



Lighthouse Writers Workshop 2012 Annual Report



“Emerson’s insistence [was] that the poet must ‘leave the world and not know any longer the times, customs, graces, politics, or opinions of men, but... take all from the muse....”
—Carl Dennis, *Poetry as Persuasion*

Letter from the Executive Director, Also a Poet

Dear Friend of Lighthouse:

As I write this, overlooking the occasional bustle (car going too fast, hipster biker pedaling by, guy in a cap lighting a cigarette across the street) out my office window, sitting in the old children’s bedroom of the Milheim House, I want to take Emerson’s dictum that I should forget the customs and graces and politics of the busy world for a moment. Which is good, because oftentimes an annual report is terribly uncreative, instead stuffed with bland numbers and figures, and while it captures the official record of the year at a nonprofit organization, it doesn’t always capture the vibe—the heart, the soul, the reverberating muse that sings here, every day.

The year 2012 saw immense growth and success at Lighthouse, and a deepening of our belief in community and creativity. Workshops filled at a frenetic pace. Writers and readers filed in and out of the Milheim House all day long, searching for and finding the muse. Our new summer Lit Fest Book Fair celebrated authors’ work and sold lots of books. Our students read to standing-room only crowds. We welcomed some of today’s most gifted writers—like Cheryl Strayed and Andre Dubus III, Thomas Lux and Junot Díaz. We played poker with raconteur and story writer Steve Almond. To be sure, it seemed as if the muse was with us all the way along, and the power of words sang electric. And while coaxing the muse to hang out with us was work—hard work—the end product was joy. And pride.

All totaled, almost 2,500 individuals met with the muse for a while at 1515 Race Street. Over 1,440 folks believed in this spooky art enough to become members. Over 50 faculty members inspired and cajoled us to write, write, write as if our lives depended on it. And we did—as you’ll see in the pages that follow.

Yours Truly,

Michael Henry, MFA
Executive Director



“The making of a story... consists of the assiduous application of several very basic questions: What does the hero want? What hinders him from getting it? What happens if he does not get it? That’s what keeps the audience in their seats...”

—David Mamet, *On Directing Film*

Desires vs. Obstacles to Overcome: A Program Report

The main thing Lighthouse wants is to achieve our mission: to be a thriving literary center for the art and craft of writing, promoting literary engagement, growth, and connection among writers and readers.

Our desire, too, is to continue to develop into a well-known institution in the Colorado arts community, and to continue to inspire writing and reading in this dusty old cow town.

Organizational wishes met and overcome:

- * Lighthouse completed a new strategic planning process, and we have a blueprint to carry us through the next several years.
- * We continued to expand offerings and have increased the scope and ambition of some of our signature programs, like Lit Fest, Writer’s Studio, and Fly-By Writer’s Project.
- * We welcomed several outstanding writers to Denver this year—including Oprah’s Book Club authors Cheryl Strayed and Andre Dubus III, Pulitzer Prize Winner Junot Diaz, the illustrious Steve Almond and Robin Black, and poet extraordinaire Thomas Lux.
- * Many faculty and students found success on the publishing front, signing with major houses, winning awards, and appearing in some of the best literary journals around.
- * Youth outreach in local schools and other locales effectively doubled in size, reaching over 1,000 kids.
- * In-house youth workshop registrations increased almost 25%.
- * Event attendance increased exponentially, with over 2,000 attending the Buzz and Draft series, the inaugural Book Fair, Writer’s Studio and Fly-By Writer’s Project, and other events.
- * We continued an ambitious program of collaboration, with the likes of Stories on Stage, Ballet Nouveau Colorado, Denver Voice, various public libraries, Tattered Cover, and other organizations.
- * Total revenue increased by 30%, with workshop and class attendance up 15%, to approximately 5,000 registrations.
- * Membership increased to over 1,440, a jump of more than 10%.
- * Overall fundraising increased by 16%.
- * We successfully added new staff members and new positions; we revised and streamlined many administrative procedures; and completed a thorough and successful audit.



What Lighthouse Does

Adult Programs

8-week, 4-week, online, one-day, and half-day writing workshops
Alice Maxine Bowie Fellowship
Beacon Award for Excellence in Teaching
Fairplay Retreat
Fly-By Writer's Project
Grand Lake Retreat
Lit Fest Summer Festival
Reading as a Writer classes
Writerspace
Writership Tuition Remission Program
Writer's Studio

Media

Facebook
Twitter
iTunes Podcasts
The *Beacon* Newsletter
Top-Secret Blog
Weekly E-news

Free Community Programs

Friday 500
Lit Fest Book Fair
Monday Writing Hours
The Draft, a Reading Show
Willfully Submit
Writer's Buzz

Young Writer's Program

After-school and weekend workshops
Outreach Programs
Summer Writing Camp
Teen Council



“Character is Destiny.”
—Heraclitus

Our destiny is tied to all those who make
Lighthouse such a special place.

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Thanks also to our dedicated and hard-working volunteers, without whom we be a complete mess. Literally. And figuratively.

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“It is quite true that Philosophy says: life must be understood backwards. But that makes one forget the other saying: it must be lived—forwards.”
—Søren Kierkegaard

Flash Forward

In the fall of 2012, Lighthouse staff and board of directors embarked on a journey to create a new strategic plan to take the organization into 2015 and beyond.

During these meetings, here’s what we accomplished:

- * We used lots of whiteboards, and many sheets of graph paper.
- * We ate lots of muffins and bagels, and drank oceans of coffee and tea.
- * We saved documents to servers and floated PDFs around to gauge interest and energy.
- * We edited out all the “to be” verbs we could find.
- * We tried *not* to use the following words and phrases: *leverage, proactive, visioning, SWOT, incentivizing, from the desk of, in perpetuity, cultivate*, and more.

Most important, we created a vision that will guide the organization, a vision which is built on three goals:

- a. Lighthouse continues to grow as a literary center, and is recognized as a beacon for a diverse group of writers and readers.
- b. Lighthouse attains long-term financial stability.
- c. The board of directors continues to grow, and actively supports Lighthouse through governance, leadership, and fundraising.

These goals might seem very internally focused at first, but they are imperative if Lighthouse is to continue to provide outstanding creative writing instruction, to build community among writers and readers, and to continually advocate for the transformative power of writing and reading in our culture.



“The rules, that is, are somewhat bendable. The poem, that is, has a second source of energy, which is the individual’s direction: the individual’s sensibility, speech patterns, conscious intent, love of plainness or opulence, and so on.”

—Mary Oliver, *Rules for the Dance*

2012 Financial Reports

Yes, what is true for the rules of poetry is *not* true for the rules of financial reporting. Those are not bendable.

And so we give you the (unaudited) financial reports for 2012. And while they are not opulent, we hope they make sense. (And cents.)

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support and revenues			
Earned Income	\$ 579,540	\$ -	\$ 579,540
Memberships	51,449	-	\$ 51,449
Donations and Grants	163,608	66,113	\$ 229,721
Total revenue, gains, and support	<u>794,597</u>	<u>66,113</u>	<u>860,710</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	51,729	(51,729)	-
Total support and revenues	<u>846,326</u>	<u>14,384</u>	<u>860,710</u>
Expenses			
Program services	733,190.09	-	733,190.09
General and administrative	86,257.66	-	86,257.66
Fundraising	43,128.83	-	43,128.83
Total Expenses	<u>862,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>862,577</u>
Change in net assets	(16,251)	14,384	(1,867)
Net assets, beginning of year	(22,290)	64,253	41,963
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$ (38,541)</u>	<u>\$ 78,637</u>	<u>\$ 40,096</u>



Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

12/31/2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	72,204
Accounts and grants receivable	\$	7,690
Promotional merchandise		
Total current assets	\$	<u>79,894</u>

Furniture and Equipment, Net	\$	5,111
Deposit	\$	6,250
Prepaid Expenses	\$	6,805
Total other assets	\$	<u>18,166</u>
	\$	<u>98,060</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	4,149
Deferred revenue	\$	42,281
Class deposits	\$	500
Total current liabilities	\$	<u>46,930</u>

Deferred rent	\$	11,034
Total liabilities	\$	<u>57,964</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$	(38,541)
Temporarily restricted	\$	78,637
Total net assets	\$	<u>40,096</u>
		<u>98,060</u>



Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Cash flows from operating activities	
Change in net assets	\$ (1,867)
Adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation	3,822
Changes in:	
Accounts and grants receivable	8,943
Prepaid Expense	(6,805)
Accounts Payable	911
Deferred Lease	(2,500)
Customer Deposits	(2,130)
Deffered Revenue	(5,147)
Cash used by Operating Activities	<u>\$ (4,774)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities	
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(2,421)
Sale of Promotional Merchandise	1,178
Net cash used by by Investing Activities	<u>(1,243)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ (6,017)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, at the beginning of period	78,220
Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period	<u><u>\$ 72,204</u></u>



“Story—sacred and profane—is perhaps the main cohering force in human life. A society is composed of fractious people with different personalities, goals, and agendas. What connects us beyond our kinship ties? Story. As John Gardner puts it, fiction ‘is essentially serious and beneficial, a game played against chaos and death, against entropy.’” Story is the counterforce to social disorder, the tendency of things to fall apart. Story is the center without which the rest cannot hold.”

—Jonathan Gotschall, *The Storytelling Animal*

Backstory & Exposition

Our Mission:

Lighthouse Writers Workshop promotes literary engagement, growth, and connection among writers and readers.

Our Vision:

The written word fosters connection and inspires transformative change in ourselves and in the world.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that complies with all federal rules and regulations in providing equal access and opportunities in both learning and employment. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, gender expression, physical disability, sexual orientation, race, or religion. Our mission is to educate, support, and develop community among writers and readers in Denver and Colorado.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is proud to be an SCFD Tier III organization. Additional general support comes from government, foundation, and individual sources, and our 1,440+ members.



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