

JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2007 Grants Awarded in Literature

Cave Canem Foundation

CAVE CANEM, New York City, is celebrating its tenth anniversary as a multi-service literary organization that offers an annual summer workshop/retreat, regionally-based poetry workshops, the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, readings and publications. Jerome funding of \$16,000 will support intermediate and advanced level New York City workshops for emerging African American poets. The workshops are organized in two semesters, with weekly three-hour sessions. Established writers with teaching experience are contracted to lead the workshops. Participants are selected by the lead poets/instructors. The workshops include writing assignments and exercises, criticism, professional development, peer interaction and reading opportunities.

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.

The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses

THE COUNCIL OF LITERARY MAGAZINES AND PRESSES (CLMP), New York City, received a two-year grant of \$92,000 in support of a pilot program titled Face Out: Maximizing the Visibility of Emerging Writers. CLMP, a national service and advocacy organization, supports and promotes noncommercial literary publishing to ensure that readers and writers are well served by a strong and vibrant literary culture. Through Face Out, CLMP will competitively award eight grants of \$5,000 to \$7,000, over two years, to four independent publishers to build emerging author/publisher relationships with eight writers. Funding will support author advances, author tours and author-focused marketing initiatives. CLMP will also provide technical assistance through workshops, roundtables and evaluation sessions for the publishers and emerging writers participating in the program. The strategies and techniques developed will be documented in a monograph. The selection process will begin with a request for proposals distributed to independent literary presses in New York City.

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. The Loft also received a two-year grant of \$100,000 in support of the Mentor Program. Initiated in 1979 as a vehicle for emerging Minnesota writers to work in small group settings with nationally recognized writers, and to be mentored by them in various ways ranging from review of their work to providing inspiration and examples for a writing life. Twelve emerging Minnesota-based writers (four in poetry, four in fiction, and four in creative nonfiction) are selected through a competitive process to work intensively with six nationally acclaimed writers (two in each genre). The program includes individual conferences, group sessions, craft seminars, manuscript conferences and public readings.

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Milkweed Editions

MILKWEED EDITIONS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$46,000 in support of the publication of four single author books and one anthology. Milkweed Editions, an independent, nonprofit literary publisher, releases 12 to 20 new books each year in the genres of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. In 2005, it released its 200th title, bringing more than one million Milkweed books into circulation. Jerome Foundation funding will be directed toward books by emerging authors, including James Armstrong. In 2008, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Minnesota as a state, Milkweed will publish an anthology of writing from the region. A portion of Jerome funding will be used for this volume as most of the writers will be emerging.

Mizna

MIZNA, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an Arab-American organization devoted to promoting Arabic culture, giving voice to Arabs through literature, art and community events. A two-year grant of \$32,000 will support the Mizna literary journal, which publishes new work by emerging and established artists, Arabs and non-Arabs. In January of 2006, Mizna proudly released the 17th issue of Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America. The selection process for writers begins with a call for submissions, which are then reviewed by a journal selection committee. Jerome funding of the journal supports artists' fees and publication expenses, with the requirement that a majority of the artists published be residents of Minnesota and/or 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/Intermedia Arts

The mission of S.A.S.E.: THE WRITE PLACE is to make the literary arts accessible to a diverse community. It was founded with a deeply held belief that the world is a large writing tablet, and that the act of putting pen to paper is one of the most powerful tools we have to create an environment of civic literacy in which everyone's voice is heard. The mission of INTERMEDIA ARTS is to be a catalyst that builds understanding among people through art, fosters excellence in the creative process and product by presenting diverse cultural perspectives, and creates a context in which those multiple perspectives can be understood and ultimately bring people together. S.A.S.E.: The Write Place has received Jerome support for programs serving emerging writers. It intends to move its programming to Intermedia Arts. Jerome Foundation made a one-year grant commitment of \$49,500 to both organizations to continue the operation of the Verve Grants for spoken word poets, the S.A.S.E./Jerome Fellowships and the Writer-to-Writer Mentorship Program. Since 1997, the Fellowship Program has made it possible for 65 emerging writers to enhance their literary work and careers in ways that are specifically meaningful to them. The Verve Grants for spoken word poets recognize one of the fastest growing artistic movements in the country. Five \$3,000 grants are awarded annually for a variety of purposes proposed by the artists. The Writer-to-Writer Mentorship Program pairs emerging writers who want to develop in skill and confidence with senior writers who give them individualized attention as they work together in small groups.

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.