

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES' ANNUAL REPORT - 2010/11

MISSION

Seattle Arts & Lectures presents to our community transformative programs with acclaimed writers that foster diverse ideas, the imagination, and a love of reading and writing.

VISION STATEMENT

Seattle Arts & Lectures envisions a future in which imaginative acts and creative thinking are indispensable to a curious, engaged, democratic society.

SEATTLE ARTS & LECTURES VALUES:

- -the arts as an essential component of a well-rounded education and community.
- -the transformative power of language, literature, and storytelling.
- -a wide diversity of voices and ideas.
- ----partnerships and community-building.
- -experimentation, risk-taking, and innovation.
- -remaining open to what SAL can become.



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Dear Friends,

In 2010, Seattle Arts & Lectures realized its mission to bring acclaimed writers, artists, and thinkers to share their stories and craft with our community, creating transformative experiences and fostering a diversity of ideas. In our 23rd season, we continued to reach into the community through storytelling, focusing our programs on the story behind the story, and engaging Seattle and beyond in meaningful ways.

We are proud this year to have connected people and ideas. SAL touched thousands through our public programs: Literary\Arts Series, Poetry Series, SAL Presents at Town Hall Seattle, American Voices Series, and SAL U courses offered at the University of Washington. Our Writers in the Schools (WITS) program thrived in 26 schools in five school districts in the region as well as at Seattle Children's Hospital, employing local writers to work with thousands of children to realize the power of their own story and to discover their authentic writing and performance voices. Our evaluations demonstrate that WITS improved students' self-confidence and interest in writing while improving the quality of their writing.

We face the challenges of these times with smart, focused staff; visionary artistic leadership; an energetic board of directors; a dedicated volunteer corps; and talented writers-in-residence. We remain nimble and optimistic in our assessment of the future, and we are committed to presenting writers who shape and interpret our world - a world that is dependent on imaginative acts, creative thinking, and an engaged citizenry.

To all of you, we say Thank You for your ongoing engagement with Seattle Arts & Lectures and with a world of literature and ideas.

Warm regards,

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Mary Ingraham President of the Board

Linda Bowers **Executive Director**



Mary Ingraham President of the Board



Linda Bowers **Executive Director**





SAL'S 2010/11 SEASON: THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

This year we created a tagline—The Story Behind the Story—that encapsulates what Seattle Arts & Lectures does in presenting authors who tell their stories about writing and how the books we read come into being.

Those who attended the opening program of SAL's 23rd season's Literary\Arts Series on September 14, 2010 heard Jonathan Franzen talk about how he altered his life in order to be the dedicated writer who created *The Corrections* and *Freedom*. The Poetry Series kicked off its season on the following evening with former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky in performance with two musicians from Earshot Jazz. These evenings were a backstage pass into the minds of these brilliant writers. Throughout the 2010/11 season, writers explored ideas about their work and our world. And kids in our Writers in the Schools program actually became authors themselves (gaining access to their own writer's mind).

Literary\Arts Series

Jonathan Franzen, National Book Award-winning author of *The Corrections* and the best-selling *Freedom*; **Sara Paretsky**, Cartier Diamond Dagger and Gold Dagger Award winner for her V.I. Warshawski mysteries; **Daniel Handler**, author of 13 books under the pseudonym Lemony Snicket; **John Richardson**, biographer of *A Life of Picasso*; **Elizabeth Strout**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge*; **Joyce Carol Oates**, author of 50 novels and National Book Award winner for *them*; and **Richard Ford**, Pulitzer Prize and PEN/Faulkner Award winner of *Independence Day*.

American Voices Series

T.R. Reid – *Washington Post* bureau chief and bestselling author of *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care*; **Nell Irvin Painter**, a leading historian of the United States and author of *Creating Black Americans*; **Tracy Kidder**, Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winner of *The Soul of a New Machine* and *Mountains Beyond Mountains*; and **Wendell Berry**, author of four dozen books of poetry, fiction, and essays about ecological and agricultural responsibility.

Poetry Series

Robert Pinsky, former Poet Laureate and author of 19 books of poetry, essays, and works-in-translation; **Robert Hass**, former Poet Laureate, Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winner for *Time and Materials*; **Billy Collins**, former Poet Laureate and first recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for Humor in Poetry; **Lucia Perillo**, local author of *Inseminating the Elephant*, a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize; **Patricia Smith**, four-time Poetry Slam champion and author of *Blood Dazzler*, nominated for a National Book Award; **Marie Howe**, Lavan Younger Poets Prize winner and author of *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time*; and **Brian Turner**, **Major Jackson, and Susan Rich**: Turner is the author of *Here, Bullet*; Jackson wrote *Hoops* and *Leaving Saturn*; Seattle poet Rich is the author of *The Alchemist's Kitchen*.

SAL Presents

Dambisa Moyo, economist/writer on tour with her new book, *How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly and the Stark Choices Ahead*; **Siddhartha Mukherjee**, physician and author of the critically acclaimed bestseller *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*; **Nora Ephron**, director, screenwriter, and author on tour with her new memoir, *I Remember Nothing*; humorist **Roy Blount, Jr.**, author of 22 books including *Alphabet Juice*; **Oscar Hijuelos**, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*; and **Ann Patchett**, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and Orange Prize for her fourth novel, *Bel Canto*.



SAL U

SAL U (formerly Wednesday University) offered two five-part courses that brought the best and brightest thinkers of the University of Washington to our audiences.

SAL U: Storyteller Uprising: Narrative and Engagement Intelligence in the Digital Age, co-presented by UW Master of Communication in Digital Media, and featured Hanson Hosein, David Domke, Kraig Baker, Scott Macklin, and Anita Verna Crofts.

Following Wendell: The Culture & Politics of Sustenance, co-presented by the UW Program on the Environment, and featured Josh Tewksbury (Biology), Elizabeth Wheat (UW Farm), Branden Born (Urban Design and Planning), Kurt Timmermeister, and David R. Montgomery (Earth & Space Sciences)

Writers in the Schools – Imagination into Ink, from songs to sonnets, from cover letters to love letters, Writers in the Schools inspires young people to discover and develop their authentic writing and performance voices.

In the 2010/11 academic year, WITS writers worked with 4,400 elementary, middle, and high school students and their teachers at 27 schools and hospitals throughout the Puget Sound region:

2010/11 WITS Schools & Sites and Writers-in-Residence

Ballard High School	Nicole Hardy	Lummi Nation School	Laura Gamache
BF Day Elementary School	Rachel Kessler	McClure Middle School	Greg Stump
Blue Heron Middle School	Samar Abulhassan and Laura Gamache	Nathan Hale High School	Karen Finneyfrock
Catharine Blaine K-8	Kevin Emerson	Park Orchard Elementary Sch	ool Storme Webber
Center School	Matt Gano	Port Townsend High School	Sierra Nelson
Chief Sealth High School	Aaron Counts	Room Nine Community Schoo	I K-8 Rachel Kessler
Seattle Children's Hospital	Sierra Nelson	Roosevelt High School	Emily Bedard
Cleveland High School	Daemond Arrindell and Nancy Rawles	Sanislo Elementary School	Ann Teplick
Franklin High School	Daemond Arrindell	Shorecrest High School	Peter Mountford
Garfield High School	Amber Flame	TOPS K-8	aura Gamache and Colleen O'Brien
Grant Street Elementary	Karen Finneyfrock	View Ridge Elementary Schoo	Kathleen Flenniken
Hutch School	Samar Abulhassan	Washington Middle School	Daemond Arrindell
Ingraham High School	Matt Gano	West Seattle High School	Katie Ogle
		Whittier Elementary School	Erin Malone

SAL IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2010/11, Seattle Arts & Lectures continued vital programmatic collaborations with a wide range of community partners. Here are some of the highlights of those partnerships.

Seattle Arts & Lectures helped **Swedish** to celebrate its 100th anniversary by presenting two of the finest authors writing about health today: T.R. Reid, Washington Post bureau chief and bestselling author of *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care*; and Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning book, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*.

SAL partnered with the **Seattle Art Museum** to enrich audience experiences of the exhibition *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Museé National Picasso*. We invited famed Picasso biographer John Richardson to speak as part of our Literary\Arts Series

and brought WITS students from five high schools to the exhibit to write creatively in response to Picasso's sculpture and paintings.

North Cascades Institute and SAL partnered to bring poet, essayist, and farmer Wendell Berry to Seattle for a standingroom-only program of poems, a short story, and a conversation with his longtime publisher, Jack Shoemaker of Counterpoint Press.

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, SAL collaborated with **Richard Hugo House** for the second year in a row to bring the best poets writing today to Seattle for readings and workshops. Marie Howe, Brian Turner, and Patricia Smith taught 3-hour generative workshops at Hugo House as part of their visits to Seattle, which included their appearances in our Poetry Series.

We inaugurated a partnership with the **School of Visual Concepts** to showcase the writing of patients in the Pediatric Advanced Care Team at Seattle Children's Hospital. Twelve letterpress artists designed and hand-set broadsides of the poems. Each child or their family received a portfolio of all of the poems, as well as ten copies of their poem.

Robert Pinsky's love of jazz led to a collaboration with the **Earshot Jazz Festival** for the opening night of our Poetry Series. Mr. Pinksy read his poems accompanied by local musicians Marc Seales on piano and Paul Gabrielson on bass for a magical night of intertwined words and music.

We continued a long-standing collaboration with **Book-It Repertory Theatre** at Chief Sealth High School. Students first worked with a WITS writer to create original poems. They then worked in small groups with a theater teaching artist from Book-It to stage a poem by one of their peers. The collaboration ended with two performances, one for the entire school and one for the community.

Finally, we could not do this work without our bookstore partners: **Elliott Bay Book Company**, **Open Books: A Poem Emporium**, and **University Book Store**. The staff at these wonderful bookstores collaborate with us every step of the way: from helping us to dream up the best season possible to making sure there are books for you to purchase at the actual event.

SAL is extremely grateful to work with each and every partner/sponsor. Together we multiply the effect of what we contribute to our community and develop new ways of thinking and operating. **Thank you!**

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Sally Hurst

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REVENUE Individual Donors Foundations Corporate/Government Benefit Admissions School Fees Other Fees In-Kind Revenue	\$184,401 \$99,350 \$254,848 \$151,350 \$492,811 \$140,081 \$24,902 \$483,458	Individual Donors Foundations Other Fees School Fees Admissions
Total Revenue	\$1,831,201	
EXPENSES Administrative Expenses Fundraising Expenses Program Expenses In-Kind Expenses	\$192,315 \$145,613 \$1,026,196 \$483,458	Administrative Expenses Fundraising Expenses
Total Expenses	\$1,847,581	
Net	(\$16,380)	Program Expenses

This financial information was compiled before the annual audit. For audited information please contact Amanda Carrubba, Business Manager at 206-621-2230 x14 or acarrubba@lectures.org.



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