

2022

LIGHTHOUSE ANNUAL REPORT



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I'm really enjoying the Lighthouse community and grateful, too, that I get to be a part of it from here. My students also find it fun that our class is held across oceans and continents!"

—Ladane Nasser, Book Project Teaching Fellow

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.

A LETTER FROM Michael Henry, Executive Director and Co-Founder

The year 2022 turned out to be a very significant one, as Lighthouse celebrated its 25th anniversary. What started as a four person workshop in a downtown Denver loft led by Andrea Dupree and myself, has grown into something pretty remarkable. In addition, in April we broke ground on Lighthouse's new forever home at 3844 York Street. What started as a casual idea has turned into something I can't quite fathom: a thriving community, with a brand-new space dedicated to the literary arts, something that will, I hope, last a very long time.

In addition, 2022 saw a return to more and more in-person happenings, including a very successful Lit Fest, where we welcomed some incredible writers, such as Percival Everett, Victoria Chang, Ed Hirsch, and more. It was good to spend time with real people again, and to be inspired by their words.

The year was not without its challenges, however. In the beginning of the year, approximately a third of the Lighthouse staff left to seek new opportunities, something of a trend in both the nonprofit and corporate and nonprofit world. Such a massive shift taught us a great deal, and led us to make significant improvements in staff and organizational culture. We reorganized our org chart, and took a closer look at how we allocate resources; we also revamped our job descriptions and improved our salary structure, putting us in a more competitive and equitable position to bring in talented folks who want to serve the mission. We took a more ground-up approach to the annual budgeting process, giving program and administrative teams more control over their expenses and revenue goals. Finally, we worked to increase avenues of collaboration and communication amongst all our programs, building direct and substantive ties across community engagement, young writers program and adult programming. This has led to a new spirit of possibility and connection amongst the team, and between the many communities we serve.





We also confirmed with data something we've always known about our mission: writing brings us closer to one another in a spirit of humanness, and it also improves a writer's sense of self as well as measures of mental wellness, including higher self-esteem, understanding of one's life experience, as well as feelings of wellness and resilience. In fact, our four-year study in collaboration with UC Health Anschutz Center and Children's Hospital Colorado delivered some concrete and definite benefits of engagement with creative writing. They found that one full year after the program, participants still felt a:

- 27% reduction in feelings of anxiety
- 36% reduction in feelings of depression
- 12% reduction in sensations of emotional exhaustion
- 28% increase in feelings of positivity and hopefulness

In short, it's clear writing is strong medicine.

You could say that 2022 was a year of change and a huge leap toward a very ambitious future, a year in which we built a solid cornerstone for Lighthouse's next 25 years. Once again, we embraced change while staying true to the heart of the organization—nurturing the creative human spirit through writing and reading.

As always, thank you for your support—and for your creativity, your words, your willingness to share your story.

Sincerely,

Michael Henry



Celebrating 25 Years



BY THE NUMBERS

2022 at a glance

Writerships (Tuition Assistance) Awarded

992 Adults, totaling **\$67,588**
32 Youths, totaling **\$7,000**

Programs

ADULTS

316 Workshops
3,074 Participants
\$627,199 Workshop Revenue

YOUTH

124 Workshops
55 Off-Site Programs
7,104 Participants
\$91,565 Program Revenue

LIT FEST

124 Workshops
4,179 Participants
\$410,000 Lit Fest Revenue

Community Engagement

3,648 Participants
12 Community Partners
4 Onsite Programs
2 Retreats
3 Fellowships

Virtual vs. In-Person Event Attendance

Adults

303 Virtual
149 In-Person

Youth and Community Engagement

94 Virtual
84 In-Person



MEMBER AND FACULTY NEWS

Book Project Highlights

- Celebrated the release of BP 2022 graduate **Becca Andrews's** *No Choice* (Hachette) in October 2022.
- Featured guest speakers **Hermione Hoby**, **Peter Ho Davies**, and **Matt Bell**.
- Mentors **Erika Krouse** and **Vauhini Vara** each published critically acclaimed books. Erika Krouse's *Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigation* (Flatiron) came out in March and was featured on Colorado Public Radio for our Lit Fest opening, and Vauhini Vara's *The Immortal King Rao* (Norton) came out in May.

Lighthouse Instructor Highlights

- **Jacinda Townsend's** *Mother Country* was published
- Lighthouse faculty and members won many 2022 Colorado Book Awards, including YA Lit (**Olivia Chadha**), Literary Fiction (**Wendy J. Fox**), and were finalists for Poetry, Anthology,

"I'm very grateful to be in community with all of you. What an event that [book release party] was! Thank you so much for making my Denver book event feel so incredibly special: the warm introduction from Andrea; the general logistical wizardry from Torin, and for enthusiastically partnering with Laurie and the Denver Public Library to make it happen and spread the word through the Lighthouse network." - Vauhini Vara, Book Project Mentor, Pulitzer Prize in Fiction

2021-2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS | STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 291,345 | \$ 576,982 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful receivables of \$12,605 (2022) and \$12,605 (2021) | 164,254 | - |
| Employee advance | 313,220 | 229,254 |
| Promises to give | - | 667 |
| Pledges receivable, current | 66,623 | 94,784 |
| Prepaid expenses | 216,888 | 212,464 |
| | <u>17,626</u> | <u>13,900</u> |
| Total current assets | <u>1,069,956</u> | <u>1,207,852</u> |
| Furniture, equipment and website | 223,355 | 215,864 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | <u>205,709</u> | <u>180,293</u> |
| | 17,646 | 35,571 |
| Investments and receivables: | | |
| Rose Community Endowment | 102,265 | 42,787 |
| Accounts receivable, noncurrent | 122,518 | 34,050 |
| Pledges receivable, noncurrent | 156,824 | 258,021 |
| Other assets: | | |
| Capital campaign development in process | 5,267,392 | 619,338 |
| Operating lease right-of-use asset, net of accumulated amortization of \$27,528 (2021) | - | 55,056 |
| Deposit | <u>5,735</u> | <u>5,735</u> |
| Total noncurrent assets | <u>5,654,734</u> | <u>1,041,987</u> |
| Total assets | <u><u>\$6,742,336</u></u> | <u><u>\$2,205,609</u></u> |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 1,312,449 | \$ 57,316 |
| Payroll liabilities | 20,342 | 31,137 |
| Deferred revenue | 664,001 | 449,734 |
| Operating lease liability | - | 55,056 |
| Class deposits | <u>3,935</u> | <u>8,134</u> |
| Total current liabilities | <u>2,000,727</u> | <u>601,377</u> |
| Noncurrent liabilities: | | |
| Long-term debt less issuance costs of \$28,906 (2022) and \$-0- (2021) | <u>473,404</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>2,474,131</u> | <u>601,377</u> |
| Net assets: | | |
| Without donor restrictions: | | |
| Undesignated | 254,500 | 557,956 |
| Board designated | <u>7,000</u> | <u>7,000</u> |
| | 261,500 | 564,956 |
| With donor restrictions: | | |
| Purpose restricted | 3,911,336 | 973,150 |
| Endowment fund | <u>95,369</u> | <u>66,126</u> |
| | <u>4,006,705</u> | <u>1,039,276</u> |
| Total net assets | 4,268,205 | 1,604,232 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 6,742,336 | \$ 2,205,609 |

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Lighthouse extends a sincere thank you to our generous supporters.

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