



seattle
arts &
lectures

23
24

Annual Report

Find your next story



Mission

Seattle Arts & Lectures cultivates transformative experiences through story & language with readers & writers of all generations.

Vision

SAL envisions a future in which story & language continuously & courageously revitalize equity, justice, & belonging.

We Value

- Belonging
- Racial Equity
- Transparency & Trust
- Curiosity
- Joy



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 1793

Seattle Arts & Lectures
340 15th Ave E, Suite 301
Seattle, WA 98112



Generous is the word that comes to mind when I think of last year.

I think of a SAL audience member generously sharing homemade cookies with those seated around her—and even with the evening’s author, food writer Eric Kim. I think of Youth Poetry Fellow Janae Lu’s genius as she generously and bravely offered her poem to a packed Town Hall and in return of how they thanked her with a standing ovation so loud and long I still get goosebumps. I think of you: staff, Board, volunteers, community partners, WITS writers, donors—each of you so generously offering your time and heart and funds to help **SAL cultivate transformative experiences through story and language for readers and writers of all ages.** With your support we successfully ended the fiscal year in the black, with revenues exceeding expenses—thank you!

SAL STAFF

- Woogee Bae,
Events & Annual Giving
Manager
- Betsey Brock,
Development Director
- Letitia Cain,
Patron Services Manager
- Indira Dahlstrom,
Youth Programs Associate
- Mary Dwyer,
Director of Finance
& Operations
- Garfield Hillson,
WITS Program Manager
- Rebecca Hoogs,
Executive Director
- Inez Maubane Jones,
Grants & Sponsorships
Manager
- Jennifer Lobsenz,
Youth Programs Director
- Emmy Newman,
Public Programs Associate
- Grace Rajendran,
Marketing Manager
- Alison Stagner,
Director of Events &
Outreach
- Hendri Walujo,
Administrative Associate
- Haines Whitacre,
Stewardship Manager

In the year ahead, we will embark on the creation of a new strategic framework—and we will ask for your input, thoughts, and dreams. Meanwhile, here are just a few of the ways we recently lived into the strategies of our current plan.

We cultivated a sense of belonging that deepens current relationships and creates new ones by:

- Inviting our audience to connect with us, and each other, in the lobby at SAL events – with participatory questions to spark conversation.
- Intentionally inviting all kinds of supporters to receptions—new donors, monthly donors, and new ticket buyers: to welcome them and connect them to each other.
- Launching WITS writer residencies in collaboration with the Mineral School and Rockland Woods, and hosting WITS writer readings at Common Area Maintenance.
- Creating more intentional times and spaces for our staff to advance our efforts in equity and belonging through BIPOC, white, and positional caucusing work.

We fostered a community-wide love of and joy in reading and writing by:

- Supporting our brilliant Youth Poetry Fellowship cohort as they participated in community events with 4Culture Poetry in Public, ArtsWA Poetry Out Loud, The Creative Advantage Summer Institute, Hedgebrook, Unesco Creative Cities, and Voices for Justice.
- Debuting book swaps at our Poetry Series events and seeing book lovers share favorites with each other and take something new home.

- Launching WITS Rewritten, our pilot initiative to bring WITS free of charge to 3 schools. Through WITS we served 6,000 students at 38 sites in total last year—the most ever!
- Hosting 12 sold out public programs events and seeing new and rapt audiences join us for writers like Rick Riordan, Kristin Hannah, and Sohla El-Waylly.

We bolstered SAL’s organizational expertise and capacity to accomplish our work:

- Launching a new administrative team, including hiring our new Director of Operations and Finance, Mary Dwyer, and the creation of the long-awaited Administrative Associate role.
- Collaboratively building our budget with greater understanding and transparency at all staff levels.
- Moving our annual fundraiser to the new Seattle Convention Center Summit to accommodate more guests, ensure a better experience, and raise more funds to support our mission.
- Laying the groundwork for our new Strategic plan by forming a staff and board committee to find the support we’ll need.

In person, in schools, and online—SAL nurtures an abundant community in words and through words. Thank you for being a vital part of this growing community!

With abundant gratitude,

Rebecca Hoogs

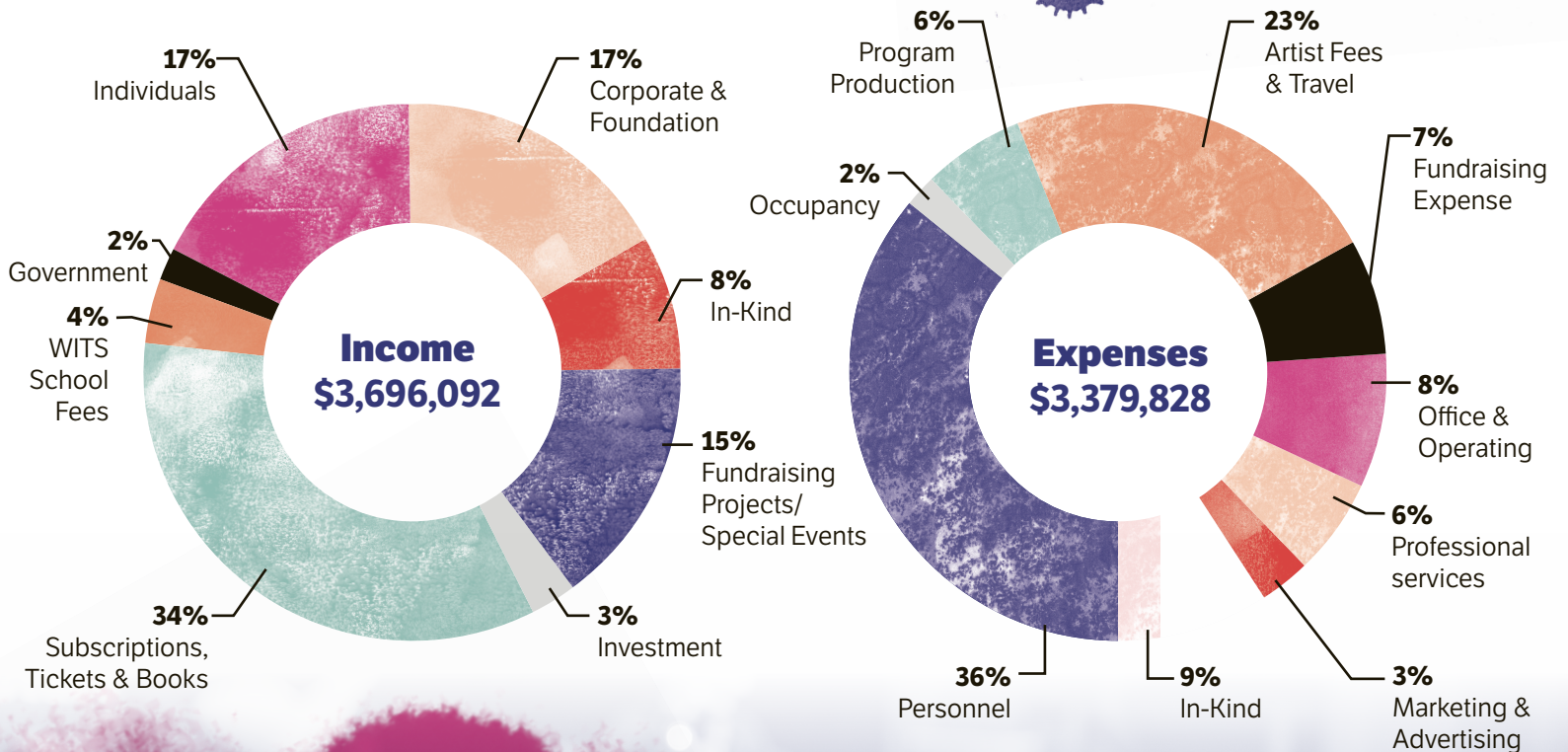
Rebecca Hoogs
Executive Director
rahoogs@lectures.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kiran Griffith,
President
- Leigh Toner,
Vice President
- Ben Rankin,
Treasurer
- Karen Maeda Allman,
Secretary
- Lauri Conner,
Immediate Past President
- Allison Augustyn
- Stesha Brandon
- Sean Coury
- Debra D. Dahlen
- Jim Duncan
- Sunny Hong
- Bradley Lane
- Susan Long-Walsh
- Kelli Martin
- Jamie Miller
- Nisha Nariya
- Eric Gerard Parsons
- Naria Santa Lucia
- Karen Schartman
- Sheehan Sullivan
- Nicole Y. Walters

Many thanks to the dedicated Board Members who ended their Board Service in 2023-2024: Carolyn Ainslie, Chuck Stempler, & Jennifer Leatherman Wong. Additional thanks to Camille Hermida-Fuentes who served on staff as SAL’s Administrative Associate during the year.

Financials



We issued

32,269 TICKETS

5% MORE TICKETS issued in 2023/24 than the previous season.

Public Programs

We worked with **31** community partners across **33** events.

2023/24 Authors

Anastacia-Reneé
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
Mary Beard
David Brooks
Victoria Chang
Pailin Chongchitnant
Matthew Desmond
Sohla El-Waylly
Kathleen Hanna
Kristin Hannah
Joy Harjo
Terrance Hayes
Jane Hirshfield
Steve Inskeep
Oliver Jeffers
Eric Kim
J. Kenji López-Alt
Barbara Kingsolver
Viet Thanh Nguyen
Ann Patchett
Deb Perelman
Roger Reeves
Rick Riordan
Luis Alberto Urrea
Gabrielle Zevin
The Full Circle
Mount Everest Team

71% of all tickets were issued within King County

10% from all 50 states and beyond!



“

Absolutely loved listening to Kingsolver—she’s an excellent speaker/storyteller and exhibits a deep love for understanding our different American cultures. To think that her books are being banned in parts of the United States validates her passion.”

SAL PATRON

“

I live for SAL’s Summer Book Bingo! I love the challenge of planning which books to read for what category... [and] the chance to explore different genres I wouldn’t usually consider. I also really enjoy playing with my teenage kids.”

SAL PATRON

“

From the moment the student poet was introduced to the last comment by the author... The interviewer carried the conversation in a fantastic way and what to say of Viet Thanh Nguyen, such a fine and marvelous author, eloquent and charming. His memorable quotes will stay with me.”

SAL PATRON



65% of tickets issued were in-person



35% of tickets issued were online

2023/24 School Year At A Glance

6,097 K-12 students

233 classrooms

122 teachers

38 public schools & 2 hospital departments

10.3 AVERAGE HOURS instruction per student.



Youth Programs

Writers in the Schools

Writers in the Schools (WITS) brings professional local writers to K-12 public school classrooms for extended creative writing residencies. Founded in 1994, the program has served over 150,000 students throughout the Puget Sound region.

WITS Rewritten

WITS Rewritten is a pilot initiative that provides WITS at no cost to K-12 public schools that serve students furthest from educational justice. For its inaugural year, WITS Rewritten partnered with three schools.

“*[My favorite part of WITS was]...when I got to show other people the real me.*”

OLDER WITS STUDENT

3/4 of students strongly agreed that WITS made writing more fun

90% of teachers said WITS lessons engaged their students

93% of WITS Writers were satisfied with their overall program experience

23 writers delivered **2,544** hours of writing instruction

Samar Abulhassan
B.F. Day Elementary, Dearborn Park International Elementary, Laurelhurst Elementary, Mercer International Middle, Seattle World School, Wing Luke Elementary

Meredith Arena
Maritime High

Oliver Brickman
Hamilton International Middle, Nova High, TOPS K-8

Cass Dyce
Cleveland High, Garfield High, Orca K-8, Washington Middle

Karen Finneyfrock
Blue Heron Middle, Hamilton International Middle, Nathan Hale High, Washington Middle

Rasheena Fountain
Evergreen High

Monique Franklin
Alan T. Sugiyama High, Rainier Beach High

Danielle Hayden
Apprentice at Denny International Middle

Amy Hirayama
Alan T. Sugiyama High, Denny International Middle, Evergreen High, Nathan Hale High

Rachel Kessler
Blue Heron Middle, Maritime High, Renaissance School of Art & Reasoning

David Lasky
Brookside Elementary, McClure Middle, West Woodland Elementary

Vivian Li
Leschi Elementary, Renaissance School of Art & Reasoning, Seattle World School

Corinne Manning
The Center School, Lopez Middle, Lopez High

Cypress Manning
Catharine Blaine K-8, Lopez Elementary, McClure Middle, Nova High

Sierra Nelson
Hamilton International Middle, Seattle Children’s Hospital (PCP)

Nhatt Nichols
Blue Heron Middle, Port Townsend High

Clara Olivo
Franklin High
Mercer International Middle

Putsata Reang
Big Picture High, Big Picture Middle

Ricardo Ruiz
Lopez Middle, Mercer International Middle

Ann Teplick
Seattle Children’s Hospital (Ed)

Jay Thompson
Lafayette Elementary, Leschi Elementary, Nathan Hale High, Roosevelt High

Acca Warren
Franklin High

Ankober Yewondwossen
Apprentice at The Center School

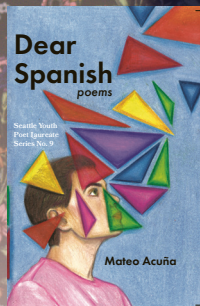


2023/24 Youth Poetry Fellowship

The Youth Poetry Fellowship serves a cohort of young writers committed to poetry, performance, civic and community engagement, education, and equity across the Puget Sound region.

Fellows meet regularly for workshops with the Youth Poetry Fellowship mentors. They also have opportunities to share their voices, leadership, and love of Seattle throughout the year.

The ninth collection in the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate Series, *Dear Spanish*, by Mateo Acuña is a tender exploration of the languages of identity, gender, and family. This chapbook was published in partnership with Poetry Northwest Editions.



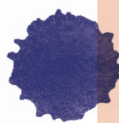
Youth Poet Laureate
Mateo Acuña

Youth Poetry Fellows

Linus Elkins	Qes McCord
Laura Garcíaw	Aamina Mughal
Sarah Guo	Landen Scott
Fatra Hussein	Charlotte Soliven
Janae Lu	

Youth Poetry Fellowship Mentors

Nanya Jhingran & Jourdan I. Keith



Thank you to the individual donors & sponsors who supported SAL in 2023/24

Luminary \$25,000+ Anonymous, Mark Butler, Peter Byers & Virginia Sybert, Chris Capossela & Leigh Toner, Debra Dahlen & Bob Fries, Judy Pigott

Trustee Circle \$10,000-\$24,999 Geoffrey & Anne Payne Barker, John & Shari Behnke, Jonathan Beard & Grace Nordhoff, Derrick & Kimberly Birum, Gaylee & Jim Duncan, Mary & James Dunnam, Chris Fassel & Alice MacCuish, Dan Grausz & Clare H Meeker, Pamela Gray & Ross Hays, Tim Griffith & Kirsten Murray, Diana Knauf-Levidow & Björn Levidow, Anne & Steven Lipner, Pamela McCabe, Beth McCaw, John & Naria Santa Lucia, Marc & Nicole Walters, Jennifer Leatherman Wong & Tracy Wong, Charles B. & Barbara Wright

Director's Circle \$5,000-\$9,999 Anonymous, Craig & Nancy Abramson, Dani & Ted Ackerley, Carolyn & Tim Ainslie, Chap & Eve Alvord, Allison Augustyn & Mike Kollins, Gregory & Beatrice Benesh, Stesha Brandon & Micah Skilling, Chris Burkland & Elizabeth Hoogs, Jessica Carr, Jennifer Cast & Liffy Franklin, Randy Dixon & Deborah Haensli, Mary Foster & John Teutsch, Mark Groudine & Cynthia Putnam, Brad Hill & Erin Langner, Nancy Iannucci & Harvey Jones, Heather & Ken Kelley, Patricia Kiyono & Gregory Traxler, Susan Long-Walsh & John Walsh, Jim & Mariette O'Donnell, Liz & Steve Rummage, Sheehan Sullivan & Peter Sullivan-Finch, Marc & Nancy Tollefson, Brooke & Josh Williams, Martha & Scott Wiltamuth

Laureate's Circle \$2,500-\$4,999 Davis Aites & Kelly Bosworth, Virginia Anderson, Richard Andler & Carole Rush, Kate Behncken, Dana Bettinger, Catherine & Dennis Bye, Tony Cavalieri & Ellen Look, Lacey & Sean Clemmons, David & Lisa Cole, Rick & Terry Colella, Nic Doherty & Kellen Hade, Elizabeth Dunn, Rebecca Ebsworth, Dylan Eddy, Isa Ellis, Stephanie Ellis-Smith & Douglas Smith, Bob & Barbara Giles, Gary & Vicki Glant, Philip & Robyn Grad, Kip Robinson Greenthal & Stanley Greenthal, Kiran & K Stephen Griffith, Doug & Peggy Hanel, Amber & David Hill, Toni Hoover & Al Nettles, Jack & Pam Jolley, Christopher Jones & Kira Sorensen, Doug & Kaleb Kim, Susan Lammers, Karen Maeda Allman & Elizabeth Wales, Trish Maharam, Robert Maillette & Julie Zunker, Sally McKenzie & Chuck Stempler, Jamie & Troy Miller, Kathleen Myers, Mary Pigott, Bill & Susan Potts, Sherry Prowda, Ben & Margit Rankin, Lisa Schaubes, Chris & Katie Schwarzenburg, Lisa & Sam Verhovek

Literary Circle \$1,200-\$2,499 Anonymous (2), Lynne & Shawn Aebi, Ramon Arjona & Shannon Scott, Simmi Bath-Hydzyk & Jim Hydzyk, Larry Stevens & Rebecca Hoogs, Bonnie Berk & Larry Kessler, W. Brandon Blazer & Mary Frances Feider, Gina Broze, Kim Brown

Seely & Jeff Seely, Caitlin & John Cable, Scott Case & Margot Kahn, Darius Cayetano & Kelli Martin, Jennifer Cue & Antonio Tartaglione, Judy & Krijn de Jonge, Joss Delage & Robin Mendelson, John Delo & Elizabeth Stokes, Lisa & Nathan Every, Frank Francis & Megan Ming Francis, Rebecca & Mark Francis, Marisa Grant, Matthew & Susan Hillman, Sunny Hong, Robert & Cynthia Hoogs, Alex Hopmann & Kathryn Korab, Morgan Larsen, Christy Mansfield, Clay Martin & Robin Wehl Martin, Robin Martin, Justin Maxson & Carmen Rojas, Sierra Nelson & Chris Weber, Angeliq & Benjamin Okeke, Ann Ongerth, Sarah & Waqar Shaikh, Jennie & Matt Shaw, Susan Silver, Jenn St. Claire, Michael & Carol Stevens, Rashelle Tanner, Karen Trilevsky, Vogt Family Foundation at the Community Foundation, Andrea Voytko & David Glazer, Maria West

Benefactor \$500-\$1,249 Anonymous (3), Anne & John Adams, Mito Alfieri & Norman Cheuk, Jennifer Allen, Jamie Allison, Robert & Sarah Alsdorf, Susan Anawalt, Melanie Arena, Kimberly & Scott Armstrong, Roger J. Bass & Richard B. Nelson, Salli & Steve Bauer, Lynly Beard, Sally Bjornsen, Mark Blatter & Tree Swenson, Ruby Blondell, Jabe Blumenthal & Julie Edsforth, Denise Boudreau & Melanie Curtice, Kerry Bosworth & Jason Gast, David Brewster & Mary Sneeringer, Carol & Jonathan Buchter, Annabelle Burgett, Meg & Kenny Burnham, Janet Buttenwieser & Matthew Wiley, Barbara Cairns, Julie & Ross Case, Claudia Castro Luna & Sean Heron, Doug Chapman & Karol King, Michael Cheung, Elizabeth Choy & James Lobsenz, Julia Clarke, Marianne Clarke in honor of Lori Eickelberg, Renee & Scott Colee, Ernest & Sandra Collier, Theodore J. Collins, Lauri Conner & Leja Wright, Wendy Cox, Kirby Dahmen, Sandy Dickinson, Keith Dolliver & Cindy Runger, Beth Donahoe, Kris Doney, James & Ann Ewel, Diana Falchuk, Susan Feeney & Jonathan Weintraub, Ronit Feinglass Plank & Colin Plank, Hannah & Patty Fleischmann, Kathleen & Steve Flenniken, Christine Foye & Rob Millis, Dana Frank, Pam Fredericksen, Janet Frohnmayer, Carrie George & Ditman Johnson, Gabrielle Glemann & Paul Reinitz, Olive Goh, Antonio Gomez & Karina San Juan, Daniel Gould, Kirsten Graham, K Alicia Graves, Richard Groomer & Betsy Lieberman, Mary Kay Haggard, Cindy Hastings, Diane Henry, Karen Howard & David Parker, Joan Hsiao, Lynn Hubbard & David Zapolsky, Winifred Hussey, Tia & Trenton James, Bion Hart Johnson & Diana Xin, Leigh & Richard Jones-Bamman, Benjamin Kang & Jane Park, Zeeba Khalili, Aarti Khanna, Landry Kloesel, Steve Kurtz & Liz Mirante, Lawson Sarkowsky Family, Shari Leid, Susie & David Lewis, Jolene Logue, Mark Madsen,

Thank you to all of our valued sponsors

Seattle Arts & Lectures is deeply grateful to the following, corporate, public & foundation partners for their generous support of our work in 2023/24

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Seattle Times

Major Corporate & Foundation Support (\$10,000+)

Amazon
Amazon Literary Partnership
ArtsFund
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Butler Family Foundation
Charles B. & Barbara Wright
Constance Wealth Advisors
Davis Wright Tremaine
Echo Fund
Elliott Bay Book Company
Elizabeth Glaser Foundation
foundry 10
Mannix Canby Foundation
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Microsoft Corporation
Norcliffe Foundation
Norman Raab Foundation
Petunia Charitable Fund
Pivotal Ventures
Seattle Foundation
Seattle University School of Law—Calhoun Family Fellowship
Sellen Community Foundation
Teutsch Partners LLC
Public Support
4Culture
City of Seattle Office

of Arts & Culture
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington State Arts Commission

Additional Support

Klorfine Foundation
University of Washington – Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity
The Martin Djos Family Foundation
Peg & Rick Young Foundation
Stoel Rives
University of Washington Bothell – MFA in Creative Writing & Poetics
Wheeler Charitable Trust

In Kind Support

Aesop
Alaska Airlines
AlphaGraphics
Baer Winery
Civilization
The Cloud Room
Conversation and the Nest Rooftop Bar – Thompson Seattle
Cupcake Royale
David's & Co. in Benaroya Hall
Delta Air Lines
The Edgewater Hotel
Fran's Chocolates
Goldfinch Tavern
Guardian Cellars/Newsprint
Hotel Sorrento
Libro.fm

Lotte Hotel Seattle
Mamnoon, Mamnoon Street, and Mbar
Mezcaleria Oaxaca
Partners in Print
Thompson Seattle

Bookstore Partners

Ada's Technical Books
Book Larder
Booktree Kirkland
Edmonds Bookshop
Elliott Bay Book Company
Island Books
Madison Books
Magnolia's Bookstore
Open Books: A Poem Emporium
Paper Boat Booksellers
Phinney Books
Queen Anne Book Company
Secret Garden Books
Third Place Books: Lake Forest Park, Ravenna, & Seward Park
University Book Store

Media Support

Crab Creek Review
International Examiner
KCTS 9/Crosscut
KNKX 88.5
KUOW 94.9
Poetry Northwest
Seattle Gay News
The Seattle Times
South Seattle Emerald
The Stranger

Paras & Ruchika Malholtra, Tessa Matthey, Anne McDuffie & Tim Wood, Kat & Matt McGavick, Jill McGrath, Wayne Meisel, Donna Moodie, Kristin & Dann Moomaw, Christopher Morris & Rachel Wortman Morris, Holly & Troy Myers, Greg & Lauri Nakamoto, Erica Nelson-Sheehan & Casey Sheehan, Karen & Joe O'Byrne, Zubin Olivar & Tanmeet Sethi, Somanna Palacanda, Stewart Parker, Robin Phillips, Adam & Martha Pinsky, Jennifer Risher, Lindsay Roitman, Colleen Rozillis, Jill Rullkoetter, Patricia Ryan, Lorelle & Dwayne Shearer, Sidra Sherwood, Jeannine & Ron Sielinski, Richard Simonson, Jen Southwell, Ann Speckman, Stephanie Steppe, Elke Suber, Eric Temple, Andrea Templeton, Mary Jean Toutonghi, Bill & Donna Van Buren, Shauna Van Dongen, Brady Walkinshaw, Emily & Takao Yamada
Sustainer \$250-\$499 Anonymous (2), Kristen & Lars Bakken, Eric Berg & Rebecca Staffel, Roger Berger & Eileen Simmons, Sarah Bluvas & Troy Hinkley, David Boone, Amy & Duff Bryant, Ryan Bubalo & Katie Ogle, Joey Burgess, John & Patsy Burgess, Susan Burgess, Elizabeth Burke & Andrew Fisher, Paula & Benn Burke, Campbell Household, Anthony Canape, Karalyn Carlton, Sarah & Tim Cavanaugh, Steve Collins & Laura Walter, Steve & Laura Corbett, Jennifer

Deger, Nancy Dorn & Carol Verga, Dorothy & Robert Emerick, Keyuna Evans, Michael Flores & Weston Lucas, Kirk & Tori Force, Patricia Friedman, Laura A. Gamache, Kiesha Garrison, Maria Gehl, Lauren Good & Jennifer Hiebert, Bill Goodfellow, Christina Gould in honor of Lori Eickelberg, Graham Graham, Murf Hall, Cheryl & Eric Hanson, Danielle Hayden & Ryan James, Suzanne Kalish, Randy Katz & Christine Pozerycki, Shannon Kelly, Kristin Kihs, Yuri Kim & Julia Park, Deneise Kopetzky, John & Laura Kvasnosky, Bradley Lane, Brandon Lenzi, Arlene Levy, Linda Low & Rajeev Soni, Jock Mackinlay & Polle Zellweger, Jared Manatt & Jiawen Shi, Barbara Mandula, Richard Marks & Spring Zoog, Bora & Charlie McAteer, Kara McDonald, Juanita & Brendan McLaughlin, Laura Hauer Milmoie, Alison Nesmith, Jay O'Neal, Emily Parker, Eric Gerard Parsons, Vivian Phillips, Jennifer & Kris Rhoads, Paula Riggert & Michael J Stevens, Christopher & Jennifer Roberts, Sarah & William Robertson, Ann Ellen Rubottom Roseman, Katie & Joshua Rosen, Franziska Seeger, Nancy Sesmundo, Cindy Sharek, Leanne Skooglund, Tama Smith, Tracy Taylor, Astrid Uka, Corneil Vacirca, Huong Vu, Nancy Ward, Karon Weber, Alan Wiley, La'Kita Williams, Lesley Wilson, Tracey Yonick

lectures.org

@SeattleArtsAndLectures
 @SeaArtsLectures
 @seattleartsandlectures