



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023

THE PORCH WRITERS' COLLECTIVE
JULY 1ST 2022 - JUNE 30TH 2023

LETTER FROM THE COFOUNDERS

Dear Friend,

As this report details, the last eighteen months have been a season of growth for The Porch. Alongside established programs like Immigrants Write, our editorial and coaching services, and our youth programming, we've added a number of free community writing groups; partnerships with Mending Hearts, Nashville LAUNCH PAD, and the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra; a blog; and a literary magazine, SWING—coming to your coffee table in the fall. Our programs have served more than 1000 additional individuals in the past year.

The relationships we've developed continue to nourish us and our community. A member of our Immigrants Write workshop, Pratik Dash, now sits on our board. Our longtime instructor Yurina Yoshikawa recently joined our staff as Director of Education. And countless creative Nashvillians have forged new friendships and audiences for their work through events like Heartbreak Happy Hour and Mirror House; through community meetups for queer, Black, and AAPI writers; and through our many classes and retreats.

One thing's certain: Around here, your first "porch hang" is never your last. And you're bound to meet some remarkable fellow artists.

We've been honored to bring true literary luminaries to Nashville over the past two years, signaling our commitment to supporting new stories of and from the South. In March 2022, MacArthur Fellow Kiese Laymon treated us to a reading from new work and a candid conversation with Atlanta-based writer Danté Stewart; This April, US Poet Laureate Ada Limón gifted us with a sense of connection, the same one that the written word so powerfully forms between reader and writer in our everyday lives. Limón emphasized the longevity of a writing life. We take that to heart, both as writers and stewards of a young(ish!) arts organization.

With our tenth anniversary on the horizon, we are tremendously grateful and excited for what's to come.

We are thankful to have you on the porch with us.

-Katie & Susannah



NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

The Porch inspires, educates and connects writers and readers of all ages and stages through classes and literary events.

annual event

The Porch was deeply honored to welcome the 24th Poet Laureate of the United States, Ada Limón, to Nashville for The Porch's annual fundraiser, SANCTUARY. This event featured a performance from musical guest Abigail Washburn, followed by Limón in conversation with Major Jackson, board member and host of the poetry podcast The Slowdown.

writing in the community

This past year, The Porch has had the honor of curating new and impactful partnerships with local outreach organizations. Our Writing in the Community classes featured free therapeutic creative writing curriculum for participants in programs at Mending Hearts and Nashville LAUNCH PAD. Additionally, we continue to expand our Immigrants Write umbrella in order to meet the needs of this growing population.

manuscript and editorial coaching

As we enter the next decade of programming and outreach, The Porch is excited to amplify its coaching and mentorship efforts. By providing the writing community with manuscript, editorial, and professional coaching services, at all levels, we hope to provide our creative community with the tool kit they need to reach their personal and professional goals.

SWING

New Writing that Moves You!

A literary journal featuring works of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and comics. This print publication will offer regional identity with national sway while providing a platform for the renowned writer as well as the emerging novice. SWING magazine will offer an even greater opportunity for The Porch to expand its mission while inspiring and connecting writers like never before.



YEAR AT A GLANCE

funding summary:

\$66,000

Donations

\$160,715

Earned Revenue

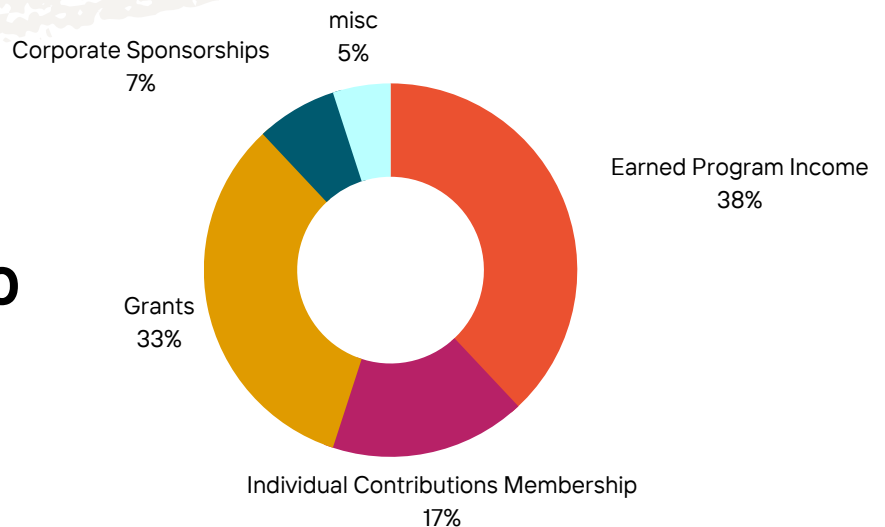
\$139,200

Grants

\$19,400

Annual Event

total revenue: \$411,900



impact snapshot:

4,000

4,000 adult and youth community members participated in in-person and virtual programming

150

Talented Porch instructors taught over 150 adult workshops

55

55 immigrants and refugees from 24 countries engaged in our free Immigrants Write programming

25

The Porch hosted 25+ literary events and collaborations

1,000

1,000 Nashville youth participated in 125 workshops at 20+ locations, including partnerships with Nashville Philharmonic and Cumberland River Compact

200

Creative writing workshops were facilitated for unhoused LGBTQ+ community guests at Nashville's LAUNCH PAD shelters reaching approximately 200 youth

120

Through a new partnership with Mending Hearts, a recovery-based therapeutic community for women in Nashville, 120 women participated in therapeutic creative writing services

PARTNERS

community partners:

Arts & Business Council	Essayem Creative	Metro Arts	Parnassus Books
Big Yellow Dog	Green Door Gourmet	Nashville LAUNCH PAD	Poetry Out Loud
Blue Spring Creek Retreat	Hip Hues	Nashville Philharmonic	Rivendell Spiritual Retreat
Cumberland River Compact	Ingram Content	Nashville Public Library	Soho House Nashville
Dance East	Jackalope Brewing	NAZA	Tempo Cafe
Eclipse Music	Mending Hearts	OZ Arts	The Bookshop
			TIRRC

many thanks to our grantors and donors

American Academy of Poets	Claire McKeever-Burgett	Kylan Disher
Books Forward	Cynthia Ezell	Lara Lane
Claire Adair Hendrickson Foundation	Dave Wiles	Laura LaPrad
Community Foundation of Middle TN	David Sabin	Malory Marlatte and Adam Voith
First Horizon	Debbie & Wylie McDougall	Marie Griffin
Harriet and Tommy Wyche Community Fund	Diana B Johnson	Manuel Zeitlin
Humanities TN SHARP	Doug Williams	Margy Smith Roark
Metro Arts	Elizabeth Crowe	Maria Browning
MSB Cockayne Fund	Emily Hammond	Melissa Smith
National Book Foundation	Gerald Nicks	Otis Clayton
Pinnacle Bank	Helen Ellis	Pamela Hinkle
Rechter Family Fund	Jean Harvey	Patrick Luther
Sandra Schatten Foundation	Jeanette Opheim	Sara Heart
South Arts	Jennifer Chesak	Sarah Key
Tennessee Arts Commission	Jennifer Riven	Scott Chambers
Vanderbilt University	Jessica Grubb	Sharon Ruiz
Wiles + Taylor	Jessica Pearson	Steve Blumenthal
Zeppos Family Charitable Foundation	Jessica Robertson	Steven Schwartz
	John Heacock	Susan Edwards
	Jonathan Gensler	Tim Bartlett
	Julie Schoerke	Towles Kintz
	Julie Sumner	Tracy Dunn
	Karen Hayes	Victoria Senn
	Kate Satz	Vince Morelli
	Kelli Mitchell	Wilson Sims
	Kerry O'Neil	Yurina Yoshikawa
	Kevin Norwood	Zachary Gresham

LEADERSHIP

executive committee:

President: Emily Masters, LaunchTN

Treasurer: Tracy Dunn, Hip Hues

Secretary: Karen Hayes, Parnassus Books (*retired*)

co-directors:

Susannah Felts

Katie McDougall

board of directors:

Triana Frierson, Mending Hearts

Paul Burch, Artist

Tim Bartlett, Parks Real Estate

Anne Stark Locher, Strategic Communications Consultant

Patrik Dash, TIRRC

Ben Tran, Vanderbilt University

Kerry O'Neil, Big Yellow Dog Music/O'Neil Hagaman

Major Jackson, Vanderbilt University

Jessica Pearson, Penguin Random House

Susan Edwards, Frist Art Museum (*retired*)

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