from the executive director and board president

In 2017, while continuing our lively yearround programming (outlined to the right) and expanding our offerings (as detailed on page 2), Hugo House set out to design a brand-new — and permanent — home for writers and readers in Seattle.

Kelly Link, who kicked off Word Works this year, said, “I’d be flattered if someone said that my work is ‘too weird’ for them. I value the uncompliment.” At Hugo House, we love things that are “too weird.” We appreciate oddities, which are important both for writers and for the community from which they emerge.

Working with internationally renowned architectural firm NBBJ, we began designing our new home to reflect all the quirks and twists of a weird writerly soul — adding nooks, corners, and tucked-away spaces where imaginations can wander.

It’s a huge project (isn’t everything worth doing a huge project?), but we are determined to succeed because Seattle needs writers, and writers need Hugo House.

With community support and an anticipated grant from the State of Washington of over $1 million, we will be more than 70% of the way toward the estimated project goal of $7.1 million. Everything good that Hugo House has achieved is thanks to the incredible support and effort put forth by our community of readers, writers, and word lovers — and the same is true of our new home.

We look forward to opening the doors next year to Seattle’s new home for words, a place where we can foster a deep and sustaining love for literature and the practice of writing for decades to come.

Many thanks,

Tree Swenson
Executive Director

Dick Gemperle
Board President

Classes

Creative writing classes that are both supportive and challenging are at the core of our mission. We offered more than 250 classes for writers of all levels to rigorously workshop and develop their craft.

Events

Hugo House events reveal the compelling and nuanced nature of language and showcase both emerging and established writers. Over 85% of our events were free and ticket prices were kept affordable to ensure events remained accessible.

Residences & Fellowships

Each year, we select two writers-in-residence — one working in prose and the other in poetry — and provide them with space to work, a stipend, and teaching opportunities. We also select six emerging writers for our Made at Hugo House fellowship to support the creation of new work.

Youth Programs

Students in grades 6–12 engage intensely with creative writing alongside experienced and published writers in the Young Writers Cohort; Stage Fright, an open mic; Write Time, a weekly drop-in writing circle; and Scribes, summer writing camps.
HIGHLIGHTS

More than 2,200 students took writing classes or workshops

260 classes were taught by 136 teachers, which accounts for more than 24,037 hours of instruction

Over 200 hours of one-on-one instruction and manuscript consultations

65 writers received full or partial scholarships, which accounts for nearly $14,000 given to those with financial need

820 people performed their work

5,350 readers and writers attended an event

NEW PROGRAMS TO OPEN THE LITERARY WORLD

Presented in partnership with the Seattle Public Library, Write With Hugo House welcomed writers of all ages and levels to participate in free drop-in writing circles facilitated by Hugo House instructors at various library branches across the city.

Poetry Across the Nations, presented in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, supported the work of indigenous writers through free workshops and community readings.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES TO SUPPORT EMERGING AND ESTABLISHED WRITERS

To support the creation of new work, we selected six writers as Made at Hugo House fellows. Holly DeBevoise, Max Delsohn, Nia Dickens, Kym Littlefield, Erin Lynch, and D.A. Navoti spent the year consulting with our writers-in-residence, receiving complimentary Hugo House classes, and performing at milestone readings while working toward a completed project.

Amber Flame (bottom left) was selected to serve as the 2017-18 writer-in-residence in poetry, and Sonora Jha (bottom right) continued her two-year term as the prose writer-in-residence. In addition to receiving a monthly stipend, teaching opportunities, and space to work, our writers-in-residence are available to Seattle-area writers for free consultations.

“This is the type of work we need Hugo House to help Seattle’s writers keep making.”
— Paul Constant, co-founder of The Seattle Review of Books on the Made at Hugo House fellowship

“Hugo House both elevates and exemplifies the complex and vibrant city in which it is located.”
— Meg Wolitzer, New York Times-bestselling author
FINANCIALS

Operating - Revenue
Total: $1,158,047
- Programs, 58%
- Contributions, 18%
- In-Kind, 1%
- Fundraising Events (net), 14%
- Grants, 8%

Operating - Expenses
Total: $1,085,936
- Program Services, 77%
- Management and General, 6%
- Fundraising, 18%

Capital Campaign - Revenue
Total raised in 2017: $1,471,576
- Contributions, 54%
- Grants, 46%

Total raised to date: $5,296,747

Capital Campaign - Expenses
Total: $176,277
- Program Services, 39%
- Management and General, 3%
- Fundraising, 58%

CLASSES FOR WRITERS OF ALL LEVELS

In 2017, we introduced new tiered workshops designed to help writers feel confident in progressing through their writing with the appropriate tools, skills, and an understanding of the diverse voices at work in each genre.

We continued to offer over 70 classes every quarter for writers of all levels in a wide range of genres and topics — from the Art of the Sentence to Bringing People to Life on the Page. Our classes are taught by experienced teachers and published writers, many of them nationally renowned, such as Kelly Link, Mary Ruefle, Jess Walter, Solmaz Sharif, and Jericho Brown.

“Hugo House is a treasure; in many ways it stands at the epicenter of all things literary in Seattle."
— Sara Marie Ortiz, Pueblo of Acoma, author of Red Milk
Designed specifically to better serve writers and readers, the new Hugo House will enable us to foster a deep and sustaining love for literature and the practice of writing in Seattle for decades to come. Set to open in the fall of 2018, our new home will have ample room for us to continue to dream and grow.

*Making Certain It Goes On* is the title of Richard Hugo’s collected poems.

Located in the heart of Capitol Hill, a designated arts district in a UNESCO-designated City of Literature, the new Hugo House will bring together word lovers of all ages and from all backgrounds.

The new Hugo House will be a space where visitors can come any night of the week to hear readers, hang out, exchange ideas, work on their novel-in-progress, and meet with our writers-in-residence.

Six classrooms will allow us space to expand our class offerings. We’ll be able to offer 40 percent more adult writing classes and serve 60 percent more youth.

Gathering spaces — such as a front salon, theater lobby, and bar — where people can easily congregate will help foster a sense of community.

newhugohouse.org
$10,000 and above
Linda and Ted Johnson
Linda Breneman and Eric Strand
Andrea Lewis and Wendell Taibong

$5,000 – $9,999
Dick and Mary Beth Gumperle
Blaise Agueru Y Arcas and Adrienne Fairhall
Sue Gilbert
Lynn and Brian Grant
Dan Grause and Clare Meeker
Pineapple Gardens Foundation
Janet Voder and Robbie Rudine
The Seattle Foundation
Margaret Orth and Joshua Rapp

$2,500 – $4,999
Ross Steven
Christine Esperseth and Raymond Pompon
Lisbet Nilson
Shelley Mitchell
Bill Hughes
Susan Knox and Weldon Whiting
Owen Johnson, III
Jonathan King
Catherine Lamson
Laura C. Lippman and Catherine Lamson
Heidi Seaborn
The Sheri and Les Biller Foundation
Mindy Sonenberg
Daniel Goddard and Ellen Steinberg
Jason Strayer
Gary Thomson
Scott Shapiro and Jena Thornton
Ruth True
Tina Uso McDaniel
Corry Venema-Wess and John Weiss
Charlie and Barb Wright
Jennifer and Scott Wyatt

$250 – $499
Cezanne Alexander
Anne Jaworski and Tsering Lama
Dianne Apire
Meri Arntz-Krennan
Jeffery Baird
Michael Barrett
Sarah Bitter
Kirk Boys
Janice Bozzi
John and Patty Burgess
Emily Burnham
Karen Burns
Claudia Castro Luna
Andrea M. Corcoran
Shawn Jensen and Merebe Danforth
Cynthia Anne Ellis
Jamie Enslin and John Finke
Dawn and Edward Fischer
Stephanie Florio
Gabriela Frank
Diana Hauser
Molly Hendrickson
Mark Holtzen
Katie Humphries
Robin Hyerstay
Freda Jaffe
Chris Jahman
Patrick Kelley
Jenny Kincaid
Louise Kincaid
Susan Lammers
Laura Little
Yvonne Mark
Joan McBride
Frances McCae
Dave McEldenburg
Barbara Meyer
Jessica Mooney
Peter Mounford
Wendy Mullens
Jennifer Multan
Connie and Jim Petersen
Lee Pyne-Mercier
Debra Ross
Kathleen Alcala and Wayne Roth
Polly Sanford
Thomas Schabara
John Fein and Paula Selis
Anne Smith
Susan Summers
Virginia Sybert
Sharon Van Epps
Carol Vogt
Keith Cowan and Linda Walsh
Deborah Woodard
Bryan and Julie Ziegler

$100 – $249
Nancy E Acker
Judy Aks
Ms. Kathleen Alcala
Thomas Bancroft
Rick Bartol
Ellen Bass
Deborah Berger
Heather & Wesley Bergquist
TJ Berry
Jessica Bhatnagar
Andrea Blanck
Mark Blatter
Cynthia Boenischm
Shira Brewer
Kayla Broadkn
Mac Brown
Colleen Browne
Chris Casey
Lori Cohen
Faith Conlon
Terrance Costello
Caroline Cumming
Melanie Cartice
Marilyn Dahl
Matthew Donahue
Suzanne Edison
Stephen Ellis
Jamie Enslin
Marylise Erickson
Elizabeth Findley
Roger Gale
Gail Gale
Bill Gartin
Claire Gebben
Michele Geauff
Deborah Green
Robert Green
Peter Hapke
Shawn Hargan
Jon & Wendy Hatch
Jenny Hayes
Kendra Howe
Georgia Johnson
Katherine Johnson
Christine Johnson-Duell
Fahkaj Jones
Robert Kaye

$50 – $99
Julianna Aldous
Roxana Arama
Anne Barker
Lucinda Brigg
Jack Burgess
Janet Buntenwiser
Victoria Cole
Paul Constant
Deborah Corr
Cynthia Dow
Mary Lynne Evans
Elisa Favero
Debra Louise Finn
Melinda Fisher
William Fitzgerald
Micaela Fujita
Catherine Gerner
Philip Gerson
Elizabeth Grace
Dave Harris
Keri Healey
Eric Jonlin
Rita Lawson
Carol Light
Liner Lucas
John Marshall
Anne McDuffie
Eric Menningen
Can Nevada
Aaron Nichols
Claude Noyes
Eleanor Owen
Anne Pearson
Gloria Peck
Nancy Rawles
Joanna Richer
Elizabeth Rosane
Lindsay Rutherford
Miriam Schorr
Patricia Scott
Sharon Hashimoto and Michael Spence
Lora Shin
Jenni Shortridge
Kathleen Smith
Mathew Smucker
Janet Sorby
Evelyn Stowe
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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.