stabile, Katerina Stoykova, Philip Terman, Barrett Warner, Sarah Valingo, Alyssa Velazquez, Sara Moore Wagner, Gabriel Welsch, Julia Wendell, Tara Stillions Whitehead, Chrstian Gilman Whitney, Sarah Ann Winn, James Winter



## First Wednesday Series Readers and Co-hosts:

- January: Samantha Imperi Kent), Cassandra Lawton (Youngstown) & Rachel Roberts (Akron), co-host Adam Lee
- February: Brandon Noel (Warren), Tony Wade (Warren) & contributors to *Olney Magazine*, co-host Daphne Carr
- March: Mitch James (Cleveland) & Zach Savich (Cleveland), co-host Katie Urs
- April: Cynthia Bosley (Toledo) & Jessica Jones (Kent), co-host Betsy Ford
- May: Christine Howey (Cleveland) & Angie Orlando (Kent), co-host Bill Mullane
- June: Pauletta Hansel (Cincinnati) & Marjorie Maddox (Lock Haven), co-host Erica Putro

- July: Quartez Harris (Cleveland) & Kerry Trautman (Findlay), co-host Lori Shelby
- August: Rochelle Hurt (Orlando) & Debbie Allen (Youngstown), co-host Barbara Marie Minnie
- September: Alice Cone (Kent) & Jonie McIntire (Toledo), co-host Emelia Sherin
- October: Lynda Montgomery (Cleveland) & Toni Thayer (Cleveland), co-host Terry Shears
- November: Kelly Hambly (Kent) & Jimmy Sutman (Youngstown). co-host Denise Sculli
- December: Eric Harper (Youngstown) & Julie Cancio Harper (Youngstown), co-host Skye Hildebrand

**Program Partners & Hosts:** Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), B&O Night Market, Chaney High School, Community Literacy Workforce and Cultural Center, Hopewell Theatre, Kirkmere Elementary School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, McDonough Museum of Art, Oak Hill Cemetery, Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour, Ohio Poetry Association, OH Wow! the Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology, the Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, historian Vince Shivers, Soap Gallery, St. John's Episcopal Church, Mathias Svalina, Ward Bakery Artists, Westside Bowl, WYSU, Youngstown Playhouse, YSU Bitonte College of Health & Human Services, YSU English Department, YSU English Festival, YWCA

**Volunteers:** Debbie Allen, Pam Anderson, Barbara Brothers, John Burroughs, Arthur Byrd, Daphne Carr, Shelley Chernin, RW Franklin, Rosemary Fuller, Carrie George, Julie Cancio Harper, Samantha Imperi, Karen Lapidus, Jessica Manack, Linda Mohn, Erica Putro, Maureen Reardon, Rebecca Moon Ruark, Marissa Snyder, Julio Valentin, Penny Wells, Laurin Wolf

## Financial Support

**Patrons and Foundation funders (\$500 or more):** Pamela Anderson, Nathalie & James Andrews Foundation, Rob Briggs & Alyssa Lenhoff-Briggs, Barbara Brothers, Centofanti Foundation, Char & Chuck Fowler Foundation, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Art, Ohio Arts Council, Purple Cat, Raymond J. Wean Foundation, Larry & Sally Sears, Youngstown City Council President Thomas Hetrick, Youngstown Foundation, WYSU

**Donors:** Melanie Buonavolonta, Robert Case, Ann Cliness, Rosemary Dapolito, Marie Davidson, Allison Pitinii Davis, Shari Della Penna, Heather Dobbins, Christine Gibowicz, Diane FitzPatrick, Christine Gibowicz, Susan Grimm, Julianna Cancio Harper, Jennifer Hinst-White, Christine Howey, MaryAnn Limmer, The Links, Mason Materials Plus, Leah Merritt, Carol Morris, Jeffrey Murphy, Zachary Savich, Ellen & Lowell Satre, Susan & Gary Sexton, Sony Ton-Aime

