2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NEW HUGO HOUSE

CLASSES
EVENTS
YOUTH PROGRAMS
& MORE
As of this September, Hugo House has been in our new and permanent home for a full year. The last twelve months have flown by. We’ve been learning to live in this space—but more importantly, we’ve been planning where we’ll go next. Our new doors opened a host of new possibilities, and we want to live up to the best of them.

We want Hugo House to be a transformative space, a space that helps writers manifest their best selves on the page. We want to erase the boundaries that divide us, as literature opens insight into the lives of others, creating a more compassionate, caring world. We want Hugo House to be profoundly welcoming, to champion racial equity and inclusion so that anyone who walks in the door feels like they belong. We want Hugo House to look like the city it serves.

Though our new space is lovely, it is not the rooms or the building that make Hugo House what it is. What matters is the people who come here—people who believe in the power of words to enlighten, to grow and transform, to bridge gaps and connect us in ways we didn’t think possible.

Whether you have come to Hugo House for quiet writing in our salon, lively workshops in class, or a reading in our theater, we want to thank you. Every donor, member, student, teacher, and attendee has helped make Hugo House a place where readers and writers can thrive.

Yours,

Tree Swenson
Executive Director
THE FIRST YEAR IN THE NEW HUGO HOUSE

at a glance

- **3,000+ students** took writing classes or workshops
- **286 classes** were taught by **171 teachers**, accounting for more than **33,000 hours** of instruction
- **489 hours** of one-on-one instruction & manuscript consultations
- **90 hours** of one-on-one meetings with writers-in-residence
- **77 writers** received full or partial scholarships, totaling more than **$24,250 given** to those with financial need
- **800+ youth** were inspired to write through Scribes summer writing camps, Young Writers Cohort, Stage Fright, or Write Time
- **352 artists** performed their work, of which **40%** were artists of color
- **63%** of events featured artists of color
- **10,811 readers and writers** attended an event

CLASSES FOR WRITERS OF ALL LEVELS

In our first year in the new space, we introduced a new style of writing class: **Book Lab** and **Advanced Manuscript** courses are geared toward writers who specifically want to hone their manuscripts with the help of a small cohort and the direct mentorship of a published writer. We also expanded our yearlong course offerings to include **Yearlong in Science Fiction**.

We offered between 65 and 110 classes each quarter for writers of all levels, spanning a wide range of genres and topics—from Haiku Intensive to Novel Immersion. Our classes are taught by experienced teachers and published writers, many of them nationally renowned, such as **Min Jin Lee**, **Andre Dubus III**, **Lauren Groff**, **Elizabeth George**, and **Morgan Parker**.
To support the creation of new work, we selected six writers as Hugo House Fellows. Courtney Bird, Emily Dhatt, Anis Gisele, Kim Kent, Katrina Otuoonye, and Dujie Tahat 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.

Kristen Millares Young (left) was selected to serve as the 2018–19 writer-in-residence in prose, and Amber Flame (right) continued her two-year term as the poetry 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.

Reading at Hugo House was a thrilling, unique experience. There’s nothing really like the place, and the work Hugo House is doing for readers and writers is vital.

—R.O. Kwon, author of The Incendiaries

EVENTS TO OPEN THE LITERARY WORLD

Hugo House events reveal the compelling and nuanced nature of language, showcasing both emerging and established writers. More than 85% of our nearly 200 events in the 2018–19 season were free, and ticket prices were kept affordable to ensure events remained accessible.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR A NEW HUGO HOUSE

Each month at Hit Submit!, writers gathered in our new salon for support and accountability as they submitted work for publication.

As a salute to all the large-hearted writers who were members of Seattle7Writers, we now host the one-day writers’ conference, Write Here Write Now. This year, more than 120 writers wrote, found inspiration, and worked one-on-one with a published author.

VOW: Voices of Womxn, a program spearheaded by writers-in-residence Kristen Millares Young and Amber Flame, provided space and resources for women and womxn-identified writers, readers, and literary enthusiasts to share stories, ideas, and more.

Presented in partnership with Tasveer, the Tasveer South Asian Literary Festival showcased the works of South Asian writers.

We teamed up with the Golf Pencil Project, a group that leads creative writing classes in the King County Jail, to ensure their important work continues.
FOSTERING YOUNG WRITERS

Students in grades 6–12 engaged 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.

“I’ve found a community of writers my age who share both my passion for writing and the journey to become better writers. The Cohort is so important to who I am. It is a crucial part of the youth writing community in Seattle and should last forever.

—Former member of the Young Writers Cohort

2018 FINANCIALS

Revenue
Total: $5,420,244

Expenses
Total: $1,550,300

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018–19 INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

Interns
Elizabeth Dunigan
Henry Grubbs
Jessica Taylor
Charlie Wakenshaw

Volunteers
Mary Anders
Jill Anderson
Taira Anderson
Esther Armstrong
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Robert Babs
Gabby Bates
Nancy Boespflug
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A full list of capital campaign donors from all years can be found on our website at hugohouse.org/capital-campaign-donors/

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- Diana Xin
- Elana Zaiman
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**.