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## **Hugo House and Western Bridge to stage Ginsberg-themed poetry festival in Volunteer Park on June 22**

**Seattle, WA**—On Saturday, June 22, 2019, from 2–4 p.m., Hugo House and Western Bridge will present an afternoon program celebrating the work of famed Beat poet and LGBT icon Allen Ginsberg. The festival will feature an extraordinary lineup of poets, writers, and artists, including Dorothea Lasky, Rae Armantrout, Ron Silliman, Sadie Dupuis, Ryo Yamaguchi, Laura Da', Andrew Schelling, and Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore.

Allen Ginsberg was a poet, philosopher, and social activist best known for his 1956 book, *Howl and Other Poems*, which triumphed in censorship trials and became a symbol of the Beat generation and the San Francisco renaissance. Today, “Howl” is one of the most widely read poems in the world. Countless contemporary writers—some of whom will perform at the festival—cite his work as a major influence on their own.

“Allen Ginsberg’s artistic legacy and relevance to our time cannot be overstated,” Hugo House Executive Director Tree Swenson said. “The poetic voices assembled for this event will strike stunning notes, and thanks to Western Bridge, Ginsberg’s multivalent creativity will echo widely as his image migrates into the trees in Volunteer Park through Geoffrey Farmer’s art.”

Staged readings and performances of Ginsberg’s poetry will be presented at Volunteer Park in conjunction with the first US public presentation of Canadian artist Geoffrey Farmer’s multi-part photographic installation, *If You Want To See Something Look at Something Else* (Allen Ginsberg 1926–1997).

Farmer’s *If You Want To See Something...* consists of 50 framed photographs of Allen Ginsberg taken from various moments in the writer’s life, each mounted to a tree in a wooded area. Like other works by the artist that use found imagery, *If You Want To See Something* isolates images and figures from their original contexts, rearranging their chronologies and relationships. The space of the woods becomes like a theatrical set, where a collectivity of characters emerges from a single figure throughout phases of his life and cultural influence.

The presence of Allen Ginsberg in the park, a site with strong ties to the city’s LGBTQ communities, offers reflection on an individual who inspired cultural consciousness through art and action.

The poetry festival will take place from 2–4 p.m. on Saturday, June 22 in Volunteer Park; the installation will be on view near the Volunteer Park amphitheater from mid-June to mid-September 2019. Many thanks to City of Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Volunteer Park Trust for helping to make this event and installation possible.

## **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](http://hugohouse.org)

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

## **About Western Bridge**

Western Bridge was founded in 2004 as an art exhibition space in Seattle's Duwamish industrial district, exhibiting works from the collection of William and Ruth True. Since closing the exhibition space in 2012, Western Bridge has evolved into an itinerant art initiative, commissioning artwork for non-traditional spaces, and siting works in public.