

2011
LIGHTHOUSE
ANNUAL
REPORT


Lighthouse
WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Metaphorical House of Lighthouse Programs

ADULT PROGRAMS

8-week, 4-week, online, one-day,
and half-day writing workshops
Alice Maxine Bowie Fellowship
Beacon Award
Fairplay Retreat
Fly-By Writer's Project
Grand Lake Retreat
Lit Fest
Reading as a Writer classes
Writerspace
Writership Tuition Remission
Writer's Studio

MEDIA

Facebook
Podcasts
The Beacon
Top-Secret Blog
Twitter

FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Friday 500
Monday Writing Hours
The Draft, a Reading Show
Willfully Submit
Writer's Buzz

YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAMS

After-school and weekend
workshops
School Outreach
Summer Camp
Teen Council



*He will eat, sleep, and press his eyelids
to the window
of the pilothouse
until the anchor-hauling hour
when he'll embark again
toward his sanctuary, haborage, saltbox
home.*
—Thomas Lux, “He Has Lived in Many Houses”

From the Executive Director

Home is the place where you're always welcomed. Where you're safe to be you, and where you can be inspired and nurtured time and time again. This is true for people, for plants, pets, and it's certainly true for writers. It's also true for organizations.

If you've been around Lighthouse for any length of time, you know how the idea of place has been one of our focal points. For years, Lighthouse wandered, lost in the wilds of various Denver locales, and it wasn't until we settled into the historic Thomas Ferril house that we finally felt welcomed, safe, and inspired.

So what did Lighthouse do in 2011? We moved out of the Ferril House, of course.

Sometimes when you reach a certain age, when you grow to a certain size, when you're fully on the cusp of a major turning point, you just have to leave home. Otherwise you might get stuck.

You may imagine Lighthouse as an awkward teen during this time, and that's a pretty apt description. (It's a vivid image, anyway—loose limbs, odd hunched posture, idiomatic mumbling, messy hair, poor complexion, *et cetera*.) To fully grow into the mature, multi-faceted organization that Lighthouse strived to be, we had to move out. Into another historic house—the largest building even moved in Colorado in one piece, the Milheim House—on Race Street, just north of Colfax.

This new home has three times the space and double the classrooms, with a large writing studio on the top floor (the old ballroom), and a vast garden-level basement where we now hold all our events, readings, and lectures. It's a gorgeous space as well, and I think it's safe to say while that most Lighthouseers miss Ferril House, they really like how we've grown into these extra-big shoes.

One of our strategic goals has been to fully develop into a community literary center, and our new home allows us to do that. From daytime writing hours to Friday night group writings, to additional author events and readings—and lots more classes to accommodate the wait-lists for many of our workshops—we've been able to bring more writers and literary types in to the safe harbor of 1515 Race Street. Which means we're taking important steps to becoming a true and lasting literary community.

It also means that we're getting to be all grown up—in our ideal new home.



Michael Henry
Executive Director



There is drama to be had when the writer appreciates and exploits [their] settings...

—Paul Lucey

Program Director's Report

As Lighthouse moved into its new digs at 1515 Race Street, we found opportunities for dramatic expansion. The new wraparound porch immediately seemed to beg for writerly gatherings, and our community made great use of it mingling and celebrating at our Back-To-School Party, our Fly-By Writer's project, the Writer's Studio with Mary Karr, our regular Writer's Buzz and Draft readings, and other events and parties. Now that we have the space to accommodate more readers and writers, we spent 2011 testing the limits of our new literary space. So far, thousands of Denverites and visitors from out of town have gathered to share readings, study the craft, mingle with other literary types, and spend some quiet time (among friends) writing.

2011 saw the growth of our regular programming as well as a splashy start to several exciting new programs. Our new **Fly-By Writer's Project** brings in emerging writers—writers whose lives look a lot more like the lives of our members than some of the authors we celebrate at Writer's Studio—from out-of-town for a weekend of events designed to help them connect with and inspire our community. We celebrate the guest's writing with a fundraising dinner and Stories on Stage performance of their work, and then they get a chance to talk about craft, writer-to-writer, with our members in our new large-seminar space. Our 2011 visitors were Robin Black and Alexi Zentner, and 2012 will bring three new exciting writers, including first-time memoirist (and *New York Times* bestseller) Cheryl Strayed.

In addition to the Fly-By series, we've begun a series for members called **Willfully Submit**, which allows members to focus on the business-end of submitting work for publication in a structured and supportive environment. For this, we convene in the Lighthouse attic and library, surrounded by literary journals, views of always interesting Colfax Avenue, and a fresh pot of coffee. Of course, doughnuts are also present. (Sugar helps the medicine go down.) **The Friday 500**, another series for members, has expanded to include bi-weekly guest speakers and reading practice, in addition to motivating participants to crank

out 500 words on Friday, before collapsing into the weekend. Continuing and expanding from previous years, we open the entire house on Mondays for members to spread out and write in a quiet, focused atmosphere. And as always, we hold weekend events several times a month meant to introduce writers to each other at our **Writer's Buzz** series and **The Draft**, a Reading Show series. Overall, we're now averaging over 100 attendees at each of these events, up from 50 to 60 before the move.

The 9th annual **Writer's Studio**, at which we bring an author of international repute to Lighthouse for a weekend, was our biggest yet. Memoirist and poet Mary Karr presented to a sell-out crowd on the Truth and Lies of Memoir, and then we were able to accommodate hundreds more at her on-stage reading and interview, Inside the Writer's Studio. Our Twitter and Facebook feeds were aflutter with words of wisdom from Karr for days and weeks afterward, and we have blog posts—and a rather colorful podcast—covering that event, and many others, too.

Member surveys hit the high 90th percentiles across the board for "excellence" of programming which, along with the general buzz in the social mediasphere, signals to us that we're indeed fulfilling our mission. In 2012, we're excited to be bringing in Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Diaz for our Writer's Studio and Fly-By Writers Cheryl Strayed, Lauren Groff, and others.

Finally, we happily mention that members are seeing success at the new Lighthouse. We've had long-time workshopppers get book deals, publish in some of the country's best literary journals (*Kenyon Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Confrontation*, and elsewhere), and receive awards and recognition from places like the Jentel Artist's Colony, the Phillips Exeter Academy, and elsewhere. Our faculty have seen over ten books published in the past year, and dozens of publications in literary magazines. We continue to feel that our faculty rivals any MFA program in the country, and they all seem wonderfully at home in the house on Race Street.

*A river-ark on the ocean brine,
Long I've been tossed like the driven foam;
But now, proud world! I'm going home.*
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Young Writers Program Report

This year the Lighthouse Young Writers program grew exponentially to meet the demands of the young writers' community in the Denver metro area. With programs in over 20 schools, we will have reached over 1,500 students in 5th through 12th grade by August of 2012. This past year also brought new writers and new programs through the majestic doors of the Milheim House: our Superhero Contest collaboration with Buntport Theatre allowed us to reach over 300 writers and artists in the schools; the Teen Council grew from eight occasionally attending seniors to 14 committed high school scribes. Our partnership with Ballet Nouveau Colorado instilled a greater sense of authorship and artistry in the Teen Council members as they've learned to translate their words into movement by collaborating with a talented troupe of young choreographers and dancers.

As competition increases for young people to be the best at what they do, no matter if it's chess or soccer or the creative arts, Lighthouse has become a place for them to think contemplatively about their work rather than what their work will earn them in rank or acceptance. We restructured the in-house program last fall to accommodate more young writers after-school instead of only having classes on the weekends. A group of 12 to 15 regulars has signed up and filled each class to capacity, and one of these writers is a very talented young woman in 6th grade named Cassidy Cole. Cassidy did not get into Denver School of the Arts this year, and this rejection was a tough blow, as any writer knows, to her ego and to her drive to continue writing. But she fought back, enrolling in every class we offered this

spring, and she was one of 12 students chosen to read at our first ever Youth Draft (more below). Two of her classmates have since joined the hard-core four-week cadre, and we now have a program at Cassidy's school, the Girls Athletic Leadership School. Cassidy comes from a difficult home situation, and often writes creative nonfiction about her struggles both at home and at school. In a recent email, Cassidy's mother wrote, "Lighthouse is so aptly named. I wish I had all the money in the world to give to you guys. However, all the money in the world could never repay you for what you've done and provided for my daughter."

This year, we hosted our first inaugural Youth Draft, a reading series where writers from eight of our outreach programs and four of our in-house programs read a piece they'd composed while in a Youth Program workshop. Over 120 people attended to hear the newest voices of Denver—voices that would not have been heard if it weren't for the encouragement and skilled instruction Lighthouse has provided. One highlight: our first ever bilingual workshop was represented at the draft by a 5th grade Argentinian writer who read in both Spanish and English. And finally, our radio project will successfully see six young writers' produced and aired through our collaboration with Colorado Public Radio and KUVU reporters.

In the year to come, we hope to build on all of these partnerships, expanding our impact and meeting the needs of even more schools asking for externally provided enrichment in the creative arts.

Many thanks to the people who've helped us keep our house brimming with literature, laughter, and light.

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*A merchant is
probing for us
with his chintz curtain
effect.*

—Rae Armentrout, “Home Federal”

2011 Statement of Financials

We’re not quite sure what this quote means—poetry can be like that—but it feels like it has something to do with money. And house decorations.

Measurements of Growth over past two years

	2011	2010	Increase
Total workshop registrations	4,385	3,272	34 %
Total memberships	831	681	22 %
Folks attending community events (est.)	2,700	1,900	42 %
Students in Young Writers Outreach Programs			

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS	2011
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,224
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District	\$49,826
Beacon Award	5,000
Maxine Bowie Award	9,428
Accounts Receivable	19,499
Merchandise Inventory	1,178
Milheim Deposit	6,250
Total Current Assets	92,404
Non-Current Assets	
Furniture and Equipment, net	8,042
Total Non-Current Assets	8,042
Total Assets	\$100,446
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2011
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	3,238
Deferred Revenue	48,448
Class Deposits	2,630
Total Current Liabilities	54,316
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	(18,123)
Temporarily Restricted	64,254
Total Net Assets	46,130
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$100,446

2011 Statement of Financials

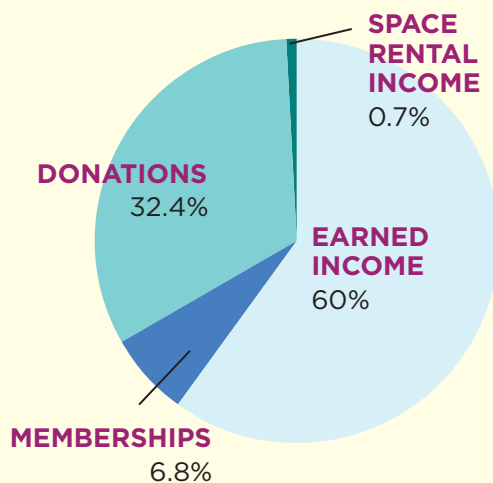
Statement of Activities

As of December 31, 2011

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE, GAINS, AND SUPPORT			
Earned Income	413,731		413,731
Memberships	46,575		46,575
Donations	162,945	60,276	223,221
Other Income	1,106	1,106	2,212
Space Rental Income	4,805		4,805
Net asset released from restrictions due to satisfaction of expenditure requirements	37,665	(37,665)	-
Total revenue, gains, and support	666,826	22,612	689,437
EXPENDITURES			
Program Services	633,152		633,152
General and Administrative	29,742		29,742
Fundraising	13,837		13,837
Total Expenses	676,731		676,731
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS			
	(9,905)	22,612	12,706
Net assets as of 12/31/10, as originally reported	24,427		24,427
SCFD contribution			
Awards		6,000	6,000
January 2011 Program Deferral	(32,645)		(32,645)
Net Assets as of 12/31/10, as restated	(8,218)	41,642	33,424
Net Assets, End of Year	(18,123)	64,254	46,130

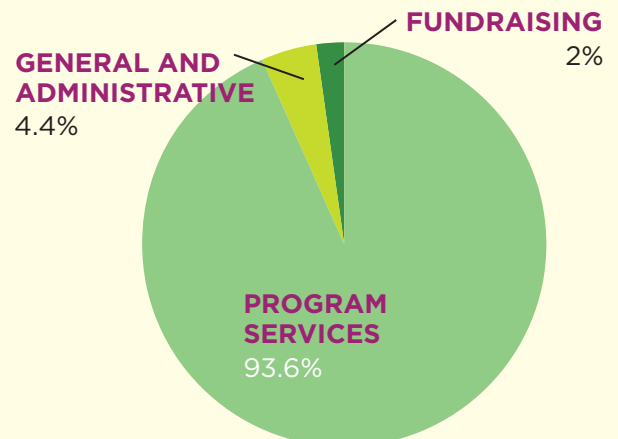
PROCEEDS, GAINS, AND SUPPORT

Total



EXPENDITURES

Total



Where thou art, that is home.
—Emily Dickinson

Donors and Supporters

These folks have made us feel at home, and have made us feel like we're part of a well-nurtured family. For that, we are ever so grateful.

\$25,000 +

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Scientific Facilities and Cultural District

\$10,000+

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*Dutiful, prompt,
strapped, doped, a little drunk,
squinting at international afternoon
I'll soon pass GO again.*

—Rachel Hadas, “Flying Home”

Want to become an active Lighthouse? There are lots of ways.

You can dutifully, promptly “pass Go” by attending an event at 1515 Race Street. Or, you can purchase a membership, volunteer to help out at events and get-togethers, donate money or other resources, send a literary friend to check us out, read our top-secret blog (or blog about us on yours), become a fan on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, listen to our podcasts online, send your exceedingly bright and creative kid to a youth program workshop, or join our e-mail list.

For more info, visit us online: www.lighthousewriters.org



www.lighthousewriters.org

The Lighthouse Mission:

A community-based center for the art and craft of writing, Lighthouse Writers Workshop promotes literary engagement, artistic growth, and connection among writers and readers.

We were founded in 1997 with a vision: to teach the craft of writing to anyone who wants to learn; to support writers in as many ways as possible; and to promote literature in all its forms, because we believe that literature is an integral facet of our culture, our selves.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc. 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. Our mission is to educate, support, and develop community among writers and readers in Denver and Colorado.

Lighthouse Writers Workshop is proud to be an SCFD Tier III organization. Additional general support comes from government, foundation, and individual sources, and our 1,000+ members.

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