

## **JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2009 Literature Grants**

### **Booklyn**

BOOKLYN, Brooklyn, New York, received \$8,000 to support publication of three chapbooks of works by emerging New York City writers in the ABC series. Booklyn promotes artist books as an art form and educational resource; provides educational institutions and the public with programming involving contemporary artist books; publishes innovative books uniting the fields of literature and art; and assists artists and writers in publishing, exhibiting, and distributing their work. Launched in 2005, the ABC (Another Booklyn Chapbook) series features new writing with fresh book design in an affordable, attractive book format. The series reflects a variety of literary genres including poetry, prose, and creative nonfiction.

### **Cave Canem Foundation**

CAVE CANEM, New York City, received \$17,000 to support two workshops, Writing In Form, for emerging African American poets, and Writing Across Cultures, for emerging African American and Asian American poets. Twelve weeks in duration, the two workshops each engage up to 15 emerging poets. Workshops offer rigorous instruction, careful critique, and an introduction to the work of contemporary African American poets. They are led by noted poets who have strong teaching abilities. Cave Canem is a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional development of those poets. It has provided supportive programming for eleven years and has significantly influenced the literary landscape in the United States and abroad.

### **Coffee House Press**

COFFEE HOUSE PRESS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received a two-year grant of \$32,500 in support of the publication of books by emerging authors. Coffee House Press is a literary publisher noted for consistently high editorial standards, a sense of discovery, and a commitment to celebrating diverse writers. It reviews solicited and unsolicited manuscripts to identify new and emerging voices. Jerome Foundation support is directed toward six books by emerging authors, the majority of whom are based in Minnesota and New York City. The books include works in fiction, memoir, and poetry.

### **Council of Literary Magazines and Presses**

The COUNCIL OF LITERARY MAGAZINES AND PRESSES (CLMP), New York City, received \$45,480 in support of FACE OUT: Maximizing the Visibility of Emerging Authors. CLMP supports and promotes noncommercial literary publishing to ensure that readers and writer are well served by a strong and vibrant literary culture. As the service and advocacy organization for independent literary publishers, CLMP's services and resources are designed to develop each member's publishing capacity through increased marketing and organizational skills, while promoting communication and shared learning across the field. The FACE OUT program provides regrants and technical assistance to five competitively selected independent publishers and the emerging artists they are publishing. FACE OUT focuses on technical assistance workshops and one-on-one meetings for publishers and their authors. The learning that occurs is documented and made available to a broader circle of presses and writers.

### **Givens Foundation for African American Literature**

THE GIVENS FOUNDATION FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, works to enrich cultural understanding through programs that promote and celebrate African American literature and writers. Jerome Foundation made a grant of \$18,000 to support the Givens Black Writers Collaborative Retreat, a four-day writing and critique immersion program for ten emerging African American writers working in a diversity of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, and spoken word. The purpose is to provide mentoring and peer support for the writing life, the honing of literary craft, and the creation of new works. Writers engage in a structured mentorship with two established writers, one national and one local, leading workshops and meeting one-on-one with participants to review and discuss their work and progress.

### **Intermedia Arts**

INTERMEDIA ARTS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$46,037 in support of three literary programs. This multidisciplinary organization aims to be a catalyst that builds understanding among people through art. Jerome Foundation provided support for Writer-to-Writer Mentorships, the SASE/Jerome Awards for Writers, and the VERVE Awards. The SASE/Jerome Awards for Writers are given annually to five to seven artists to enhance their literary careers and to advance their work. Each applicant asks for a specific amount and describes how she or he will use those dollars. The Writer-to-Writer Mentorships are designed for emerging Minnesota writers who seek to develop in skill and confidence, establish connections within Minnesota's thriving literary community and navigate the complex path between emerging and established writer. Emerging writers receive highly individualized attention and learning as they work in small groups with established writer/mentors in an intimate, nurturing and collaborative environment. Three Mentorships are offered twice a year. The VERVE Awards are given to emerging spoken word artists for individually designed projects.

## **JEROME FOUNDATION FY 2009 Literature Grants**

### **The Loft Literary Center**

THE LOFT LITERARY CENTER, Minneapolis, Minnesota, received \$49,000 in support of the Mentor Series. Founded in 1974, The Loft Literary Center fosters a writing community, supports the artistic development of writers, and builds an audience for literature. Since 1979, Jerome Foundation has supported the Mentor Series, a vehicle for emerging Minnesota writers to work in a small group setting with nationally recognized writers, and to be mentored by those writers in ways ranging from review of their work to providing inspiration and examples for the writing life. Twelve emerging Minnesota-based writers (four in poetry, four in fiction and four in creative nonfiction) are selected to work intensively with six nationally acclaimed writers (two in each genre). The Series encompasses small groups and individual sessions, public readings, master classes, and workshops.

THE LOFT also received a two-year grant of \$100,000 in support of the Minnesota Writers Career Initiative Program. It serves writers who have achieved artistic recognition for their work and who have the potential to significantly expand that recognition and audience. The program's purpose is to utilize and leverage this potential in order to advance those writers. The program is open to poets, prose writers, authors of children's literature, and spoken word artists. Projects may include editorial or mentoring support for new manuscripts, career development activities such as developing public speaking skills, book tours, and collaborations with other writers or artists; strategies for connecting with communities or regions important to a writer's voice or genre; and the creation of audio books, CDs, and websites.

### **New Rivers Press @ MSUM**

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD, Moorhead, Minnesota, received \$12,000 to support the publication and distribution of three Many Voices Project books by NEW RIVERS PRESS MSUM. The Press seeks to publish the best literature it can find and to serve as a teaching press. An open call each year solicits submissions to the Many Voices Project competition for book-length unpublished manuscripts by new or emerging writers. After a thorough screening and review by guest judges and staff editors, three books by emerging writers, two of whom live in New York City and/or Minnesota, are selected. The Many Voices Project publishes first and second books by emerging writers.

### **The Writers Room**

THE WRITERS ROOM, New York City, is an urban writers' colony dedicated to providing clean, quiet, and affordable workspace, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, to writers. Members include novelists, playwrights, screenwriters, poets, nonfiction writers, journalists, biographers, memoirists, and children's book writers. It serves approximately 400 writers each year with approximately 300 of those being emerging. The Jerome Foundation made a two-year grant of \$33,000 to subsidize membership fees and provide modest amounts of scholarship funding for emerging writers with financial need.