

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AWP to Receive \$30,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

Riverdale Park, MD—AWP (Association of Writers & Writing Programs) has been approved for a \$30,000 [Grants for Arts Projects](#) award to support the 2022 AWP Conference & Bookfair, featuring keynote speaker Toi Derricotte, cofounder of Cave Canem.

The AWP Conference & Bookfair is the largest annual gathering of creative writers and creative writing college and university programs in the US. With over 500 events and 600-plus exhibitors at the bookfair, the conference and bookfair plays a crucial role in providing a space for professional development, networking, and exchange of ideas among writers and literary arts organizations nationwide in the spirit of AWP’s mission to “champion diversity and excellence in creative writing.” The AWP Conference & Bookfair is among more than 1,100 projects across America that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects funding, totaling nearly \$27 million for fiscal year 2021.

“As the country and the arts sector begin to imagine returning to a postpandemic world, the National Endowment for the Arts is proud to announce funding that will help arts organizations such as AWP reengage fully with partners and audiences,” said NEA acting chairman Ann Eilers. “Although the arts have sustained many during the pandemic, the chance to gather with one another and share arts experiences is its own necessity and pleasure.”

AWP Executive Director Cynthia Sherman said, “We are so grateful to the NEA and its thoughtful, caring staff for their long-standing commitment to nurturing the literary arts. With this support, AWP continues to be a nexus for creative writers from all backgrounds and the academic writing programs and community writing centers that sustain them. We are committed to creating a thoughtful, intentional, and inclusive space where the larger literary community can gather to exchange wisdom on the art and craft of writing and celebrate vibrant creativity and accomplishments.”

Since 1973, the AWP Conference & Bookfair has been a place of connection, reunion, and joy for the literary arts sector. The funds from Grants for Arts Projects will ensure that the 2022 conference in Philadelphia will perpetuate and build upon AWP’s long legacy of supporting creative writers.

For more information on the projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).