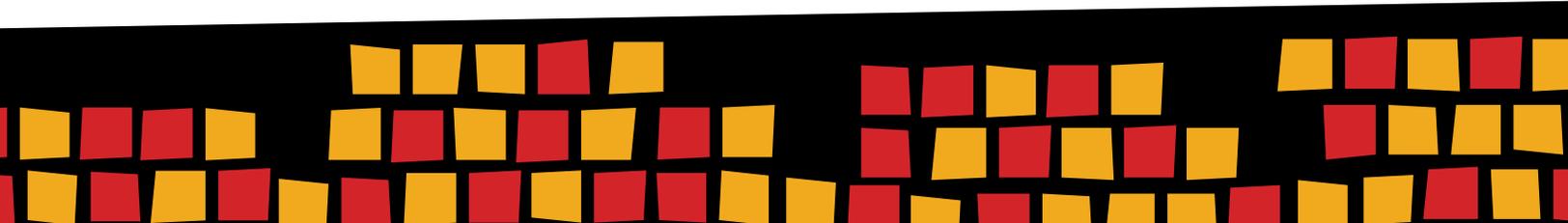




Hugo House
ANNUAL REPORT 2013



a letter from the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hugo House had a momentous year in 2013, and we spent many weeks figuring out how we can make Hugo House the best place it can be. Early in the year, our Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan that will serve to guide our development through 2017.

As part of our planning, we brought a sharper focus to our mission statement and emphasized that writers are at the core of everything that happens at Hugo House; indeed, “a place for writers” was incorporated into the new logo. We also took the major step of dropping Richard Hugo’s first name from the logo. We revere Dick Hugo’s work – his contribution to the literary arts is vast. We intend to continue to honor his legacy, but we needed to find a way to help everyone understand the humanity of his work while still making it clear that we aren’t named after Victor Hugo (he has his own house in France!). Thus, we decided to adopt the shorter name people typically use: Hugo House.

Other major changes included expanding the number of classes we offer and launching Word Works, a series of talks on various elements of writing given by renowned writers. Along the way, we replaced some dangerously worn-out carpet and generally aimed to make Hugo House a warmer and more welcoming place. If we’re to embody the possibilities that the most humanitarian literature portrays, we must be a place to gather for those who believe that words have the power to change the world.

We spent a great deal of time in 2013 preparing for two major events that happened early in 2014: launching an improved website and preparing for the AWP Conference, where we would have the chance to show writer types from all over the country what a literary city Seattle is.

Sincerely,

Tree Swenson

In all of this work, we try to live up to the values we found in Richard Hugo’s *The Triggering Town*:

HUMILITY

“To use language well requires self-sacrifice ...”

HONESTY

“You owe reality nothing and the truth about your feelings everything.”

HUMANITY

“Hope that humanity will always survive civilization.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Gigot (*president*)
 Connie Petersen (*vice president*)
 Brad Meacham (*secretary*)

John Burgess (*treasurer*)
 Tom Ball
 Sean Clemmons
 Kip Greenthal
 Donté Felder
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 youth programs coordinator

Donna Ma
 development manager

Brian McGuigan
 events curator

Laura Scott
 education programs

Kristen Steenbeeke
 marketing and program coordination

HUGO HOUSE PROGRAMS

Hugo House is a place for writers. At the center of our programs is the understanding that writing is hard work, as well as the hope that by focusing on good writing in an inclusive, welcoming environment, we can add to the well of our understanding of the human condition.

We believe that good writing can “construct a bridge across that abyss of human loneliness.”

Events

Hugo Literary Series

The Lit Series presents three writers and a musician or band commissioned to create new work on a theme. Series artists are encouraged to work without a sense of obligation, censorship, or stylistic frame. Pieces written for the series have been published in national periodicals such as the New Yorker and become parts of novels or story collections.

Featured writers in 2013: Dorothy Allison, Richard Bausch, and Patricia Smith

Word Works: Writers on Writing

Word Works is a craft-talk series featuring a notable writer speaking on a specific topic, illustrated with close readings of their own work and examples from other writers. The thought-provoking series explores the depths and details of the writing craft, for writers and readers alike.

The first Word Works featured Mary Jo Bang on translation.

by the
NUMBERS

8,762

GRAND TOTAL
SERVED IN HUGO
HOUSE PROGRAMS

46 CO-PRODUCED
EVENTS

81

TOTAL FREE
EVENTS

38

EVENT
PARTNERS

96

TOTAL
EVENTS

4,854

EVENT ATTENDEES (AT FREE EVENTS)

classes

Our classes are taught by practicing writers who are also stellar teachers. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. What they all have in common is a love of language and words.

The offerings include classes in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, reading, publishing, and the writing process.

In 2013, topics included finding your voice, writing across race, revision, generating new work, sustaining wonder, writing memorable characters, and many more.

140 CLASSES OFFERED
IN 2013

“I just had my 30th poem accepted for publication. Except for one week at Centrum, the only writing classes I’ve ever taken have been at Hugo House. I feel so fortunate to be in the city where Hugo House happens to be.”

Lillo Way, student

1,538
STUDENTS SERVED

residencies

Writers-in-Residence

A prose writer and a poet are selected in a competitive process for a paid, two-year term. Writers-in-residence offer writing guidance to members of the general public free of charge. They also curate or participate in public programs and work with populations who don’t normally have access to the arts.



Kary Wayson, poetry
Photo: Kelly O



Peter Mountford, prose
Photo: Sarah Samudre

Made at Hugo House Fellowship

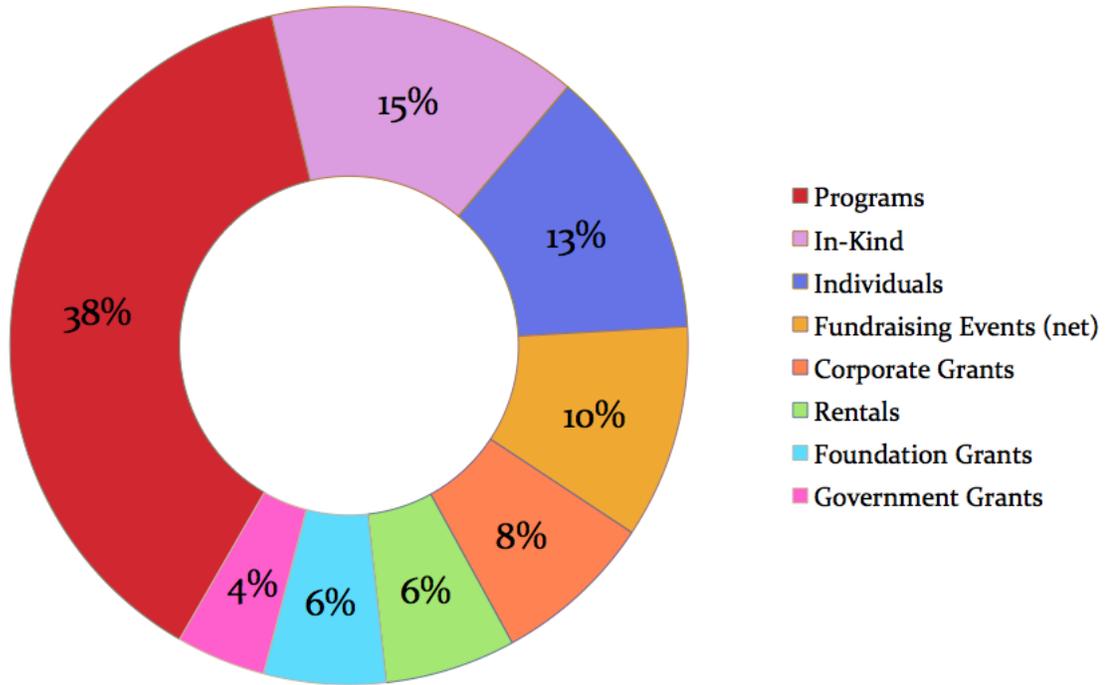
Fellows complete specific writing projects and receive scholarships to take classes at Hugo House every quarter, priority access to our writers-in-residence, and a writing office.



Fellows in 2013 were:

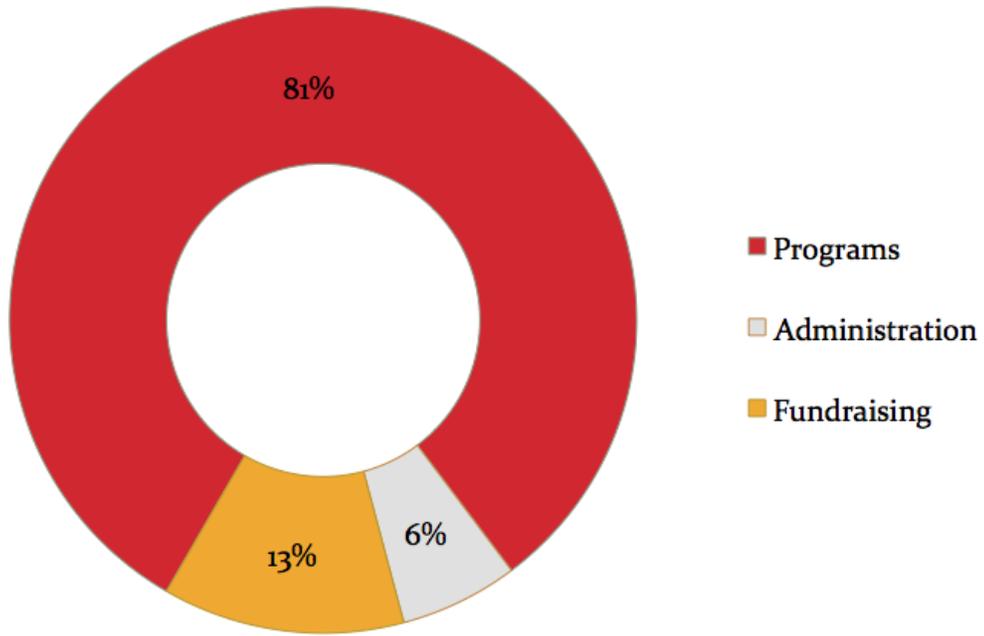
Raymond Fleischmann, fiction
Ross McMeekin, fiction
Jessica Mooney, fiction
Michelle Peñaloza, poetry
Paulette Perhach, nonfiction
Matthew Schnirman, poetry

2013 Funding Sources



Activity	Revenue
Programs	\$ 377,186
In-Kind	\$ 147,553
Individuals	\$ 128,500
Fundraising Events (net)	\$ 101,223
Corporate Grants	\$ 76,590
Rentals	\$ 61,984
Foundation Grants	\$ 57,804
Government Grants	\$ 42,365

2013 Expenses by Activity



Activity	Expenses
Programs	\$ 827,816
Administration	\$ 62,199
Fundraising	\$ 126,852