

*"Wu wei is a little like going with the flow—
taking the direction and energy of the cosmos
and, with an open mind and heart, following it
with a curious and gentle nature."*



LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS
WORKSHOP

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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MISSION AND VALUES



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.

1

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.

2

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 individuals.

3

Lighthouse continually elevates its educational and artistic standards, remaining open and responsive to changing conditions in the worldwide literary arts scene.

4

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.

5

Lighthouse upholds its commitment to a diverse community by nurturing an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming environment. We also deeply believe in the importance of lifting up the voices of those who've been traditionally marginalized or ignored—persons of color, refugees, the homeless, LGBTQ individuals, and others.

6

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.

7

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

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To Our Lighthouse Community,

Years ago, I spent a weekend helping my friend Greg, who'd bought a house on the outskirts of Boston, build a backyard deck. We were in our 20s, and such an endeavor felt ambitious and exciting. I even bought a power drill for the occasion. Just owning such a thing seemed like a bold step into adulthood.

Greg's father, a kind, funny, professor of psychology and New Jersey native, drove up to help. I vividly remember digging post-holes in the hard soil, blisters quickly forming on my hands, but loving the process—it was perhaps the first thing I'd ever helped build, aside from a sad soda-can lamp in 8th-grade shop class.

As we dug one particular posthole, we got about two feet down before we encountered a large rock, which, as we continued to clear more earth, proved to be a massive boulder, an impervious object. Greg was worried that the town inspector might not approve the project, as all post holes needed to be at least three feet deep. Greg, an engineer and a stickler for details, grew upset and considered scrapping the entire project, but his father would have none of it. "Greg, babe," he said, "it's fine. It's like wu wei, you know? Wu wei, going with the universe's plan."

The last sentence isn't exactly a direct quote, but the salutation most certainly is.

Greg's dad suggested that the boulder would provide the perfect foundation for a post and that we should embrace it. In an impromptu lecture, the three of us standing shirtless in the afternoon sun, he advised that we accept what the earth provided and move on. He went on to say that wu wei was a little like going with the flow—taking the direction and energy of the cosmos and, with an open mind and heart, follow it with a curious and gentle nature.

Needless to say, Greg and I still refer to his dad as Wu Wei. An ancient Daoist concept has become a nickname.

2021 was a year with strong currents and many immovable actualities. A pandemic, societal upheaval, anxiety-ridden uncertainty, you name it. A year in which pressing against the forces of the cosmos would be a fool's errand. The way to survive was simple: take a calm, long view, see where the energy of the universe seems to be leading, and relax into it.

I can't say Lighthouse as a community or organization consciously followed the precept of wu wei, but looking back, it sure feels that way. And by doing so, I believe we saved ourselves a good deal of friction (and failure). The Lighthouse community itself—our writers, members, and faculty—embraced the vivid unknown, "taking no action that is not in accord with the universe." *

(* definition from Encyclopedia Britannica)

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We settled onto Zoom. We held onto writing as a form of sanity-keeping and emotion-processing. We followed the invisible patterns of the ether toward a mindset of generosity and good cheer. Toward heartfelt caring. Toward a tentative vision of a future that would eventually leave all the unknowns and, maybe someday, get back in person.

I am deeply proud of the ways in which the Lighthouse staff, board, and community supported and cared for one another, and how we embraced a once-in-a-lifetime confluence of challenges. Personally, I don't know how I would have survived 2021 without all the beautiful words people wrote and shared and how we were so kind and nurturing to one another.

Some specific highlights:

- Over the course of the year, Lighthouse gave out over \$120,000 in tuition assistance to writers and literary types of all ages.
- Our participants were truly worldwide, with writers from all over, including all across the US and far-flung places, including Haiti, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, India, China, Scotland, British Columbia, and at least 48 states. In all, over 16,000 writers and readers attended workshops and events.
- Adult community engagement programs, like Hard Times—for folks experiencing housing insecurity or financial challenges, and Writing to Be Free—for women emerging from incarceration, continued virtually, serving over 4,500 individuals.
- During an all-virtual Lit Fest, Hanif Abdurraqib (future MacArthur Genius Grant winner), Carolyn Forché, Layli Long Soldier, Mat Johnson, Gregory Pardlo (Pulitzer Prize winner), Sarah Ruhl, T Kira Madden, Rebecca Makkai, Leslie Jamison, and many others rounded out our all-star roster of visiting authors.
- The Book Project was able to provide two fellowships, which went to authors Tochukwu Okafor and Jiyhun Yun, both of whom are working on first novels.
- The Book Project also had an embarrassment of riches in terms of teaching fellows, including Angelique Stevens and Ladane Nasser, both of whom teach and write professionally, and are at work on first memoirs.
- Young writers community engagement worked with over 70 schools, serving over 1,600 kids. Here's what one young writer had to say: [or this could be an inset or highlight somewhere else]
- We supported teaching artists, hiring them to lead thousands of workshops, seminars, and writing sessions, paying out over \$865,000.

Back to the impressive boulder in Greg's backyard: the inspector, a tall, grizzled, lanky New Englander, took one look at the thing and said, "Looks like you got a solid ground floor right there," and approved the permit.

Wu wei and solid foundations indeed. Onward to 2022, where Lighthouse will celebrate its 25th year, and, hopefully, a gradual return to in-person.

Gratefully yours,
Mike Henry

THE NUMBERS

PROGRAMS

attended by **16,704 PEOPLE**

we offered
611 ADULT WORKSHOPS
which were attended by
7,378 PEOPLE

we offered
69 YOUTH WORKSHOPS
which were attended by
526 YOUTH



this includes 172 LIT FEST WORKSHOPS
with **2,551 PARTICIPANTS**

EVENTS

attended by

3,002 ADULTS

81 YOUTH



1,406 AT LIT FEST



THE NUMBERS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

we served

4,072 PEOPLE

705 PEOPLE

attended

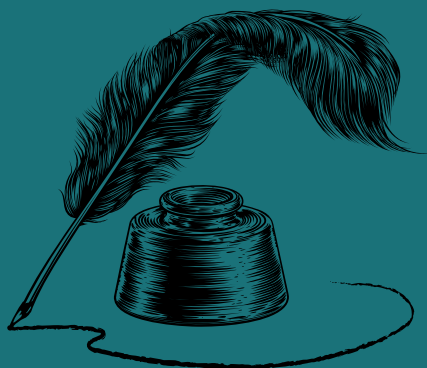
Writing in Color



202 PEOPLE

attended

Queer Creatives



Writerships

Lighthouse Gave Out

563 WRITERSHIPS

totaling

\$121,134

2020-2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS | STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 576,982	\$ 458,634
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful receivables of \$12,605 (2021) and \$12,605 (2020)	229,254	382,375
Employee advance	667	-
Promises to give	94,784	52,457
Pledges receivable, current	212,464	297,141
Prepaid expenses	13,900	17,246
Total current assets	<u>1,128,051</u>	<u>1,207,852</u>
Furniture, equipment and website	215,864	208,218
Less accumulated depreciation	180,293	144,034
	<u>35,571</u>	<u>64,184</u>
Investments and receivables:		
Rose Community Endowment	42,787	34,317
Accounts receivable, noncurrent	34,050	66,150
Pledges receivable, noncurrent	285,021	414,693
Other assets:		
Intangible asset, net of accumulated amortization of \$5,000 (2021) and \$4,308 (2020)	-	692
Capital campaign development in process	619,338	154,806
Operating lease right-of-use asset, net of accumulated amortization of \$27,528 (2021) and \$0 (2020)	55,056	-
Deposit	5,735	6,250
Total noncurrent assets	<u>1,041,987</u>	<u>676,908</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 2,205,609</u>	<u>\$ 1,948,945</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 57,316	\$ 25,107
Payroll liabilities	31,137	31,827
Deferred revenue	449,734	544,325
Operating lease liability	55,056	-
Class deposits	8,134	3,204
Total current liabilities	<u>601,377</u>	<u>604,463</u>
Total liabilities	<u>601,377</u>	<u>604,463</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	557,956	271,921
Board designated	7,000	7,000
	<u>564,956</u>	<u>278,921</u>
With donor restrictions:		
Purpose restricted	973,150	1,038,244
Endowment fund	66,126	27,317
	<u>1,039,276</u>	<u>1,065,561</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,640,232</u>	<u>1,344,482</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 2,205,609</u>	<u>\$ 1,948,945</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support, revenue and gains:			
Earned income	\$ 1,456,114	\$ -	\$ 1,456,114
Memberships	83,925	-	83,925
Donations	487,465	614,655	1,102,120
In-kind donations	35,400	-	35,400
Investment income	791	8,0131	8,804
	<u>2,063,695</u>	<u>622,668</u>	<u>2,686,363</u>
Satisfaction of program restrictions	648,953	(648,953)	-
Total support and revenue	<u>2,712,648</u>	<u>(26,285)</u>	<u>2,686,363</u>
Expenses:			
Workshops	1,689,719	-	1,689,719
Other activities	258,066	-	258,066
Management and general	291,268	-	291,268
Fundraising	187,560	-	187,560
Total expenses	<u>2,426,613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,426,613</u>
Changes in net assets	286,035	(26,285)	259,750
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>2,426,613</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,426,613</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 564,956</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,276</u>	<u>\$ 1,604,232</u>



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LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is Colorado's nonprofit literary arts center whose mission is to ensure literature maintains its proper prominence in the culture and individuals achieve their fullest potential as artists and human beings. For over 20 years, Lighthouse has offered award-winning writing workshops, author events, and community engagement programs to people of all ages and backgrounds in Denver and beyond.

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