The Cabin is a Boise, Idaho literary arts organization. We forge community through the voices of all readers, writers, and learners.

October 2018 – September 2019

The Cabin
a center for readers & writers
The Cabin entered the new fiscal year with a bang with two very successful Readings & Conversations and our annual gala. We’re always pleased when our events attract large crowds and of course, your generosity enables everything we do. As important as they are, tickets sold and dollars raised aren’t the whole story. If you look at our website you will see this sentence: “We believe in creating human connections through words.” Everything we do as an organization is based around that simple but powerful sentence. Whether it be our extraordinary lineup for R&C, Writers in The Schools, or one of our many other programs, we at The Cabin are focused on engaging all members of the community as readers and writers. As your Board of Directors, we are diligent about financial management, strategic plan development, and implementation and general oversight of The Cabin. Please join us as we continue to build on our strengths and foster our connections throughout the community.

What a year this has been! With your help, The Cabin has been able to deepen our established programs while trying out new ways to strengthen and build our community. We partnered with the Boise and West Ada School Districts, The National Book Foundation, and two Juvenile Detention Centers to work with young readers and writers to appreciate and employ the power of the written word. Our Ghosts & Projectors reading series evolved from featuring primarily touring poets to pairing intentionally chosen emerging and experimental writers like Danez Smith with local talent, giving our Boise writers a chance to share the stage with visiting artists. We experimented with new Adult Writing Workshop offerings, like a Poetry Manuscript Workshop and a Revision and Rewriting Workshop. And for the book and beer lovers out there, we even partnered with Storyfort and Woodland Empire Alecraft for our first annual Literary Trivia Fundraiser. I am thankful for the unrelenting support the staff and board receive from the community as we work to make our workshops, readings, lectures, and other programs enduring and unforgettable. Thanks to the members, donors, community partners, readers, and writers who believe in the power of literature.
READINGS & CONVERSATIONS

Sociologist and award-winning writer Matthew Desmond kicked off a sold-out season that included master storyteller Tayari Jones, Idaho memoirist Tara Westover, historian David Grann, and Pulitzer Prize recipient Jennifer Egan. These lectures ignited critical conversations on literature and current events for the Egyptian and Morrison Center audiences. Our visiting authors attended city policy meetings, engaged students at Ada County Juvenile Detention Center, and met with local high school students to talk craft and writing careers.

- 5 nationally recognized authors
- 3 classrooms visited
- 40 books provided for student reading groups
- 4,316 tickets sold

“What a fantastic evening. Three cheers for literature (and celebrating reading, writing, and experiencing life). Thank you for making it possible for everyday people to experience such a treat.”
— R&C Audience Member

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS (WITS)

The Cabin’s longest-running program continues to cultivate the next generation of writers and readers. Writers in the School pairs local writers with classroom teachers for 12 – 24-week residencies that share the joy and craft of writing with Treasure Valley students in grades 4 – 12. Over the 2018 – 2019 school year, our writers provided instruction and inspiration to students at two juvenile detention centers and the Marian Pritchett School for pregnant and parenting teens as well as a number of schools in the Boise and West Ada School Districts. In May, we hosted Cambia, a year-end celebration at The Linen Building where hundreds of students read their work in front of friends and family.

- 23 classroom residencies
- 600 students served
- 10 local writers employed as teaching-writers

“The Cabin has helped our students develop a healthier outlook of themselves and those around them.”
— Teacher at Ada County Juvenile Detention Center
There’s nothing more satisfying to a writer than to see their work in print. This year, local author J. Reuben Appelman judged a diverse array of poetry and short fiction all focused on the theme “Fuel,” and chose the best pieces to appear in our annual Writers in the Attic anthology. The book release party, held at The Basque Center, was a celebration of local writing talent and featured readings by some of the artists whose work appeared in 2019’s publication.

- 182 submissions
- 30 pieces in print from 24 local authors
- Next year’s theme: APPLE

“...and I wonder of the privilege of poetry, and how Paradise California burns and is extinguished before a dated poem reaches publication, before I transcribe graphite to glowing screen in the dead of Idaho night wishing for the ghost of an anthropomorphic paper-clip to invoke itself through the absence.”
– Louie Land, “How To Be A Poet”
*From Writers in the Attic: Fuel*

**SUMMER WRITING CAMPS**

By the time school was winding down, The Cabin’s teaching-writer team was hard at work creating enchanting and inventive writing lessons for our summer camp students. From June through August, our young writers learned the basics of poetry, fiction, graphic novels, and non-fiction narratives while viewing the street art of Freak Alley, relaxing under a cottonwood by the Boise River, or taking a field trip to the Zoo or Art Museum. Our camp program offers financial scholarships and is available to all young writers.

- 34 camps for 283 students in grades 3-12
- 13 local writers employed as teachers
- 7 community partners including Idaho Botanical Garden, The Peregrine Fund, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and Boise Rock School

“I was interested in The Cabin’s Writing Camps, but unsure how they would be given that my daughter has dyslexia — but loves to write..... She was excited every day to get there and work on her writing. We felt she was supported in creating content regardless of the spelling of words. It was an excellent experience for her.” – Summer Camp Parent
ADULT WRITING WORKSHOPS

Whether you are a novice or a professional, a poet or fiction writer, or a writer who craves creative prompts, The Cabin has a workshop that suits your needs. In addition to six-week courses led by an array of local teachers, we continued our long-standing monthly drop-in workshop that is free to all interested writers. Based on the workshop’s popularity, we’ll be extending the program to twice a month in January 2020.

- **22** workshops
- **342** students served
- **9** local writers employed as teachers

“[The workshop instructor] did a great job facilitating an environment that allowed the writers to learn from one another. I was expecting more traditional ‘how to’ learning, but the self-discovery encouraged through a combination of exercises and thoughtful critique left me with lasting skills and insight into my writing.”

– Workshop Participant

WRITER IN RESIDENCE AT THE LIBRARY! AT BOWN CROSSING

In partnership with Boise Public Library and the Boise City Department of Arts and History, we once again invited local writers to share their work with the public at the Library! at Bown Crossing. Composing on a manual typewriter at the base of the beautiful Vox Popular sculpture, our literary artists interacted with library patrons and created collaborative pieces that became part of the city’s permanent archive.

- **6** writers in residence spent **144** hours creating new work and engaging with the public

– Amanda Ranth, Writer in Residence, November – December 2018
GHOSTS & PROJECTORS.
A READING SERIES.

Our newest reading series takes you to the edge of the literary arts where genres blur and artists find new ways to express their voice and ideas. Audiences joined us at the Linen Building and at Storyfort to hear Danez Smith, K Lange, Sarah Manguso, Ashley Toliver, Michael McKee Green, and Yoshyhw Ben Yisrael (who also visited the young writers at Frank Church High School).

- 6 national, regional, and local writers
- 227 audience members

AND MORE!

We’re always looking for new ways to share the literary arts. This year, we partnered with The National Book Foundation to bring the work of James Baldwin to students at Borah High School. This culminated with an author visit from Brendan Kiely, who led a workshop on Baldwin’s work. In August, we worked with Storyfort to create our first (but not last) Literary Trivia Night at Woodland Empire, where teams competed for great prizes like Ta-Nehisi Coates tickets and stylish Cabin hoodies. We collaborated with Boise State University to host a reception for visiting National Book Award-winning poet Terrance Hayes. Students participating in our Summer Writing Camps and Writers in the Schools program had their work published in printed anthologies to help share their creativity with family and friends. And during Idaho Gives, we brought back our beloved COIN fundraiser, where national and local authors including Emily Ruskovich, Jamie Ford, Brady Udall, and Ridley Pearson worked together to create a chaotic and often surreal narrative that was published later as a one-of-a-kind chapbook.

- 13 teams of literary trivia nerds
- 9 COIN story writers raised over $14,000
- 200 James Baldwin books donated to Borah High School students
- 1,008 students had their work printed in a WITS classroom anthology, Cambia, or one of our camp publications: Camp Fire or MegaZine

“Thank you for the opportunity to share here in Boise. Thank you especially for the chance to meet the beautiful young people at the Juvenile Detention Center. They fed this writers’ soul.”
– Tayari Jones, 2018-19 Readings & Conversations author
FISCAL YEAR 2019 REVENUE
OCTOBER 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2019

PROGRAMS 41.35%
$231,262.30

GRANTS 19.21%
$107,439.00

SPONSORSHIP 5.66%
$31,651.00

MEMBERSHIP 8.75%
$48,956.00

INDIVIDUAL GIVING 2.66%
$14,900.75

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS 4.18%
$108,863.77

WHERE YOUR DOLLAR WENT

BREAKDOWN OF OTHER PROGRAMS:
ADULT WORKSHOPS 2¢
$12,070.74

GHOSTS & PROJECTORS 2¢
$11,847.38

WRITERS IN THE ATTIC 1¢
$6,369.07

WRITER IN RESIDENCE AT THE LIBRARY! AT BOWN CROSSING 1¢
$4,826.66

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS 34¢
$184,062.68

READINGS & CONVERSATIONS 22¢
$121,708.16

SUMMER WRITING CAMPS 13¢
$72,955.40

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS 11¢
$58,083.92

DEVELOPMENT 14¢
$75,449.12

OTHER PROGRAMS 6¢
$35,113.85
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99 CAVALIER
Elijah
Ada County Juvenile Court Services

If motors could outlive reality
I’d have a
beat up four cylinder, running full tilt
trying to achieve normalcy, backfiring at every shift
pistons slamming gears thrashing
exhaust pushing all others away with
an undeniable,
invisible

If I was a palatable discovery
I’d be sugar
sweet
but no lasting benefits

If my journey were a place it would be
a cave without light
a field of thorns with flowers
surrounding it

I’m a soft-heart monster
concrete, steel reinforced darkness
with a warm, disfigured mind
destiny untold
one leaf on an invisible tree
THANK YOU

to the City of Boise for providing us with our beautiful home. We’re so lucky to live in a city that loves the arts.