# 2013/14 Annual Report

**Dear Friends:** Together, in 2013/14, we were honored to listen to George Saunders talk about how fiction inherently involves a leap of faith that the writer and the reader make together to imagine a new world. Gillian Flynn shared a key to her mysteries: even she doesn't know how they'll end until she writes her way there. Bob Hicok reminded us that if a poem contains no surprise for the writer, it contains no surprise for the reader. **Leap. Discovery. Delight.** These three words of wisdom encapsulate a year of change and evolution for Seattle Arts & Lectures on stages, in classrooms, and behind the scenes. With your



help, we inspired over 17,000 children and adults through our public and education programs, we listened deeply to the community, and we crafted a strategic plan to guide our work throughout the next three years. 2013/14 was an exciting year—five of our six Literary Arts Series lectures sold out, and we loved feeling the momentum build as the season progressed. As we reflect on the last year, we are grateful for the many partners, donors and supporters who made our work possible, and we are excited to share with you our vision for the years to come. Here's to great books, inspiration, community, and taking leaps of faith together.

"The feeling you get from the stage is that SAL—through expert curation, the beautiful venue, the vibe it creates, and its great largesse of spirit—has, over the years, mentored, cultivated, and elevated its audience. Seattle is a great literary city, and SAL plays an essential role in that accomplishment."

-GEORGE SAUNDERS, 13/14 LITERARY ARTS SERIES SPEAKER

Ruth E. Dickey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD PRESIDENT

programs in 2013/14.

**Thank You!** Seattle Arts & Lectures is profoundly grateful to the following corporate, public, foundation, and organizational partners for their generous support of our

4Culture; Amazon.com; ArtsFund; power2give presented by ArtsFund; Confidence Foundation; Copper Canyon Press; Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; Dyna Contracting; Elizabeth George Foundation; Expedia, Inc; Fales Foundation; Glittersweet; Goldman, Sachs & Co; Harvest Foundation; Jeffris Wood Foundation; Krekow Jennings; Lesa Sroufe & Co; Lighting Supply, Inc; Mannix Canby Foundation; Marquand Books; Medina Foundation; MFA in Creative Writing & Poetics—UW Bothell; National Endowment for the Arts; O'Donnell Family Foundation; Office of Arts & Culture, Seattle; Paul G. Allen Family Foundation; Pershing Advisor Solutions; Petunia Foundation; Poets & Writers; Posner-Wallace Foundation; Prentiss Architects; Prentiss Foundation; Reed, Longyear, Malnati & Ahrens PLLC; Seattle Foundation; The Seattle Times; Stoel Rives LLP; University Book Store; Washington State Arts Commission; & Whittier Trust.

We are also immensely grateful to the individuals and additional partners that supported our work last year. A full list is featured on our website: www.lectures.org/support\_sal/individual\_supporters.php

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2013/14 Season Speakers

**Literary Arts Series** 

Chip Kidd & Chris Ware

5.745 ATTENDEES

Malcolm Gladwell

George Saunders

Gillian Flynn

Rebecca Solnit

SAL Presents

467 ATTENDEES

Madhur Jaffrey

Timothy Geithner

Stephen Dunn
Dorothea Lasky
Bob Hicok
Christine Deavel &
J. W. Marshall
Anne Carson
Juan Felipe Herrera
Jorie Graham

**Poetry Series** 

2.467 ATTENDEES

**SAL U** 2.489 ATTENDEES

Cliff Mass, "Reading the Northwest Sky: Understanding our Weather and Climate"

John Delaney, "Our Global Ocean: The Ultimate Planetary Life Support System—New Approaches to an Old Ocean"

#### 2013/14 Financials

Income	Individuals: 28%
TOTAL: \$1,317,103	Foundations: 5%
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	Public: 5%
	Earned Income: 28%
	In-Kind: 28%
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Expenses	Literary Arts Series: 17%
TOTAL: \$1,299,440	Poetry Series: 9%
	SAL Presents: 2%
	SAL U: 4%
	WITS: 26%
	Admin: 6%
	Fundraising: 8%
*Unaudited financials	In-Kind: 28%

Seattle Arts & Lectures 205 S. Findlay Street Seattle, Washington 98108 206 621-2230





**Writers in the Schools** (WITS) inspires young people to discover and develop their authentic writing and performance voices. WITS is the only literary arts education program in the region that pays professional teaching artists to infuse the classroom with the joy of writing while also meeting curriculum standards. WITS serves students where they are—*in school*—to positively influence the writing, motivation, and lives of every student.

### 2013/14 Stats

**24** sites (23 schools and one hospital)

4 school districts

**5,950** students received direct, in-classroom service

**2,297** hours of sequential writing instruction (8-14 sessions per class)

**127** teachers partnered with WITS and received hands-on support and professional development.

An estimated **1,000** students and **25** teachers benefited from WITS through visits from spotlight authors and complimentary tickets to Seattle Arts & Lectures events.

**92%** of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of most of their students' writing improved as a result of working with the writer.

**96%** of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that most of their students' met the learning outcomes established by the writer/teacher pair at the beginning of the residency.

**96%** of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that most of their students' self-confidence increased as a result of working with the writer.

Students also showed substantial improvement in their revision skills (80% increase overall) and expressed an increased ability to think clearly and to tell others what they think.

Paid over **\$200,000** to our WITS writers-in-residence, providing meaningful employment to local writers and strengthening Seattle's literary sector.

"It was an amazing experience for Linh to read her poem up on that stage.

Although Linh was ecstatic that her poem was chosen for the book, she did not quite believe it until that night. The entire experience has left her with a sense of self-confidence and pride that as a parent I can only hope for. I know she will always treasure this moment."

-PARENT OF A WITS 4TH GRADER

## WITS Writersin-Residence

Aaron Counts Ann Teplick Corinne Manning Daemond Arrindell Eli Hastings Emily Bedard Erin Malone Greg Stump Imani Sims Johnny Horton Karen Finneyfrock Kathleen Flenniken Laura Gamache Matt Gano Michael Overa Nicole Hardy Peter Mountford Rachel Kessler Ryan Boudinot Samar Abulhassan Sara Brickman Sierra Nelson Vicky Edmonds

### **WITS Sites**

Ballard High School B.F. Day Elementary Blue Heron Middle School Broadview Thomson K-8 Cascade K-8 Community School Catharine Blaine K-8 Chief Sealth International High School Franklin High School Garfield High School Health Sciences & Human Services High School Hutch School Lafayette Elementary School McClure Middle School Nathan Hale High School Port Townsend High School Roosevelt High School Seattle Children's Hospital Shorewood High School The Center School TOPS K-8 View Ridge Elementary School Washington Middle School West Seattle High School Whittier Elementary School



