The American Writers Museum (AWM) was born in May, 2017, and experienced a growth spurt in 2018. The founders of this museum never doubted it was a great idea, and it’s gratifying to see that the world agrees. Attendance increased 40 percent over the comparable time period of 2017, visitor reviews continue to be overwhelmingly positive, and more of today’s established and emerging authors are coming to the AWM to speak with growing audiences. We are serving more elementary, middle and high school students, and we continue to improve their educational experience.

During 2018, the AWM Board and staff conducted a careful analysis of what we have learned and how the AWM can reach its greatest potential as a cultural and educational resource. From this analysis, we developed a strategic plan that will guide us in the coming years. The plan is grounded in the AWM’s mission to engage the public in celebrating American writers and exploring their influence on our history, our identity, our culture, and our daily lives. We will continue to take advantage of the AWM’s uniqueness and reputation as we implement our ambitious plans for broader reach and deeper impact.

Thanks to many generous donors, and careful financial management, the AWM is in a stable financial position. Many old and new friends stepped up to provide major support in 2018, and we are thrilled that they see the value and impact of our exhibits and programs. We remain grateful to the AWM’s dedicated Board of Directors, advisors, staff and, especially, supporters like you.

The end of 2018 marks the end of our term as the AWM’s inaugural Co-chairs, although we will always support this special place that was brought to life by an army of creative and tireless believers.

Thank you for being part of the American Writers Museum.
At the American Writers Museum, we **honor the past** with exhibits that celebrate American writers from throughout our country’s history, we **promote the present** through in-person programs with today’s writers, and, most importantly, we use our exhibits, author programs, and student curriculum to **inspire the future** with the Write In youth education program. This 2018 annual report highlights our growth and impact in all three areas. These accomplishments lay the foundation for continued growth and will allow us to take advantage of new opportunities to improve your museum.

Highlights of 2018 include two new temporary exhibits: **Bob Dylan: Electric** which examines Dylan as a writer and influencer, and **Frederick Douglass: Agitator**, which explores how Douglass used writing as a force for change as he fought for equality in the 19th century.

As the AWM becomes increasingly well-known, we continue to attract some of today’s most popular authors to discuss their work with the public. In 2018, we were pleased to host 49 events, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, discussing her memoir *Turning Pages*, Pulitzer-prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen, Editor of *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives*, Tayari Jones, author of the bestselling novel *An American Marriage*, and AJ Finn, author of another bestseller, *The Woman in the Window*, to name a few.

Conversations between authors and our audience are always interesting and wide-ranging—this lively exchange of ideas is what the AWM is all about.

Good writing can broaden our minds, and in turn, it can change the world. The AWM conveys this idea by presenting writers and their work in a totally new way. When students visit the AWM as part of the Write In program, they experience hands-on, technology-based exhibits and hear from today’s writers at special author events just for them. Write In looks at regular school curriculum through a new lens, giving students a new perspective about what writing can be, and how it can be an important part of their lives.

I hope you take pride in what you make possible at the AWM. We would not be on this upward trajectory without supporters like you. On behalf of everyone at the American Writers Museum, thank you for your support and endorsement.

**Carey Cranston, President**
EXHIBITS

Honoring the Past

Permanent exhibits celebrate a wide range of American writers, the writing process, and the ways that writers and readers connect.

We are often asked if our permanent exhibits will change or be updated. The answer is yes. In 2018, the following additions were made, informed by feedback from our visitors:

1. Ten new works of literature were added to the Featured Works tables, which provide extensive information, including audio excerpts, on various masterworks. Each Featured Works Table now holds information on 35 works, with more to be added.

2. First Lines is a new, original exhibit piece at the north end of the S. Leigh Pierson and Douglas R. Conant Reader’s Hall. Throughout the development of the AWM, we have benefitted from support and counsel from some of America’s greatest living writers. Over several years, the museum founders asked these writers to pen a new first line to something they have never written. First Lines is a collection of delightful and varied “first line” cards from writers including Judy Blume, Stephen King, Joyce Carol Oates, David McCullough, and Colson Whitehead.

3. As part of the popular 2017 exhibit The Beat Journey: Jack Kerouac’s On the Road, the AWM commissioned the creation of a digital version of the iconic first draft scroll in the exhibit. After the exhibit, the museum maintained and moved the digital scroll, which is on a 55-inch touch screen, allowing visitors to see the entire novel, and zoom in to see Kerouac’s original typewritten, stream-of-consciousness storytelling and handwritten notes. The digital Kerouac Scroll is now a permanent AWM exhibit.

4. Several new book choices were added to the Reader’s Choice kiosks, based on visitors’ suggestions.

The American Writers Museum experience is inspiring and memorable because of its modern, hands-on exhibits. They are designed to guide visitors through a deep dive into American writing and its lasting influence.
2018 Temporary Exhibits
Capturing Stories: Photographs of Writers by Art Shay, closed Oct. 2018
Laura Ingalls Wilder: From Prairie to Page, closed June 2018

Frederick Douglass: Agitator
Opened June 2018
The Roberta Rubin Writer’s Room
This exhibit focuses on Douglass’s writing and activism from 1865—the year slavery ended—until his death in 1895, including his advocacy for the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments; his many speeches and essays on equal rights for African-Americans and women; and his involvement with the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A video screen in the exhibit features teenagers from Young Chicago Authors reading excerpts from Douglass’s speeches, carrying his still-relevant messages forward.

Curators
John Stauffer, Professor of English, American Studies and African American Studies, Harvard University
Keidrick Roy, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies, Harvard University

Partners
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
The Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives

Sponsors
Allstate • Wintrust
Komarek-Hyde-McQueen Foundation
The Donnelley Foundation • Jane Irwin
Joyce & Don Rumsfeld • Patricia Dodson
Olivia Bedi’s Fabulous Facebook Friends
Jane Rotrosen Agency

Bob Dylan: Electric
Opened October 2018
The Meijer Exhibit Gallery
This exhibit examines Dylan as a songwriter, looking specifically at the album Highway 61 Revisited; his controversial performance at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, where he played electric for the first time; the 1965 documentary of Dylan’s tour of England, Don’t Look Back; and quotes and music from the many writers and musicians he influenced.

Bot Dylan: Electric also spotlights Dylan as the winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature, with audio of Dylan reading his Nobel Prize Lecture, in which he describes his musical and literary influences.

Curator
Alan Light, renowned music journalist

Artifacts on loan from
Jim Irsay, Mitch Blank, Gary Ollman, Bill Pagel, the Woody Guthrie Center, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Sponsors
Poetry Foundation • Robin & Sandy Stuart
American Songwriter Magazine
Ivan & Kathy Kane • Susan & Doug Lyons
Shanti Nagarkatti • Roberta Rubin
Ken & Jossy Nebenzahl

AWM Exhibit Designer
Andy Anway, Founder of Amaze Design
Andy Anway is the designer of the AWM’s permanent exhibits, and continues to work with us to design new temporary exhibits that keep the AWM experience fresh and timely.

In 2018, Andy led the team to design and build Bob Dylan: Electric and Frederick Douglass: Agitator. Andy and his team approach every project with the visitor experience in mind, and never fail to create exhibits that surprise and delight.

“Working with the AWM has been a labor of love, in large measure because of the gifted and dedicated group of supporters, contributors, and staff that it has attracted since its inception. The visitor experience reflects the joy we all feel in the presence of great writers and writing.”
— Andy Anway

amaze DESIGN
AUTHOR EVENTS

Promoting the Present

The AWM offers author events year-round, approximately once a week, bringing the public face-to-face with writers in a variety of genres.

Author events are often thematically tied to exhibits—in 2018 we initiated the Singers and Songwriters Series to complement Bob Dylan: Electric. In conjunction with Frederick Douglass: Agitator, we hosted Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., great-great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass, to speak about Douglass’s legacy, Manisha Sinha on her new book, The Slave’s Cause, and co-hosted the Frederick Douglass Mixtape with Young Chicago Authors.

In 2018, the AWM hosted 49 events attended by 4,830 people.

Author Events

The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives: Viet Thanh Nguyen, Kao Kalia Yang, & Vu Tran

Norman Mailer and the Siege of Chicago: Maureen Corrigan & J. Michael Lennon

Turning Pages: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

1,000 Books to Read Before You Die: James Mustich & Elizabeth Taylor

Call Me By Your Name: André Aciman

Scarface and the Untouchable: Max Allan Collins & A. Brad Schwartz

Shell Game: Sara Paretsky

John Woman: Walter Mosley

Voices from the Rust Belt: Anne Trubek & Contributors

Becoming Madeline: A Biography of the Author of A Wrinkle in Time by Her Granddaughters: Charlotte Jones Voiklis and Lena Roy

A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919: Claire Hartfield

Harbor Me & The Day You Begin: Jacqueline Woodson

Sex and the City and Us: Jennifer Keishin Armstrong

The Consuming Fire: John Scalzi

The Widower’s Notebook: Jonathan Santlofer

The Radium Girls: Kate Moore

Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk: Kathleen Rooney

The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt: Ken Krimstein

The Rub of Time: Martin Amis

Who Fears Death & Black Panther: Long Live the King: Nnedi Okorafor

Revolution Song: Russell Shorto

Mr. Dickens and His Carol: Samantha Silva

An American Marriage: Tayari Jones

The Slave’s Cause: Manisha Sinha

Box Girl: My Part Time Job as an Art Installation: Lilibet Snellings

The Woman in the Window: A.J. Finn & Gillian Flynn

Heartland: Ana Simo

The Hunting Accident: David L. Carlson

Pipe Dreams: Erin Banco

Electric Arches: Eve Ewing

All You Can Ever Know: Nicole Chung

Last night’s event at the American Writers Museum was fantastic. I talked about Africanfuturism, my forthcoming comic series LaGuardia, HBO, and Marvel...and read a bit of the new story “Sacred Fire” – Nnedi Okorafor
Rapper and writer Dessa, signs copies of her book *My Own Devices: True Stories from the Road on Music, Science and Senseless Love.*

Glory Edim, founder of the *Well-Read Black Girl* literary movement, reads from her book.

Had a great event @AWMuseum tonight in Chicago. This place is like Disneyland for Writers!

– Kenneth B. Morris, Jr.

@AWMuseum was great! Terrific crowd, and such a beautiful place! So pleased to have been there. I’d go back anytime!  – Jonathan Santlofer

Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. speaks to a group from the Black Male Leadership Academy about the enduring relevance of Frederick Douglass.

So grateful to @americanwritersmuseum for inviting me to be part of their First Book series—what a beautiful space for an event! Thank you to all the old & new friends who packed the museum on a cold night to talk about #allyoucaneverknow. I had the most wonderful time.  – Nicole Chung

**Singers & Songwriters**
Dessa  
Ketch Secor  
Louie Pérez  
Robbie Fulks

**Public Conversations**
Zora Neale Hurston’s *Barracoon*:  
Laura Baskes Litwin & Tracy Sherrod

A Celebration of Great Science Writing:  
David Quammen & Sy Montgomery  
Sue Rutsen on Nelson Algren

*The Thrill of the Grass*:  
Celebrating Baseball Writing for the Ages

Fiction and Foreign Policy with Shermin Kruse

Rita Coburn Whack on *Maya Angelou*

Kenneth B. Morris on the Legacy of Frederick Douglass

*The Frederick Douglass Mixtape*:  
Workshop and Open Mic Night

Glory Edim on the Literary Movement *Well-Read Black Girl*

Panel Discussion:

*Fearless Women in Science Fiction*

Poetry with Nikki Giovanni

*Pamplona* with Jim McGrath and Nancy Sindelar

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Horizons Writing Program Showcase

Writers on War and Peace
Inspiring the Future

When the American Writers Museum opened in 2017, we knew that this place would have a special role to play for young people — the next generation of great American writers.

The Write In youth education program has been growing and evolving since the museum opened in May 2017. Write In uses the AWM’s exhibits, coupled with specially designed curriculum, to teach and inspire elementary, middle and high school students before, during, and after their museum visit.

Over the last two years, we have learned a great deal about how students react to the exhibits and use the curriculum, which has informed ongoing improvements to the student experience. We have also increased our outreach, focusing primarily on schools where the majority of students’ families live below the poverty line.

Thanks to our donors, we have raised funding to cover not only much of Write In’s operating expenses, but also subsidies for museum admission and buses for these schools, completely eliminating the cost barrier and giving these students the same opportunity as their peers.

In 2018, we enhanced Write In with in-person author events just for students, writing workshops offered in partnership with Writopia, and special curriculum to accompany temporary exhibits linked to what students are learning in the classroom. For example, students used specially designed curriculum in the exhibit Frederick Douglass: Agitator, and many subsidized students received a free copy of The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, thanks to a grant from Allstate.

In 2018, Write In served 6,141 students, including 3,327 from low-income households who participated at no cost to the students’ families or schools.

Every time I see a group of Write In students at the museum, I know we’re doing something right.

The students are engaged, having fun, and learning. Certainly, the museum’s many touchscreens and multi-sensory features have something to do with that. This modern museum uses the technology these students have always known. But it’s even more than that. They love the challenge of writing on vintage typewriters; and they are excited to learn more about the writers who are part of their school curriculum...their lives, their motivations, and their timeless messages.

At the AWM, students see that many great American writers faced the same challenges they face today, and they made a difference— for themselves and for society—with their writing. Through Write In, we want to let young people know they have that power too.

— John Estey, AWM Board Chairman, 2019

In 2018, Write In was supported by our Lead Sponsor, the Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc. with additional major support provided by the Ralph & Evelyn Davis Family Foundation, Lloyd & Kathryn Bettis, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and an Anonymous Donor.
Write In students with award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson, National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature.

Write In students with Glory Edim, founder of Well-Read Black Girl, a book club turned online community and literary festival.

Write In students with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who spoke about her new memoir for children, Turning Pages.

Dear American Writers Museum,

Thank you for letting us write in the typewriter. I was so cool writing stories there. I thank you for letting us go for free, now I know a bunch of book I can read.

Sincerely,
Joshua Xavier
$100,000 and up
S. Leigh Pierson Conant and Douglas R. Conant
The Meijer Foundation
Stead Family Foundation
Wintrust Financial

$50,000–$99,999
Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc.
Maree G. Bullock
in memory of Jimmie R. Alford
M. Hill and Cheryl Hammock
Malcolm and Virgina O’Hagan

$25,000–$49,999
Allstate Insurance Company
Roger and Julie Baskes
Lloyd and Kathryn Bettis
Thomas and Mary Carmel Borders
Bulley & Andrews LLC
Chicago Council of the American Writers Museum
John and Cathie Estey
Jay and Robin Hammer
Gerry Gredoich Lichterman
Poetry Foundation
Ralph and Evelyn Davis Family Foundation
Larry Shulman and Rhonda Rochambeau

$10,000–$24,999
Anonymous (2)
Bristol-Meyers Squibb Foundation
Marion A. Cameron
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Robert and Gena Franden
James and Carol Hansen
Werner and Marleen Hein
Jane Irwin
Ivan and Kathy Kane
Komarek-Hyde-McQueen Foundation
Chase and Mark Levey
MacMillan Publishers
Coco and Ethan Meers
Catherine Mouly
and Ted Carlson
John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe
S&C Electric Company
Alexander and Robin Stuart

$5,000–$9,999
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The Bedi Family Foundation
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Edith and Gerald Falk
Heritage Auctioneers & Galleries
Michael and Lisa Hotchkiss
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Shanti Nagarkatti
Ken and Jossy Nebenzahl
John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols
Burton X. and Sheli Rosenberg
Roberta Rubin
Don and Joyce Rumsfeld
Sara Lee and Axel Schupf
Michael Scodro and Tracey Zima Scodro
Carole and Gordon Segal

$1,000 - $4,999
Anonymous
Frank and Catherine Aranjo
Lisa Barrow and Jonas Fisher
Carol and Gary Berman
Andy and Shaun Block
Elaine and Joseph Borruso
Jack and Deedee Brannigan
Joseph Brennan
and Leslie Shad
Liz and Skip Coggin
Craig and Teri Colmar
Carey Cranston
and Ellen Trichter
Robin and Edward Culbertson
John and Jane Demler
Patricia Dodson
Margaret Duncan
and John Bisbikis
Harve Ferrill
Frederique I. Hartog-Levin
Joseph Hassett
Beverly and Warren Hayford
Bradley Henderson
Henderson Legal Services
James F. Hunnewell
Jane Rotrosen Agency
Johnson & Bell
Julie and Ken Justie
Vivian Kaplan
Robert and Emily King
Eugene and Carol Ludwig

Susan and Doug Lyons
Meredith Mays Espino
Ann McDermott
Paul and Penelope McDonnell
Olivia Bedi’s Facebook Friends
Jessie and Robert Palmer
Kathryn and John Palmer
Sara Paretsky
Joseph Parker
Chad Riley
Charles Rizzo
Stephen and Ann Ross
Clark and Marcia Silcox
Ruth and Joel Schoenmeyer
Richard Shurman
Sikich LLP
John Sirek and Colleen Loughlin
Skirt PR
Stanley and Donna Slabas
Smith Blake & Hill
Neil and Kris Thomas
Richard Traut
April Trichter
Theresa Unumb and Philip Thompson
Matt Walch
Nike Whitcomb
Jeffrey Wright
Writopia Labs
Daniel and Angela Yergin
$250–$999
Basel Al-Aswad
Margery Al-Chalabi
Randall Albers
Anonymous
Stephen W. and Susan M. Baird Foundation
Bedi & Singer
Jonathan and Olivia Bedi
Elysa J. Blacker
Judith Block
Elizabeth Boe
Hindy Bogner-Orenstein
Kathy Borrus
Michael Burke
Anthony Buttitta
Bob Byman
Sally Campbell
Philip and Julie Croll
Regis and Elena Delmontagne
Jeff Deutsch
William and Susanna Doolin
Andrea Dudek
Richard Eisenberg
Joan and Kevin Evanich
J. and E. Fanuzzi
Barry and Jeanette Filderman
Deborah and James Franczek
Mark and Cindy Fuller
Art Garwin
Terry Gilman
Andrew and Ann Gore
Andres Guzman
Caroline Hammock
Philip L. Harris
Kathy Hatcher
Julia Hauldren
Marilyn Hayden
James Holderman
Amanda Hollis
Laurie Howick
Monica Hughson
Laura Huizenga
Ogden Hunnewell
Elinor and Ross Jannotta
Kelly Jocius
Julie Katz
Christine and Glenn Kelly
Claire Kenny
Lori Koetters and Brian Smith
Maria Kronfeld
Stuart and Shermin Kruse
Justin Kulovsek
Lilibet Snellings Kyte
and Peter Kyte
Karen Latchford
Phyllis Lee
Michael Lewis
Kathi and Tom Loughlin
Pamela and Greg Lungmus
Denise Macey
John Mackey
Helen Marlborough
Betsy Martens
and Gary Von Euer
Judith Massuda
Mary and Peter Mavrogenes
Madison McDonald
W. David McGarry
Dawn H. Miller
Katherine Minarik
Susan and George Morris
Corinne Morrissey
Kim O’Brien
Andrew Olson
Tim Oravec
Taylor Overman
Hyde and Ann Perce
Eve and Michael Perri
Melissa Phillips
PRM Consulting Inc
Mike Puican and Mary Hawley
Anne and Brent Ray
Angel Rivera
James Rocks
Jade and Ryan Routson
Marilyn and Al Rush
Swati Saini
Mary T. Schneider
Sarah Schrup
Mary Serrahn
Suzanne Shapiro
Suzanne Shier
Randi Sidgmore
Joanne Starzec
Jo Ann Stevenson
and Marshall Grate
Eric Stone
Jon Stromberg
Tariq Taherbhai
Caroline Vickrey
Julie Weary
Samuel and Charlene Wexler
Sue Wilder
Douglas Wilkerson
Sallie Wolf
Karina Yuen Wong
Susan Youdovin
Shaun Zhang

The Chicago Council for the American Writers Museum is a group of professionals who raise funds and awareness for the museum. In 2018, their major fundraising event was a Great Gatsby themed party in the museum. The Chicago Council was led by Olivia Bedi in 2017 and 2018.
FINANCES

Statement of Activities
Year Ended 12/31/2018

Revenue
Museum Admissions ............................................. $221,404
Retail Sales: Net .................................................. $36,100
Memberships ..................................................... $53,694
Individual Gifts ................................................... $1,093,690
Corporations and Foundations .................. $713,743
Space Rental ....................................................... $46,482
Program Income .................................................. $26,228
Other Income ........................................................ $430
Total: $2,191,771

Expenses
Museum Programming and Operations ................... $2,042,165
Management and General ......................... $468,329
Fundraising ....................................................... $194,744
Total: $2,705,238

Change in Net Assets ........................................... ($513,467)

Statement of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis
Year Ended 12/31/2018

Cash Flows from Operating Activities
Change in Net Assets ........................................... ($513,467)

Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities
Depreciation ........................................................ $490,924
Security Deposit ............................................... $100,000
Other Current Assets ........................................ $7,884
Total: $598,808

Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities .................................. $85,341

Cash Flows from Investing Activities
Leasehold Improvements .................................... ($18,505)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities .................................. ($18,505)

Changes in Cash Flow
Net Increase in Cash ............................................. $66,836
Cash Balance - Beginning of Year .................. $208,043
Cash Balance - End of Year ............................... $274,879

Growth in Museum Attendance
June–December*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Write In Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June–Dec. 2017</td>
<td>22500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June–Dec. 2018</td>
<td>22500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,141 Students served through the Write In program.
Low-income students who participated in Write In at no cost to the families or schools, thanks to subsidies provided by AWM donors.

3,327

The Wintrust Mural Building on Chicago’s Kennedy Expressway

190 MILLION

#3 out of 127 CHICAGO MUSEUMS

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE
38,000

1,500 MEMBERS
Kwame Alexander  
Poet, Children’s writer,  
and Newberry Medal winner

Isabel Allende  
Novelist, Memoirist, American  
Academy of Arts and Letters, and  
Presidential Medal of Freedom  
recipient

Marie Arana  
Novelist, Biographer, Critic, National  
Book Award finalist, & L.A. Times Book  
Prize winner

Jabari Asim  
Novelist, Children’s writer,  
Literary critic, and Educator

A. Scott Berg  
Biographer, Pulitzer Prize winner, and  
National Book Award winner

Billy Collins  
U.S. Poet Laureate and Educator

Maureen Corrigan  
Journalist, Author, Professor, and  
Literary Critic, The Washington Post,  
and NPR

Rita Dove  
Former U.S. Poet Laureate, Essayist,  
Educator, and Pulitzer Prize winner

Stuart Dybek  
Poet and Fiction writer

Jennifer Egan  
Novelist, Short story writer,  
and Pulitzer Prize winner

Dave Eggers  
Author, Editor, Publisher, National Book  
Award finalist, & L.A. Times Book Prize  
winner

Louise Erdrich  
Novelist, Bookseller, National Book  
Award winner, Pulitzer Prize finalist,  
and Library of Congress Prize for  
American Fiction winner

Eliot Fitz  
Poet and Executive Director,  
Poets & Writers Foundation

Reginald Gibbons  
Poet, Author, and Professor

Nikki Giovanni Jr.  
Poet, Essayist, Activist, and Educator

Adam Gopnik  
Author, Journalist, and  
George Polk Award winner

Joy Harjo  
Poet, Writer, Musician, Playwright,  
and Ruth Lilly Prize from the Poetry  
Foundation

Juan Felipe Herrera  
Former U.S. Poet Laureate, Performer,  
Cartoonist, and Educator

Jeffrey Lependorf  
Executive Director, Council of Literary  
Magazines and Presses

Lisa Lucas  
Journalist, Broadcast, and Executive  
Director, National Book Foundation

Haki R. Madhubuti  
Author, Poet, and Publisher,  
Third World Press

Leonard S. Marcus  
Author, Critic,  
and Children’s book historian

Alice McDermott  
Novelist, Essayist,  
and Asian/Pacific American  
Award for Literature winner

Maryam Robinson  
Novelist, Biographer, and Critic

Max Rudin  
Publisher, Library of America

George Saunders  
Fiction Writer and Educator

Donna Seaman  
Senior Editor, Booklist, American  
Library Assn

Lisa See  
Novelist, Essayist, and  
Asian/Pacific American  
Award for Literature winner

Anna Deavere Smith  
Playwright, Actress, Educator, and  
Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize winner

Ilan Stavans  
Editor, Essayist, Translator and  
Educator

Natasha Trethewey  
Former U.S. Poet Laureate,  
Educator, and Pulitzer Prize winner

Scott F. Turow  
Novelist and Memoirist

Viet Thanh Nguyen  
Novelist, Educator,  
Pulitzer Prize winner, and  
Asian/Pacific American  
Award for Literature winner

Edward Widmer  
Historian and Scholar
AFFILIATES

The AWM Affiliates Program fosters collaboration among American author museums and homes to increase interest in the works of our great American writers. This program helps increase the national scope of the AWM.

Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House
Nelson Algren Museum of Miller Beach
The Center for Ray Bradbury Studies
William Cullen Bryant Homestead
Pearl S. Buck Birthplace
Pearl S. Buck House
Monroe County Museum
National Willa Cather Center
The Pat Conroy Literary Center
Emily Dickinson Museum
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
Paul Laurence Dunbar House
The Old Manse
Concord Museum
Rowan Oak
The Fitzgerald Museum
Robert Frost Farm
Hamlin Garland Homestead
Edward Gorey House
Woody Guthrie Center
Alex Haley Museum & Interpretive Center
The Wren’s Nest
Georgia Writers Museum
The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association
Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park
Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center
Washington Irving’s Sunnyside
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation
Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation
Sarah Orne Jewett House Museum
The Beat Museum
The Beauregard-Keyes House
Vachel Lindsay State Historic Site
Jack London State Historic Park
Longfellow House
Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site
Wadsworth-Langfellow House
Herman Melville’s Arrowhead
The Merwin Conservancy
The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop
Margaret Mitchell House
John Muir National Historic Site
John G. Neihardt Center
Andalusia: the Home of Flannery O’Connor
Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site
Monte Cristo Cottage
Poe Baltimore
Edgar Allan Poe Museum
O. Henry Museum
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park
James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home
Theodore Roethke Home Museum
Will Rogers Memorial Museums
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site
Carl Sandburg State Historic Site
The William Saroyan House Museum
Cherokee Nation, Sequoyah’s Cabin Museum
The National Steinbeck Center
Harriet Beecher Stowe House
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site
Thoreau Farm
Thurber House
The Mark Twain House & Museum
Mark Twain Home Foundation
The John Updike Childhood Home
Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library
Margaret Walker Center
Noah Webster House
Eudora Welty House and Garden
The Mount
Walt Whitman’s Birthplace
John Greenleaf Whittier Birthplace
Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum
Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home & Museum
Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum
Thomas Wolfe Memorial

STAFF

Carey Cranston
President

MUSEUM OPERATIONS
Christopher Burrow
Director of Operations
Christina Carrera
Facilities Supervisor
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The mission of the American Writers Museum is to engage the public in celebrating American writers and exploring their influence on our history, our identity, our culture, and our daily lives.

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