



Association of Writers
& Writing Programs

PRESS RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Receives a \$15,000 Grant from the Literary Arts Emergency Fund to Support Services to American Writers

Riverdale Park, MD—AWP has been awarded a \$15,000 grant to support its programs and services from The Literary Arts Emergency Fund launched and administered by the [Academy of American Poets](#), the [Community of Literary Magazines & Presses](#) (CLMP), and the [National Book Foundation](#). The Literary Arts Emergency fund distributed \$3,530,000 in emergency funding to 282 nonprofit literary arts organizations, magazines, and presses across the nation that have experienced severe financial losses due to COVID-19. The organizations and publishers to receive support reported \$27,635,559 in financial losses to date and are projecting \$48,137,391 in financial losses in the year ahead.

Leaders of the three organizations—Jennifer Benka, Mary Gannon, and Lisa Lucas—united to raise funds and establish the Literary Arts Emergency Fund in response to the lack of institutional support for the nonprofit organizations and publishers that sustain literary culture in the U.S. AWP and the other organizations awarded funding present poets and writers at events and publish and distribute thousands of poems, stories, and essays in books, magazines, and open online archives. They also employ writers as teaching artists who bring literature into classrooms; offer workshops, festivals, and conferences; support the creative practice of poets and writers by providing millions of dollars in grants and fellowships; and honor the achievements of poets and writers by giving their work visibility. Together, these organizations reach more than 75 million readers each year.

The Literary Arts Emergency Fund was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and applications were open to eligible organizations, magazines, and presses from July 17 to August 7, 2020. The administering organizations convened three separate grantmaking panels to make recommendations for the final award decisions.

The only national professional association of writers & writing programs in the US, AWP's mission is to amplify the voices of writers and the academic programs and organizations that serve them and to champion diversity and excellence in creative

writing. Founded in 1967, AWP supports nearly 50,000 writers, over 550 college and university creative writing programs, and 150 writers' conferences and centers.

AWP Executive Director Cynthia Sherman states, "We are so delighted and grateful to receive this grant. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Academy of American Poets, the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses, and the National Book Foundation for all of their good work on behalf of the literary community. The funds will help AWP build on its ongoing efforts to serve our members through this challenging pandemic and provide supportive services to help writers and writing programs survive and thrive."

For more information about this grant and The Literary Arts Emergency Fund, please visit: <https://poets.org/literary-arts-emergency-fund-announcement>

For more information about this project, please visit: arts.gov/news