

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2006 Grants Awarded in Literature

The Asian American Writers' Workshop

THE ASIAN AMERICAN WRITERS' WORKSHOP, New York City, received a two-year grant of \$42,000 in support of programs that support the development of new works by emerging Asian American writers. The Workshop engages artists and audiences in the cultivation and promotion of Asian American literature and art through innovative presentation, intensive workshops, tours, youth work, and publication. An ever-evolving entity, the Workshop serves between 100 and 150 emerging writers each year through training, publication, and public presentations. Jerome subsidy is directed toward several program strands at the Workshop, chief among those the workshops offered for writers and publications. The Workshop has produced ten anthologies of the best of new contemporary Asian American writing, and has also published a journal and magazine. The Workshop recently announced its first individual poetry manuscript competition open to Asian American poets without published collections.

Cave Canem Foundation

CAVE CANEM, New York City, received \$15,000 in support of four York City workshops in the 2005-06 program year. Founded in 1996, Cave Canem offers to emerging African-American poets opportunities to develop the skill and confidence needed to pursue their writing. Current programs include an annual summer workshop/retreat, regional poetry workshops, the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, readings, and publications. Two tiers of workshops open to competitively selected emerging African-American poets will be held at The Poets House and at locations in New York City boroughs other than Manhattan. Sessions will be offered twice per year and will range in length from six to ten weeks. The workshops, led by master writer/teachers, focus on the development of professional skills and practices.

Coffee House Press

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$50,000 in support of the publication of six titles by emerging authors. Founded in 1984, Coffee House Press is a nationally recognized literary arts organization whose mission is to promote exciting, vital and enduring authors of its time; to delight and inspire readers; to contribute to the cultural life of its community; and to enrich our literary heritage. Jerome dollars will assist in paying royalty advances and cover some of the expenses of editing, design, printing and marketing of books by authors including Sarah Fox, Sam Savage, Yuko Taniguchi, Sun Yung Shin and Brenda Coultas.

Fence Magazine

FENCE MAGAZINE, New York City, received \$10,000 in support of the publication of new works by emerging New York City and Minnesota writers. Since 1998, FENCE has published poetry and short fiction in magazine and book forms, and coordinated discussions, both public and in print, on topics that illuminate and contextualize contemporary literature. It selects work from a wide range of writing styles and aesthetic stances. It celebrates the idiosyncrasies of authors and nurtures individual voices. Jerome support is directed toward the publication of poetry and fiction by emerging writers. The magazine encourages unsolicited submissions and commits to an open and generous stance in its review.

Graywolf Press

GRAYWOLF PRESS, St. Paul, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$50,000 in support of the publication of seven books by emerging authors. Graywolf is dedicated to the creation and promotion of thoughtful and imaginative contemporary literature essential to a vital and diverse culture. It publishes authors based in Minnesota and around the country whose work conveys a distinct vision by way of a unique voice and a vigorous engagement with the possibilities of language. Its longstanding commitment to supporting the work and careers of emerging literary authors has captured Jerome Foundation attention and support since 1985. Graywolf publishes a mixture of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction; established artists alongside new and emerging talents. Titles receiving Jerome support include those by authors Joseph Campana, Tom Sleigh, Stephen Burt, Robert Hill, Paul Lisicky, and Jane Jeong Trenka.

The Loft Literary Center

THE LOFT, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$100,000 in support of the Minnesota Writers Career Initiative. The Loft fosters a writing community, the artistic development of individual writers, and an audience for literature. In 1994, The Loft created the Minnesota Writers Career Initiative Program to help Minnesota writers leverage opportunities to expand their audience and advance their careers. The program serves writers through a two-step process of logistical and strategic planning with a consultant and/or program staff, resulting in the creation of a workable career plan, and the implementation of that plan. The program is open to poets, prose writers, children's authors and spoken word artists poised to pursue opportunities to advance their work.

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THE LOFT, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$50,000 in support of the Mentor Series. The Loft Literary Center offers a wide array of programs and services that support writers and readers of all ages throughout the region. In 1979, with Jerome Foundation support, The Loft launched the Mentor Series as a vehicle for emerging Minnesota writers to work in small group settings with nationally recognized authors, and to be mentored by them in ways ranging from review of their work to providing inspiration and examples for the writing life. Key components of the program include nationally recognized mentors serving competitively selected Minnesota writers in residencies extending for several days; small group and private sessions between mentors and participants; public readings; and master classes, workshops and public forums. Twelve emerging Minnesota-based writers (four in poetry, four in fiction, and four in creative nonfiction) work with six nationally acclaimed writers.

Mizna

SASE: The Write Place

A two-year grant of \$32,000 was awarded to S.A.S.E.: THE WRITE PLACE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as fiscal sponsor for Mizna, in support of the publication of four volumes of the Mizna Journal. Mizna is a forum promoting Arab American culture, committed to giving voice to Arab Americans on local, national and international levels through literature, multidisciplinary arts programming, speakers and community events. Jerome support will assist in continuing the publication of the Mizna Literary Journal and pay fees to the writers and artists published within it. Any writer and artist may submit work to Mizna's open application process. Mizna hopes to focus more resources on promotion in order to increase subscriptions and visibility. It will also strengthen its editorial process; continue the achievements it's made in design; and explore more thematic issues to unify writing in the Journal and illustrate the diversity of views, opinions and creative expressions on select topics. Jerome support is directed toward the publication of works by emerging literary and visual artists living in Minnesota and New York City.

New Rivers Press @ MSUM

NEW RIVERS PRESS MSUM, Moorhead, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$30,000 in support of the Many Voices Project (MVP). This will subsidize the selection, publication and promotion of six books by emerging writers in the MVP series. Eligibility is restricted to emerging writers based in Minnesota and New York City. This is an open competition for manuscripts, addressing the Press's mission of acquiring, editing and promoting books in all genres by new and emerging writers. New Rivers is also a teaching press, integrated into the Minnesota State University Moorhead curriculum.

S.A.S.E.: The Write Place

S.A.S.E.: THE WRITE PLACE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a grant of \$49,500 in support of the S.A.S.E./Jerome Fellowship for Writers, the Verve Fellowships, and Writer-to-Writer Mentorships. S.A.S.E. supports writing that aims for the highest literary standards while beating with the pulse of the people that it seeks to reach. The S.A.S.E./Jerome Fellowships have made it possible for writers to study with master teachers, travel to learn from writers in distant countries, bring work to publication, read and present their work, and subsidize writing time. The purpose of the Fellowships is to provide emerging writers with financial assistance, professional encouragement, and recognition. The Verve Fellowship Program for Spoken Word artists offers five fellowships of up to \$3,000 to artists, who have used the subsidies to produce CDs, tour to promote their work, expand the range of performance opportunities, and develop new pieces. The Writer-to-Writer Mentorships provide individualized learning experiences for emerging writers. Mentors work with small groups of writers over a semester, which includes at least six group sessions in addition to one-on-one sessions between each writer and his/her mentor.

The Writers Room

A two-year grant of \$30,000 was authorized for THE WRITERS ROOM, New York City, an organization dedicated to providing emerging and established writers with clean, quiet and affordable workspace, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The Writers Room serves 400 members, of whom three-quarters are emerging writers. Jerome dollars are used to reduce membership rates for emerging writers and enable them to produce work in a setting that's conducive to writing.