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Rob Arnold Brings a Decade of Literary and Cultural Experience to Hugo House

Seattle, WA—Hugo House announced today that Rob Arnold has joined the staff to program readings and events.

An arts administrator, creative organizer, and poet with an extensive background in publishing and working with writers, Arnold brings a decade of literary and cultural experience to Seattle's hub for writers.

Arnold has held key positions at *Ploughshares*, Beacon Press, Fence Books, the National Poetry Series, PEN New England and, most recently, at the literary agency Aevitas Creative Management in Boston, Massachusetts. His Seattle roots extend back to the late '90s when he was completing his undergraduate poetry studies at the University of Washington — a pivotal time for him as a writer as well as a momentous time for Hugo House, which had opened its doors in 1996.

"I'm delighted to be returning to Seattle, a city that nurtured me as a young person, and even more so to be curating events for Hugo House, a place I cherished as a student of writing," said Arnold. "It feels like a double-homecoming."

Arnold is joining Hugo House at another momentous time for the organization, which will move into a new 10,000-square-foot facility in the designated arts district of Capitol Hill. The new space will enable dramatic growth in classes and event programming.

"Hugo House is poised to further expand in the heart of one of the most literate cities in the country," Executive Director Tree Swenson noted. "Rob shares our organization's vision of engaging the literary community on contemporary issues through a lively mix of readings and events."

As Associate Director of PEN New England, Arnold partnered with prominent cultural institutions and produced innovative programs in response to critical current issues, from Black Lives Matter to the lack of diversity in publishing.

"It's an inspiration that the values of Hugo House have remained consistent since the organization's founding yet feel more relevant today than ever before," said Arnold. "My hope is that our literary calendar not only embodies these values but

probes them in new and challenging ways, and extends the conversation about the vitality of literature — *all* literatures — to audiences from all parts of the city.”

The new Hugo House is scheduled to open at 1634 Eleventh Avenue in September 2018. The organization is currently holding their events and classes from an interim location on First Hill, as well as at various offsite venues.

About Hugo House

Hugo House opens the literary world to everyone who loves books or has a drive to write — giving people a place to read words, hear words, and make their own words better through writing classes, readings and events, and residencies.

hugohouse.org

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Open hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during classes and events