



2009

LIGHTHOUSE

Annual Report

BELIEVING IN THE POWER OF
WORDS
AND THE MAKING OF ART

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2009. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Everyone recognizes that opening line, but here's what immediately follows:

“It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light...”

There's more of course, but we like the idea of ending on Light. Just because we're generally optimistic—about the success and positive energy, and the generally amazing community that's collected itself in the safe harbor that Lighthouse overlooks.

To wit: despite the flagging economy, and other stressful goings-on, Lighthouse enrollment grew at a pace of 15%; even better, membership doubled. And despite the prognostications and hand-wringing about the death of the book, the death of publishing, the impossibility of lit journal publication, members found success in each of those areas—in exceptional quantities.

I'd also like to mention that Lighthouse isn't just home to those seeking to get their names in print: our four-week reading as a writer classes boomed, our youth outreach workshops served hundreds of young writers, many of whom are, for the first time, embracing their desire to tell a story, the story only they can tell.

During the year, many people told us to stay put, to lay low, to not do anything “ambitious”—which we took as a code word for “crazy.” Nonetheless, we forged ahead and embarked on several enriching and inspiring collaborations. In October, a group of war veterans came to the Ferril House for an NEA-sponsored weekend workshop called Operation Homecoming; all through the fall our youth program instructors ventured into underserved schools to bring the freedom and creativity of writing to students who had their own powerful stories to tell; and we collaborated with Ballet Nouveau a second time, to bring an ambitious story-in-poems-and-dance to a very appreciative audience. We partnered with Stories on Stage and the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs on various programming, from One Book One Denver, to a performance called “Nobody Likes a Smartass.”

So while the front page news sometimes seemed dire, we kept lighting the shores, believing in the power of words and the making of art. After all, writing is one of those rare tasks that help us understand the best—and worst—of times.

Sincerely,



Michael Henry
Executive Director



“Mrs. Dalloway said **she would buy the flowers herself.**” *(Mrs. Dalloway, Virginia Woolf)*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thing is, Lighthouse is a true community. A place where we buy the flowers with a lot of help from our friends.

Here are the people and organizations who've supported Lighthouse in 2009. And we thank them very much for that.

\$25,000+

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
Emily Sinclair

\$10,000+

Jay Kenney
National Endowment for the Arts
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Denver Office of Cultural Affairs

\$5,000+

Bloomfield Foundation

\$2,500+

SCFD Denver County Collaborative Grants

\$1,000+

Josh* + Kate Dinar
Nancy Graham*
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Janelle Lassonde*
Stella Lillcrop
Tiffany Tyson

\$500+

Anonymous
Nick Arvin** + Rachel Hultin
David Barber
Mary Caulkins
Gary Schanbacher*
Morgan Smith

\$250+

Anonymous
John Hammer
Lisa Kenney
Jeff Kleinman

\$100+

Anonymous
Lisa Adams
Garrett Ammon + Dawn Fay
Don M. Auman
James Bainbridge
Phyllis Barber*
Carleen Brice*
Shari Caudron**
Delinquent Writers Group (In honor of Andrea Dupree)
Denise Dupree
Andrea Faucette
Corin Flannigan
Joel Goldberg
Ginny Hoyle
Ed + Jennifer Itell**
Debbie James
Amie Knox
Joan Manheimer
Dale McDonell
Patrick O'Driscoll
Tami Palmer
Marcelina Rivera
Mary Ross
Kathie Kramer Ryan*
Martha Scherzer
Peggy Simmons
Joy Vernon
Sheila Wright + Roscoe Hill

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Publisher (\$1,000)

Emily Sinclair


Literary Mentors (\$250)

Stephanie Bruno
Charles Bloomfield
Wendy Fryke
Gary Schanbacher
Daphne Young

Working Writers (\$100)

Gary Barnes
Tia Beckman
Dee Casalaina
Shere Chamness
Julie Clark
Christopher Doig
Jon Hammer
Mitch Hankins
Lynda Hilburn
Ginny Hoyle
Jenna Huisken
Cecelia Hyland
Darlene Jamison
Mary Beth Lagerborg
Josephine Lienert
Kimberly McClintock
Vincent Novak
Jere Paulmero
Christina Phillips
Joey Porcelli
Jim Ringel
Joan Ringel
Priscilla Shand
Laurie Sleeper
Jennifer Itell
Robin Vidimos

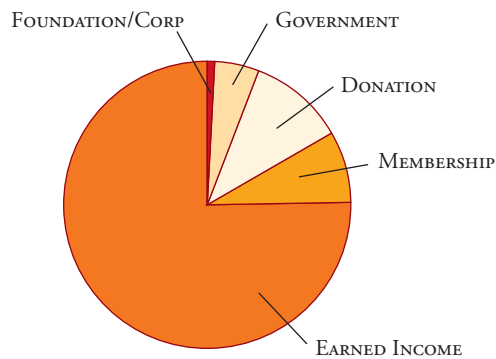
* Board Member
** Faculty Member



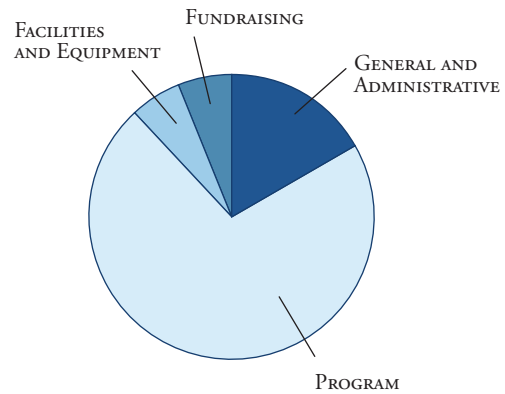
“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry in money, either.” —Robert Graves

BY THE NUMBERS

2009 Income



2009 Expense



Foundation/Corp:	\$3,500
Government:	\$20,175
Donation:	\$42,030
Membership:	\$31,710
Earned Income:	\$296,241
Total:	\$393,656

General and Administrative:	\$65,483
Program:	\$280,024
Fundraising:	\$23,601
Facilities and Equipment:	\$22,975
Total:	\$392,083

NET INCOME: \$1,573



“If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you’ll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and **all that David Copperfield kind of crap,** but I don’t feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.” (J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*)

But nonprofits and their constituents do want to know the truth.

THE TRUTH: IN THE FORM OF SOME VERY IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Summary of Lighthouse growth, since becoming a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization:

YEAR	TOTAL REVENUE	# OF STUDENTS	# OF MEMBERS
2009	\$393,656	1,860	649
2008	\$386,069	1,660	484
2007	\$343,703	1,520	369
2006	\$300,576	1,507	395
2005	\$232,769	895	296
2004	\$195,588	808	322

Miscellaneous Figures: (as of December 31, 2009):

FaceBook friends **627**

Number of blog posts to our top-secret blog: **225**

Number of viewers: **11,008**

Most views in a single day: **356**

Number of draftees for the smashingly successful Draft Reading Series: **16**

Estimated attendance at Buzz and Draft sessions: **1,200**

Number of students served in Youth Program Outreach: **489**

Number of students who felt compelled to call us and mention how much they love, love, love our choice of toilet paper at the Ferril House (Safeway’s two-ply generic brand, in case you’re curious): **1**

Number of dogs who live next door to the Ferril House: **5**
(Currently in 2010, there is only one, but he’s pretty big.)

Number of times the Ferril House alarm was set off by students and/or faculty: **9**



“I was getting along fine with Mama, Papa-Daddy and Uncle Rondo until my sister Stella-Rondo just separated from her husband and came back home again.” (Eudora Welty, “Why I live at the P.O.”)

Yes, we do get along with our very fine partners, supporters, and volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our volunteers, who have, time and again, reached out in the cold, dark night, to reassure us, to let us know they were there to get stuff done.

Kate Barrett, Kerry Booth, Amy Delpo, Zachary Dryden, Jeanette Edelstein, Jason Tucker, Destiny Effertz, Nick Franciose, Brenda Gillen, Brendan Landry, Rosemary L’Esprit, Jan McNutt, John O’Keefe, Scott Piebenga, Krista Reymann, Mimi Schaefer, Nancy Sharp, Laurel Smith, Betsy Sweeney, Deanette Vasicek, Joy Vernon, Erika Walker, Amy Zanlungo.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Special thanks to those who who’ve supported Lighthouse so very in-kindly: *5280 Magazine*, Avery Brewery, Ballet Nouveau Colorado, Chris Rock Marketing, Colorado Humanities, Diane Marty, Flobots Community Space, Hooked on Colfax Coffee, Humphries Poli Architects, Jet Hotel, Rock Bottom Brewery, Olivéa Restaurant, Simple Sugar Bakery, and Tattered Cover.

CULTURAL PARTNERS

Ballet Nouveau Colorado’s company, school, and community programs are dedicated to enriching lives through innovation in dance. In 2009, we were thrilled to pair poets with choreographers, resulting in *Love, a Joint Venture* and *Intersection*, two new ballets that brought the written word to life in a brand new way.

The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs’s mission is to advance the arts and culture in Denver. Lighthouse is thrilled to work together towards that goal, programming events and the young writer’s contest for One Book, One Denver, and pairing our Young Writer’s with the Poetry in Motion program, among others.

Eventgallery 910Arts is a “unique breed of gallery,” with the intention to foster creative synergy between art and community, by raising social and environmental awareness through exceptional art. Several Lighthouse events took place at 910 last year, including a Buzz event that paired poet John Brehm with composer and pianist Susan Cable to perform their collaborative compositions.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. We were thrilled to partner on the national initiative Operation Homecoming, leading workshops for veterans who wished to give voice to their stories.

Stories on Stage creates programs from the belief that literature is a rich source of powerful stories and actors enhance the impact of literature on people’s lives. They present literature by writers of diverse cultural groups, read by professional actors of varying backgrounds to an audience that is as broad-based as our community. Lighthouse sponsored a story contest and brought the winning piece to the Stories Stage, together with a curated performance relating to our Writers Studio guest, Lorrie Moore.

Tattered Cover is a home-grown, woman-owned independent bookstore established in 1971 in a small Denver storefront, which today is a model for successful independent bookstores. Lighthouse has happily presented several events in the Historic LoDo branch, including the annual Literary Editor panel, the Youth Summer Camp reading, and the Writers Studio Craft Talk.



“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.” (Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*)

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Getting agents, book deals, movie deals:

Nick Arvin sold his novel *The Reconstructionist* to HarperPerennial.

David J. Rothman’s poetry book, *Go Big*, was picked up by Red Hen Press.

Carleen Brice saw her second novel, *Orange Mint and Honey*, produced into a Lifetime original movie, *Sins of the Mother*.

Cara Lopez Lee sold a memoir, *They Only Eat Their Husbands*, to Ghost Road Press.

Mark Shaw published *Beneath the Mask of Holiness: Thomas Merton and the Love Affair that Set Him Free*, with Palgrave Macmillan.

Catherine Hope signed with Sandra Bond (Bond Literary).

Tina Deschamps signed with Nicole Steen (Elyse Cheney).

Prizes, Nominations, and Competitions

Lynn Wagner won the Slapering Hol poetry chapbook competition with *No Blues This Raucous Song*.

Joey Porcelli’s short screenplay, “Once Upon a Eurostar” was a semifinalist in the 2009 Page International screenwriting contest.

Carrie Printz’s play, “Race Relations,” won first place in the Stage Play category of the 2009 Writer’s Digest Annual Writing Competition.

Alexandre O. Philippe nabbed a Heartland Emmy for directing Downtown Denver 2008, a short film commissioned by the Downtown Denver Partnership for use during the Democratic National Convention.

Andrea Dupree’s short story, “New Brother,” was a *Glimmer Train* Fiction Open Finalist.

Barnes and Noble chose Mario Acevedo’s debut novel, *The Nymphs of Rocky Flats*, as one of the best paranormal Fantasy Novels of the decade.

Harrison Fletcher received an honorable mention in 2009 *New Millennium* Writer’s National Literary Contest for his essay “Among the Broken Angels.”

Members and Faculty who got love at the Colorado Book Awards: *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, by David Wroblewski, Fiction winner; *Orange Mint and Honey*, by Carleen Brice, a Fiction nominee; *Murmuration of Starlings*, by Jake Adam York, poetry winner.

Pushcart nominations: Nick Arvin, “The Accident,” *Normal School*; Amanda Rea, “A Dead Man in Nashville,” *The Sun* (actually, this won the Pushcart); Harrison Fletcher, “Relics,” *Palabra*, and “Wreath,” Water-Stone Review.



ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2009, we continued to thrive (thank you!), while maintaining the quality of our programs.

Some highlights include:

We expanded our Young Writers Program to include new genres and instructors in the weekend workshop and grew the summer camp to include 30% more students.

In response to member desire for a place to hear works-in-progress outside of workshops, we launched The Draft, a reading series where faculty “draft” their current students to read new work along a given theme. Our community came out in droves to support their peers in standing-room crowds.

Our second Beacon Award was awarded to screenwriting instructor Alexandre O. Phillipe in a tearful ceremony at Lit Fest.

Our biggest Writer’s Studio to date put acclaimed fiction writer Lorrie Moore in front of more than 200 guests for an interview with Eli Gottlieb, and 80 writers turned up for her craft talk.

To streamline teacher resources, we launched an online platform with shared exercises, suggested books, and more.

To centralize event communications and laud our community for their many accomplishments, we took our Facebook presence public with a fan page, and our 600+ fans do a wonderful job of sharing the love.

To keep pace with growth, we hired our very first Development Director to launch a donation program and cultivate a community of giving and support.

At **Morey Middle School**, we reached an after-school girls group through poetry talks.


At **George Washington High School**, Lighthouse instructors reached 100 students with free one-day workshops and education outreach encouraging participation in our on-site weekend workshops.

Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts welcomed us back for a fall intersession, where we taught poetry, short story, and personal essay workshops in two classes.

Chatfield High School brought us in for an assembly on short fiction, reaching 120 students.

Pomona High School brought a Lighthouse Instructor in to lead a group of students in an intensive creative writing workshop.

At **Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning**, two Lighthouse instructors presented an introduction to fiction and led exercises with 60 students.



“In the last few months of pregnancy, expectant parents become aware of the reality of the pregnancy, of the activity of the baby-to-be, and of the huge adjustment that lies ahead.” (T. Berry Brazelton, *Touchpoints*)

2010: LOOKING AHEAD

To chart the path for the next several years, 2010 will kick off with a Strategic planning process. We will ask our constituents—students, teachers, and the larger community—how they envision a flourishing future for Lighthouse, and Staff and Board will do the in-depth work of deciding where to focus our resources and what Lighthouse should look like when it's all grown up.

New partnerships with PlatteForum and Buntport Theater, and continuing partnerships with Ballet Nouveau Colorado, Stories on Stage, and the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs will bring the written word to new audiences.

The Lighthouse Young Writers Program will expand outreach through new partnerships with Cole Elementary School, Manual High School, and East High School, and increase our impact by getting involved in after-school programs and school-based publications. These on-site youth programs will increase the number of spots available for students in need of tuition assistance.

A teen council will meet on a regular basis to workshop, prepare submissions for publications, and develop plans for a youth anthology.



Get Involved!

Here's what you can do:

- Take a workshop.
- Send your child/ grandchild/ niece/ nephew/neighbor/ babysitter/ to a youth workshop.
- Volunteer.
- Join our email list.
- Become a fan on Facebook.
- Become a member or renew your membership.
- Act as twitter correspondent from our events.
- Donate.



Lighthouse Writers Workshop educates, supports and develops community among writers and readers of all ages in Denver, Colorado, and beyond.

These are the people who make it happen.

Board

Jay Kenny, President
Nancy Graham, Vice President
Emily Sinclair, Secretary
Janelle Lassonde, Treasurer
Phyllis Barber
Charles Bloomfield
Carleen Brice
Josh Dinar
Diane Marty
Kathie Kramer Ryan
Gary Schanbacher
Tiffany Q. Tyson

Staff

Andrea Dupree, Program Director
Michael Henry, Executive Director
Heather Peterson, Development Director
Amanda Rea, Youth Program Director
Meghan Wilson, Program Associate

Faculty

Mario Acevedo
Nick Arvin, MFA
Rebecca Berg, PhD
John Brehm, MFA
Michael Catlin
Shari Caudron, MFA
Laurel Dibble, MFA
Terry Dodd
Harrison Fletcher, MFA
Alisa Gaston-Linn
Eli Gottlieb
Janis Hallowell
William Haywood Henderson, MA
Laura Hendrie
Mark Irwin, MFA
Joel Jacobson
Tyrone Jeager, PhD
Matt Kailey

Ryan Kelly, MFA
Shana M. Kelly
Erika Krouse, MA
Doug Kurtz, MA
Brendan Landry
Vicki Lindner
Cara McDonald, MA
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Mia McNussbaum
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Lisa Turner, MA
Jenny Vacchiano Itell, MFA
Lynn Wagner, MFA
Steven Wingate
Stan Yan
Jake Adam York, PhD
Paula Younger, MFA





www.lighthousewriters.org

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that complies with all federal rules and regulations in providing equal access and opportunities in both learning and employment. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, gender expression, physical disability, sexual orientation, race, or religion.

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