



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 \$25,000 Grant from the Literary Arts Emergency Fund to Support Services to American Writers

Riverdale Park, MD—AWP has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support its programs and services from The Literary Arts Emergency Fund, made possible by a grant from the [Mellon Foundation](#) (@MellonFdn).

The Literary Arts Emergency Fund, launched and administered by the Academy of American Poets, the Community of Literary Magazine & Presses (CLMP), and the National Book Foundation in 2020, will distribute \$4,300,000 in funding to 313 nonprofit literary arts organizations and publishers across the US that have experienced continued financial losses due to COVID-19.

The Literary Arts Emergency Fund was established 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.

For more information about this grant and The Literary Arts Emergency Fund, please visit:
<https://www.clmp.org/press-center/the-literary-arts-emergency-fund-awards-4-3-million-dollars/>

AWP Executive Director Cynthia Sherman states, “We are thrilled and grateful to receive this grant. The Literary Arts Emergency Fund has provided the financial resources necessary to support so many organizations impacted by these difficult times. 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 their good work on behalf of the literary community and the Mellon Foundation for the continued support. The funds will help AWP build on its ongoing efforts to serve our diverse membership through this challenging pandemic and provide services to help writers and writing programs survive and thrive.”

The only national professional association of writers and 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.