

Brian Booth Writers' Fund

Endowment Campaign

Brian Booth, Oregon's visionary community leader, created the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships "to assist Pacific Northwest writers and promote the literary arts in the Northwest."¹ To honor Brian's life and legacy, and to celebrate Literary Arts' 30th Anniversary in 2014, we are building a \$2 million endowment to provide permanent funding for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships.

"Literary Arts (...) is an Oregon treasure, but I would be surprised if it isn't on the verge of being recognized as a national treasure as well."

Kurt Andersen,
Novelist, NPR host, and 2011
Oregon Book Awards Master of
Ceremonies

The Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships program supports, promotes, and celebrates Oregon's writers and publishers by providing them with vital financial support. Since its founding, the program has supported over 500 writers and 50 publishers with more than \$700,000 in awards. There is no other such program in Oregon, and ours is one of only a handful in the nation. Each year, Literary Arts receives hundreds of submissions for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships from all over the state.

The Brian Booth Writers' Fund will:

- Fulfill Brian Booth's vision by making the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships a financially self-sustaining program with a permanent funding source;
- Honor and foster the creation of new and important literature, ensuring that Oregon writers thrive;
- Support Oregon's rapidly expanding creative community, which is essential for the health of our state – civically, economically, educationally, and artistically; and
- Cultivate literary bonds that bridge geographic, socio-economic, and cultural boundaries.

This campaign provides Brian's friends and admirers with a unique opportunity to honor his life and vision. It also provides writers, readers, and publishers with a special occasion to come together to strengthen and grow Oregon's creative community.

Although Brian did not foresee the dramatic changes now affecting the book and publishing industry, his vision for the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships was clear and strong. Thanks to his initiative, the program has provided life-changing financial support and recognition for hundreds of authors, including Cheryl Strayed, Ursula Le Guin, Barry Lopez, Chang-Rae Lee, Ken Kesey, Gina Oschner, Tracy Daugherty, and Molly Gloss.

Today, the digital revolution is reshaping how literature is produced and delivered, opening new ways for Oregon writers and publishers to reach new audiences. The Brian Booth Writers' Fund will help future generations of Oregonians produce innovative and important literature, and will elevate their incredible achievements so they can enrich our community for years to come.

OVER →

“Writing is a solitary activity, but its ultimate goal is always communication and community. Literary Arts has worked tirelessly to build and maintain Oregon’s literary community, to help us all feel less alone, to help us communicate across valleys, mountains, rivers, and deserts, up the coast and through the woods.”

Tracy Daugherty,
Oregon Book Award Winner

The Brian Booth Writers' Fund will ensure that, every year, Literary Arts has sufficient resources to:

- Grant *at least* ten Fellowships to help Oregon writers and publishers initiate, develop or complete literary projects;
- Select and recognize *at least* twenty-five exceptional writers for original works published or produced in Oregon;
- Bring our state's most accomplished writers to *at least* eight Oregon communities for public readings, free workshops, and book group and school visits;
- Engage our diverse creative community in a public celebration honoring the recipients of the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships;
- Create opportunities for Oregon writers to connect with the national literary community so as to increase the visibility of Oregon's literature and offer valuable professional development opportunities for writers and publishers.

Our quality of life and our state's economic vitality all depend on the effective nurturing of new and important artists. If we don't act together – and act now – insufficient investment in local writers and publishers will compromise the creative community that makes Oregon exceptional.

Join us. Literary Arts, in partnership with The Oregon Community Foundation², has laid the groundwork for this unique opportunity to honor Brian Booth's life and vision, and to ensure that Oregon writers can thrive and enhance our community for years to come.

This effort will do much more than fund exceptional literature. It will strengthen and grow Oregon's creative class, so that it can continue to contribute to all aspects of our lives.

The Brian Booth Writers' Fund Endowment Campaign runs from June 2013 through June 2014, and there are many ways to participate. You may:

- **Make a current gift or pledge**, payable up to December 31, 2018. Gift types may include cash, securities, property and charitable income trusts.
- **Make a deferred gift pledge** to help fund the Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships at some point after 2018. Gift types may include bequests, life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, and IRA's or other retirement fund assets.

**For more information,
please contact:**

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² OCF is managing the Brian Booth Writers' Fund, and gift planners are available to assist with specialized deferred gifts.

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Endowment Campaign

Endowment Campaign Leadership

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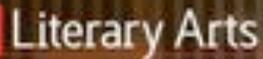
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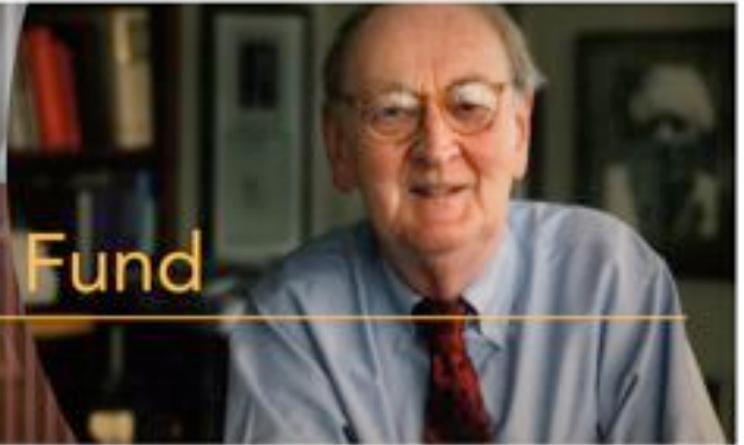
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The logo for Literary Arts, featuring the text "Literary Arts" in a serif font with a red vertical bar to the left.

www.literary-arts.org

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About Literary Arts

"I most of all want to say how amazing my day has been with Literary Arts and how full and rich it was, and how much in awe I am of what Literary Arts is in its extraordinary range of activities. I wish, actually, all cities in America could have anything even remotely like what I've seen today. I'm very admiring of it."

*—Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author,
Stephen Greenblatt, Portland Arts & Lectures, March 5, 2013*

Literary Arts is a nonprofit literary center based in downtown Portland, with a 29-year history of serving Oregon's readers and writers. Our mission is to engage readers, support writers, and inspire the next generation with great literature.

Since 1984, Literary Arts has:

- brought hundreds of the world's most important and influential writers, artists, and thinkers to Oregon,
- created the nation's largest live audience for literature,
- awarded over \$700,000 to Oregon writers and publishers, and
- helped tens of thousands of teenagers with writing instruction and literary programming.

Each year, we reach more than 13,500 writers, readers, teachers and students across the state through: *Portland Arts & Lectures*, one of the country's largest lecture series; *Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships*, which supports, promotes, and celebrates Oregon's writers and independent publishers; and *Writers in the Schools*, which teaches and inspires public high school students to write, revise, edit, publish, and perform their own creative writing.

Literary Arts is rising to national prominence. We recently hosted the announcement of the National Book Awards' finalists. We are also gaining national recognition as an innovator. In 2012, Literary Arts was one of four organizations in the Northwest honored with a \$50,000 "Creative Leadership Award," from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, for our adaptive responses to changes in our economy and our society.

Literary Arts is financially strong. Despite the challenging economy, we have no debt or deficit, and our annual budget has grown nearly 40% over the past four years to \$1.4 million.

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