

Lighthouse Writers Workshop 2013 Annual Report



"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive." —James Baldwin

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend:

Big things happened at Lighthouse in 2013. Of course, I could say that of every year and it would be true. Every year is transformative in some way, and every year our programs expand— sometimes exponentially. Often the staff and board at Lighthouse get the feeling we're just hanging on for the ride. A few examples from 2013: Lit Fest grew by nearly 30%, reaching thousands of writers; National Book Award winner Jennifer Egan served as our fall Writer's Studio guest, wowing a crowd of around 400; the young writer's program continued to do important work in 30 local schools, getting students to write and to practice the art of close reading; and we launched the pilot year of The Book Project, a two-year program for writers of book-length prose, with 18 brave writers, 4 inspiring mentors, and more breakthroughs than any of us could have anticipated.

Lighthouse is a place where we like to think big—every year. As in: advocating for the literary arts, and also for the transformative power that reading and literary discussion can have on all people, all ages, from all walks of life. We believe literature makes us a more empathetic, intelligent, and thoughtful society, and literature contains a depth and richness of experience that we just can't get with other art forms. We're not the only ones who believe this. The other day I was looking through our bookshelves and grabbed a book, *On Moral Fiction*, by John Gardner, and found this passage: "Art asserts and reasserts those values which hold off dissolution, struggling to keep the mind intact and preserve the city, the mind's safe preserve. Art rediscovers, generation by generation, what is necessary to humanness."

Even though Lighthouse continues to grow, it's still very much a close-knit family, to which all are welcome. As many of you know, 2013 was a difficult year for the Lighthouse family. We lost two dear friends and long-time students, Robyn Richey Piz and James Downing. We lost two dedicated and energetic instructors, both gifted writers and good friends, in Cort McMeel and Jake Adam York. So it was perhaps fortuitous that our Studio guest in the spring of 2013 was Mark Doty, who writes so eloquently about loss, and how it's a shared human experience. In his memoir *Firebird*, he writes, "Everyone will be filled by grief, distorted by sorrow; that's the nature of being. What matters is what we learn to make of what happens to us."

Sincerely,

Michael Henry, MFA Executive Director

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"I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done." —Steven Wright

Year in Review: A Program Report

All in all, it was a very busy year at Lighthouse—a year in which we began to fulfill our role as the literary center of Denver and beyond. It was also a year in which we confirmed why such an organization must exist in our cities: to actively uphold and advance the place of literature in our culture.

Now, on to some modest bragging:

- * 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 National Book Award winner Mark Doty and Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Egan. We also invited in luminaries Lauren Groff, Bill Roorbach, Thomas Lux, and many more.
- * Dozens of faculty and students found success on the publishing front, signing with major houses and agents, winning awards, and appearing in some of the best literary journals around.
- * Youth outreach in local schools continued to expand, reaching over 1,200 kids.
- * In-house youth workshops kept growing, too, serving around 600 kids.
- * Event attendance increased exponentially, with over 2,400 attending the Buzz and Draft series, the Lit Fest 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, Wonderbound, Clyfford Still Museum, Denver History Museum, Denver Art Students League, various public libraries, Tattered Cover, and other organizations.
- * Total revenue increased by 10%, with workshop and class attendance up 12%, to approximately 6,000 registrations.
- * Total fundraising increased by 18%, helping to ensure that Lighthouse becomes financially stable and sustainable over the long haul.
- * Former workshopper (and current instructor) Rachel Weaver's novel *Point of Direction* was an Indie Choice pick; Nadia Bolz-Weber's memoir *Pastrix* was a *New York Times* bestseller; Gary Schanbacher's novel *Crossing Purgatory* won the WILLA Award; David J. Daniel's book of poems won the Four Way Books Prize; Cathy Bell and Lia Woodall, both nonfiction workshoppers, were nominated for Pushcart Awards; Teow Lim Goh published in *The Rumpus, Shadowbox*, and *Open Letters Monthly*. Just to name a few (there were many others).
- * Alice Kilduff, a teen council member, won the Colorado Poetry Out Loud recitation contest and competed at nationals in Washington, D.C.



The New Lighthouse Mission and Vision

Because we're writers and can never leave a block of text alone, we sometimes have to revise things. Like our mission statement, which now feels much more comprehensive, ambitious, and gutsy. So here goes:

The mission of Lighthouse Writers Workshop is to provide the highest caliber of artistic education, support, and community for writers and readers in the Rocky Mountain Region and beyond. We strive to ensure that literature maintains its proper prominence in the culture, and that individuals achieve their fullest potential as artists and human beings.

To achieve this mission, Lighthouse has identified seven goals:

- * Lighthouse attracts literary types of all ages and from all walks of life, inviting them to connect with our programming and community, both to enrich their art and enrich their lives.
- * Lighthouse provides a lifelong educational environment that fosters the artistic, intellectual, and personal growth of its community and provides continuing support as they embark on successful careers and productive lives as artists and citizens.
- * Lighthouse continually elevates its educational and artistic standards, remaining open and responsive to changing conditions in the worldwide literary arts scene.
- * Lighthouse attracts and retains talented and renowned faculty members in all disciplines by providing a collaborative work environment and involving them fully in the artistic and educational life of the community.
- * Lighthouse upholds its commitment to a diverse community by nurturing an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming environment .
- * Lighthouse takes an active role in preserving the future of the literary arts by providing exemplary arts education programs, encouraging its members and youth to serve as advocates for the literary arts in society.
- * Lighthouse tirelessly promotes the belief that writing and reading create a deep understanding of ourselves and others, and thereby encourages compassion and empathy in our society.

Vision Statement

A society that celebrates literature and creative writing is investing in the critical capacity of its populace to think, communicate, and reason at the highest levels of compassion, intelligence, and spirit.



"Writing isn't about making money, getting famous, getting dates, getting laid, or making friends. In the end, it's about enriching the lives of those who will read your work, and enriching your own life, as well. It's about getting up, getting well, and getting over. Getting happy, okay? Getting happy." — Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

2013 Financial Reports

Overall, these numbers make us happy. (Guardedly happy.)

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	Unrestricted		Temporarily Restricted		Total	
Support and revenues						
Earned Income	\$	597,009	\$	-	\$	597,009
Memberships		51,082		-	\$	51,082
Donations and Grants		180,074	91	,715	\$	271,789
In-Kind Donations		18,721				18,721
Other Income		9,185				9,185
Total revenue, gains, and support	_	856,071	91	,715	_	947,786
Net assets released from restrictions		77,743	(77,	743)		-
Total support and revenues		933,814	13	,972		947,786
Expenses						
Program services		799,715		-		799,715
General and administrative		58,881		-		58,881
Fundraising		74,511		-		74,511
Total Expenses		933,107		_		933,107
Change in net assets		707	13	,972		14,679
Net assets, beginning of year		(50,858)	87	,137		36,279
Net Assets, end of year	\$	(50,151)	101	,109	\$	50,958



Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

12/31/2013

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 102,328
Accounts and grants receivable	\$ 10,463
Prepaid Expense	\$ 2,000
Total current assets	\$ 114,791
Furniture and Equipment, Net	\$ 16,571
Deposit	\$ 5,250
Total other assets	\$ 22,821
	\$ 137,612

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities	
Accounts payable + Payroll Liabilities	\$ 11,798
Deferred revenue	\$ 59,233
Class deposits	\$ 1,725
Total current liabilities	\$ 72,756
Deferred rent	\$ 13,898
Total liabilities	\$ 86,654
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$ (50,151)
Temporarily restricted	\$ 101,109
Total net assets	\$ 50,958
	\$ 137,612



Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc. Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2013					
	,				
Cash flows from operating activities					
Change in net assets	\$ 14,679				
Adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	1				
Depreciation	3,840				
Donated furniture	(15,300))			
Changes in:					
Accounts and grants receive	able (6,347)				
Prepaid Expense	4,805				
Promotional Merchandise					
Accounts Payable	(1,152))			
Payroll Liabilities	8,802				
Deferred Lease	(954)				
Customer Deposits	1,225				
Deferred Revenue	16,952				
Cash used by Operating Activities	\$ 26,550				
Cash flows from investing activities					
Purchase of furniture and ed	nuinment				
Net cash used by by Investing Activities					
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 26,550				
Cash and cash equivalents, at the beginning of period	75,778				
Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period	\$ 102,328	8			



Thank you to all those who work so hard to make Lighthouse such a special place.

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Mario Acevedo Nick Arvin, MFA Rebecca Berg, PhD John Brehm, MFA Michael Catlin Shari Caudron, MFA John Cotter, MA Jennifer Davis, MFA Terry Dodd Andrea Dupree, MFA Kathryn Eastburn, MFA

Faculty, continued

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What Lighthouse Does

Adult Programs 8-week, 4-week, online, one-day, and half-day writing workshops The Book Project Alice Maxine Bowie Fellowship Beacon Award for Excellence in Teaching 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 Collaborations with other arts organizations

<u>Media</u> Facebook Twitter iTunes Podcasts 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 camps Teen Council (now called Young Authors Collective) Collaborations with other arts organizations 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 1,600+ members.



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