OUR IMPACT IN 2019

56 poetry readings
62 writing & reading group meetings
31 workshops, classes, & talks
369 READING & WRITING PRACTICES NURTURED
16 TEACHING POETS & ARTISTS
60 VISITING ARTISTS
20 BROADSIDES PUBLISHED
912 WISCONSIN ARTISTS
$67,004 IN HONORARIA & INSTRUCTOR FEES DISTRIBUTED
21 improvised music concerts
3 writers residencies
11 experimental film screenings
19,136 VISITORS & PARTICIPANTS
8 visual art exhibitions
432 CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED
134 after-school inter-arts writing classes for children
6 STUDENT ANTHOLOGIES PUBLISHED
8 student poetry performances
3 writing groups for LGBTQIA+ teens

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

SPARKING DIALOGUE
As a member of the Poetry Coalition, each year we work with organizations across the country to coordinate programming around themes of social justice. For our 2019 project, we invited poet and photographer Rachel Eliza Griffiths to mount bruise bullet flower—an exhibition concerning gun violence and the targeting of black, brown, and queer lives. To extend the conversation, Griffiths helped us produce a chapbook featuring her images alongside corresponding poems by Reginald Dwayne Betts, Jericho Brown, Natalie Diaz, Ross Gay, Tracy K. Smith, and several other amazing writers, and then joined us in Milwaukee where everything—chapbook, exhibition, and Griffiths’ poetry—powerfully came together.

NEW IN 2019!

Dhana MKE: Weekly community meditation group
Extended workshops: New multi-session courses for adults
Haiiku: We are now home to the largest collection of haiku in North America!
¡Palante!: New mural by Erick "TK" Ledesma dedicated to Milwaukee’s Puerto Rican community and to victims of Hurricane Maria
Readshop: Bi-monthly reading group focused on "difficult" poetry texts from the 20th century
Submittathon: Quarterly group helping writers prepare manuscripts for submission
We Persist: Monthly book discussion of works by women, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ writers
Welcome Home!: Bi-monthly writing group for veterans

CONNECING PEOPLE THROUGH POETRY
Woodland Pattern has become a sanctuary for people like veteran Bob Hanson who seek community through poetry. In 2019, ten years after reading for the first time at our annual Poetry Marathon, Bob partnered with us to introduce a new writing group for veterans. Encouraging laughter and conversation, he hopes the group will deliver a sense of freedom for participants, which include veterans from wars in Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Bob explains that "poetry is the closest you ever get to the soul" and that writing can help veterans connect with themselves, with one another, and with those who lack an entry point for understanding their experiences.

VOICES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

You all have helped me, oh my gosh, you all have helped me find a way to express myself that doesn’t cause me to get into trouble or get lost in the community. You have helped a lot of young people not get lost in the community … it’s easy to get lost without having a way to communicate to people.

Imani Rivera, Poetry Camp student

In two decades of presenting my work at community and art spaces of all sorts, locally and internationally, this was one of the most beautiful events I’ve experienced. As a specialist on diasporic Puerto Rican literature and culture, the panel was a tremendous education for me. Woodland Pattern is clearly a unique space that bridges many histories and traditions while hosting events such as ¡Palante! that support and celebrate Latinx Milwaukee and the Latinx Midwest more generally.

Urayoán Noel, visiting poet

My experience reading at the gala was like my previous experiences at Woodland Pattern over the decades … the whole atmosphere had a welcoming community warmth to it that made me feel I couldn’t be in a better place.

Bryan Cherry, poet

Well, I cried throughout my entire reading last night. They were tears of joy because I’ve never felt so supported and loved in my life. Thank you is an insufficient thing to say, but I’m still at a loss for words about what happened last night. Woodland Pattern Book Center was the perfect setting for love.

Ron Padgett, visiting poet

Coming, being welcomed, to Woodland Pattern in Milwaukee has always been a great source of pleasure for The Bridge and the many French and North American improvisers and ensembles this network has been touring. For not only do we meet in time, the same magnificent community of enthusiasts for creative music and the arts, but we are also immersed in a poetic environment that our musicians enjoy immensely.

Alexandre Pierrepont, curator of the Transatlantic Bridge

In many communities, there are generations of imagination that connect us through the arts and to each others’ stories of humanity. Woodland Pattern is that place for Howard Leu and me, and we’d love to help keep them going.

Chelsea Wait, supporter

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

WHERE OUR INCOME CAME FROM

$482,933

SPECIAL EVENTS 7%
TICKETS 4%
GOVERNMENT GRANTS 20%
FOUNDATIONS 28%
CONTRIBUTIONS 15%
BOOK SALES 18%
SERVICE CONTRACTS 25%

HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS

$484,370

FUNDRAISING 87%
PROGRAMMING 11%
OCCUPANCY & GENERAL 2%

$64,968 in-kind donations
2,990 volunteer hours
In 2019, Woodland Pattern received private and public support from the following foundations and entities: Academy of American Poets (with funds from the Ford Foundation), Bader Philanthropies, Brico Fund, Gardner Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Greystone Foundation, Herzfeld Foundation, Camille A. Lenzl Trust, Meyer & Norma Ragir Foundation, Jack & Lucille Rosenberg Fund, Christine A. Symchych & James P. McNulty Charitable Foundation, Herzfeld Foundation, Camille A. Lonstorf Trust, Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, National Endowment Fund, Milwaukee Arts Board, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, Foundation), Bader Philanthropies, Brico Fund, Gardner Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Greystone...

Your generosity helps fund programs that promote advanced literacy and creative expression in people of all ages while encouraging exchange across the performing, visual, and literary arts. Thank you for supporting poetry in Milwaukee and for helping proliferate the fundamental benefits associated with a life enriched by reading and writing.

INVESTING IN A LIFETIME PRACTICE OF READING & WRITING

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