



THE PEN/FAULKNER FOUNDATION

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

Friends of PEN/Faulkner

After 39 years of celebrating literature and connecting readers and writers nationwide, 2018-19 represented a season of new growth for PEN/Faulkner.

We settled into new offices, giving us a stable location from which to serve our constituents, local and national.

We launched a new pilot initiative—*Nuestra Voz*—that served Latinx- and Hispanic-identified students in the DC school system.

We established a rigorous new survey and data collection system to ensure that our Education Programs all achieve genuine impact.

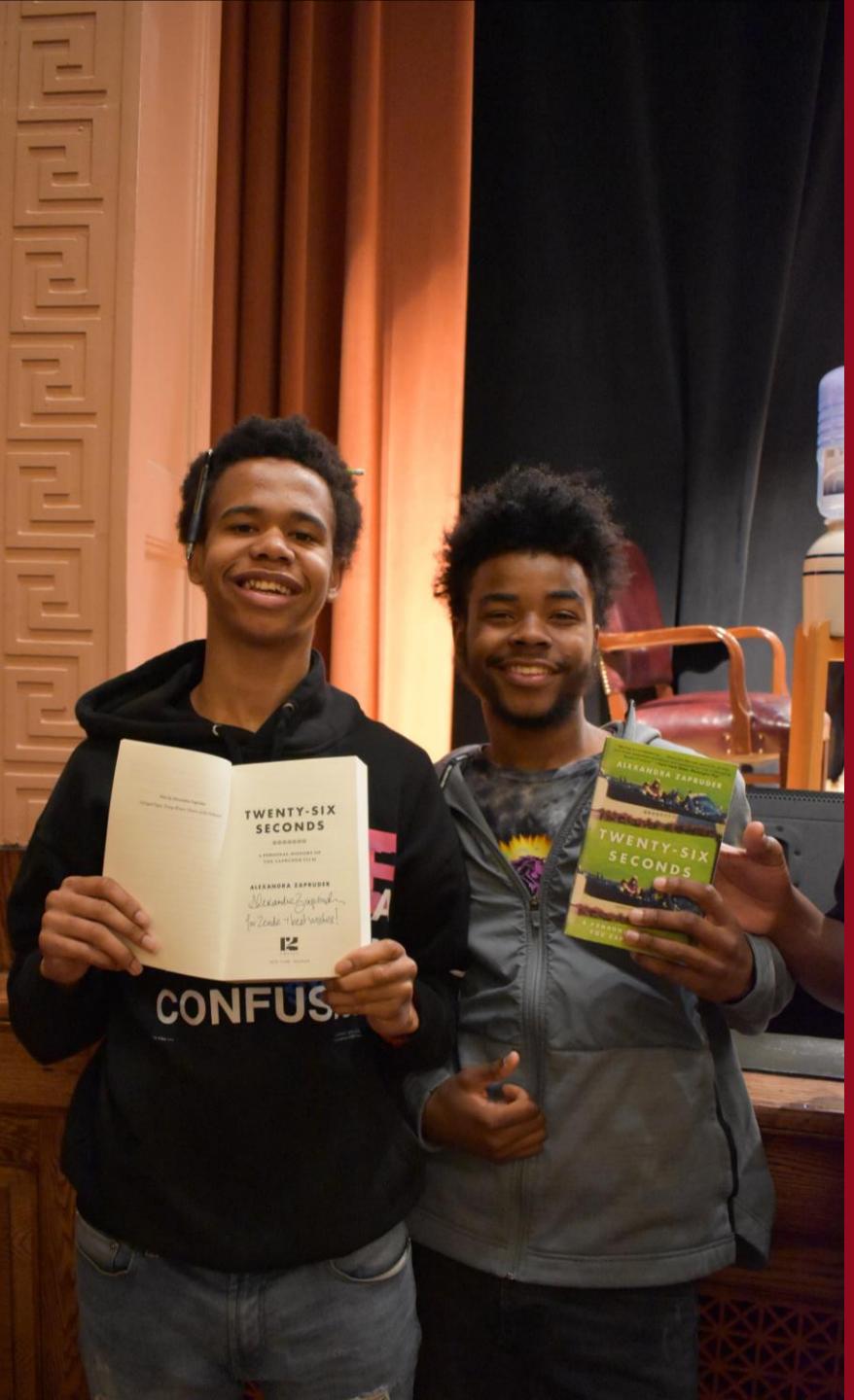
We debuted a series of Literary Conversations to engage our community in provocative discourse with writers from around the country.

Last, but not least, we brought on a new Executive Director—that would be me—to lead our organization's talented staff.

Thank you for everything you do to support us.

Yours,

Gwydion Suilebhan, Executive Director





Our Mission and Values

The PEN/Faulkner Foundation celebrates literature and fosters connections between readers and writers to enrich and inspire both individuals and communities.

We are dedicated to the notion that our culture thrives when stories from a diverse variety of perspectives enrich our daily lives and when no voices are excluded from our conversations.

We believe the written word plays an essential role in contributing to civil discourse and in creating empathy within and among communities.



Fiction Awards

We honor contemporary American writers with the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the most significant peer-juried literary prize in the United States, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

PEN/FAU
AWARD FOR

PEN/FAU



Literary Conversations

We bring authors from around the country to locations throughout the DC area so that their work can provoke rich, civil public discourse about matters of urgent importance to our community.



Education Programs

We connect DC students in grades 3-12 with free books, author visits, and professional writing instruction—in both English and Spanish, thanks to our Nuestra Voz initiative—to inspire the next generation of readers and writers.

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a student with dark hair tied back and wearing glasses and a blue denim jacket is smiling and holding a colorful book. Behind her, several other students are seated at desks, looking towards the front of the room. The room has bookshelves in the background and a computer workstation on the right.

Education Programs

Writers in Schools

Free books and author visits

Essay Writing Workshops

In-school writing instruction and a city-wide contest

Summer Writing Programs

Out-of-school-time writing instruction

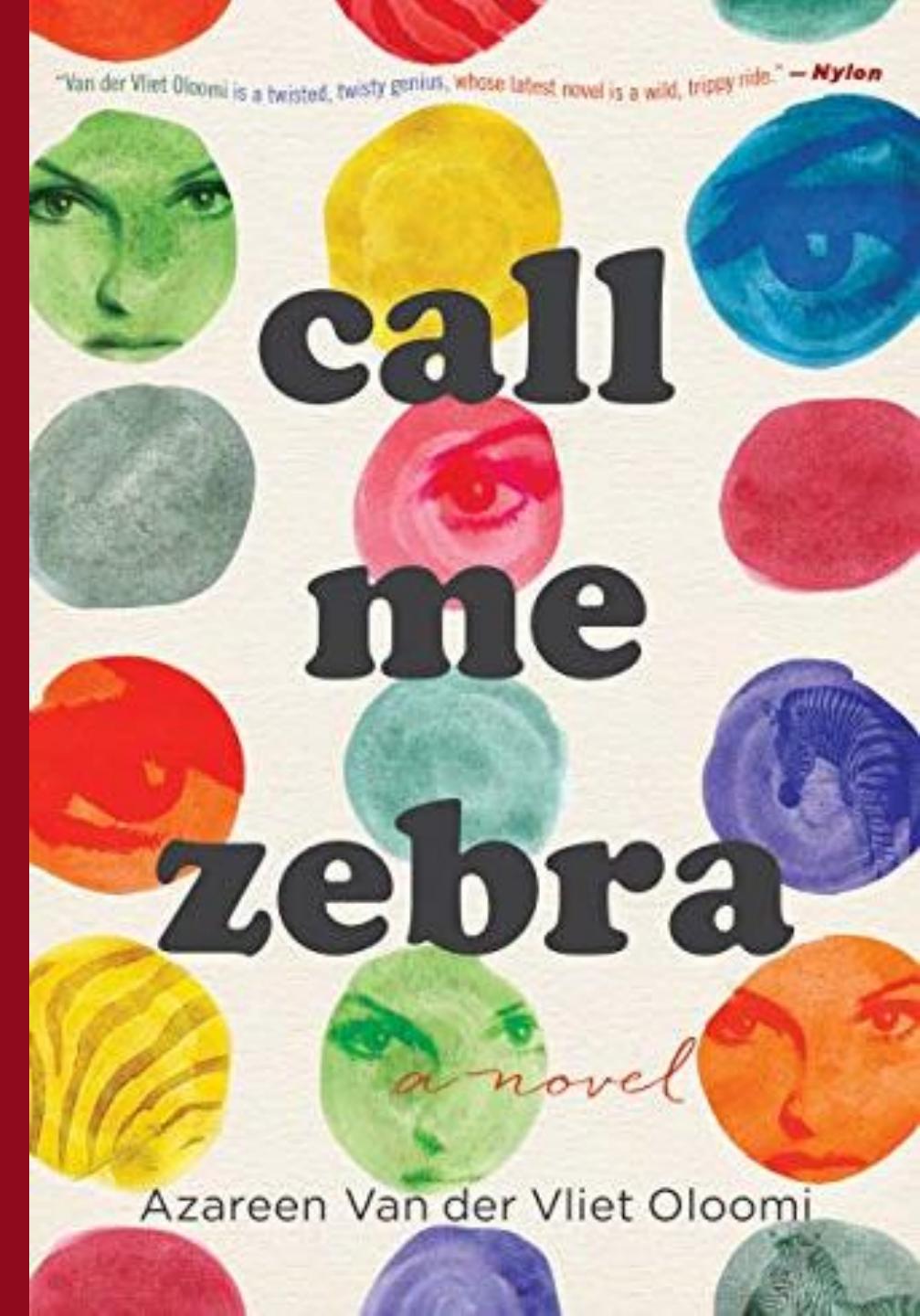
Together We Read

Multi-school author visits and literature discussions

2018-19 Highlights

This year's PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction went to ***Call Me Zebra*** by Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi. In the words of our judges: "Once in a while a singular, adventurous, and intellectually humorous voice appears that takes us on an inescapable journey. Ms. Van der Vliet Oloomi's novel performs at the highest of levels in accomplishing only what the written novel can show us."

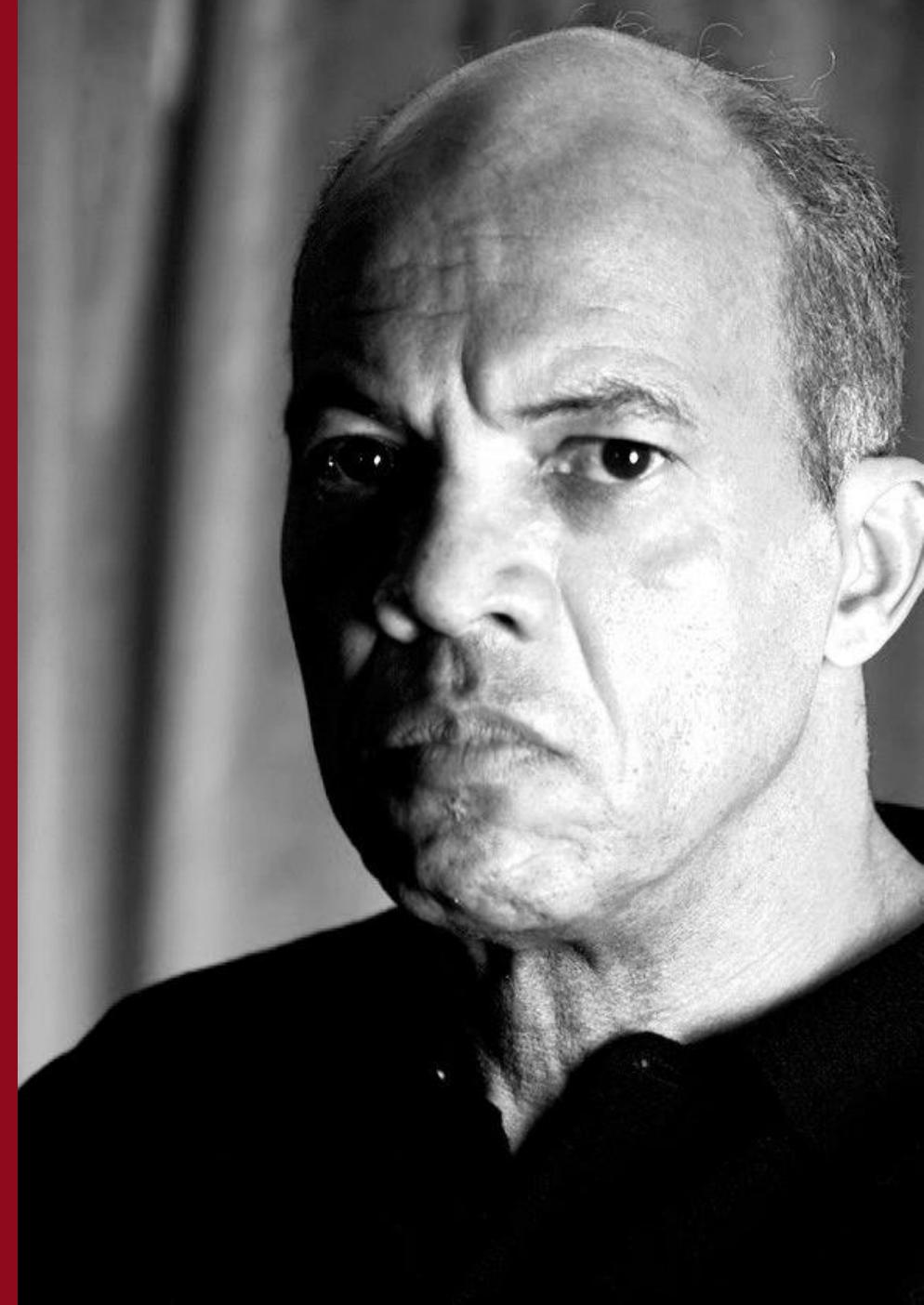
Our finalists also included *The Overstory* by Richard Powers; *Love War Stories* by Ivelisse Rodriguez; *Don't Skip Out on Me* by Willy Vlautin; and *Tomb of the Unknown Racist* by Blanche McCrary Boyd.



2018-19 Highlights

The PEN/Malamud Award went to two-time PEN/Faulkner Award-winner **John Edgar Wideman**. In the words of the Malamud Award Committee:

"Through complex, lyrical language, Wideman creates intimate portraits of the characters in his sprawling family, in his classrooms, in prison, and elsewhere, characters whose conflicts mirror the larger world as it struggles with history and identity. Wideman challenges readers to consider what defines, separates, and unites us."



2018-19 Highlights

In 2018-19, our public Literary Conversations and Awards events reached **1200+ audience members** at venues throughout the DC area:

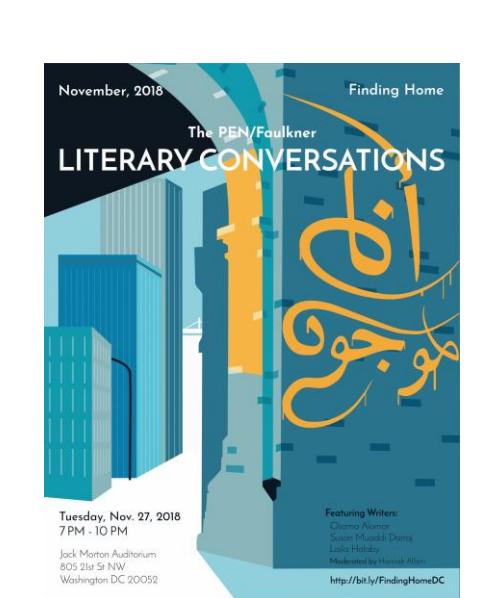
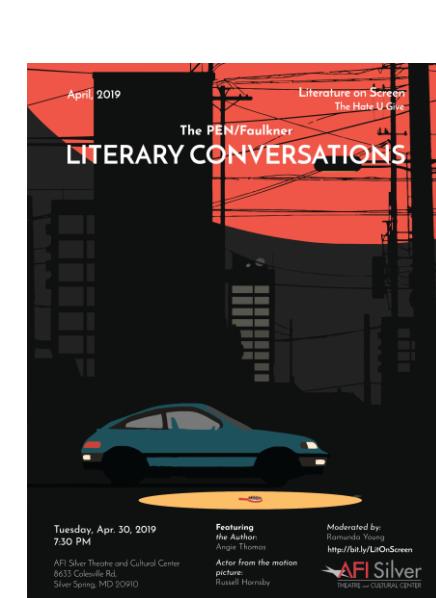
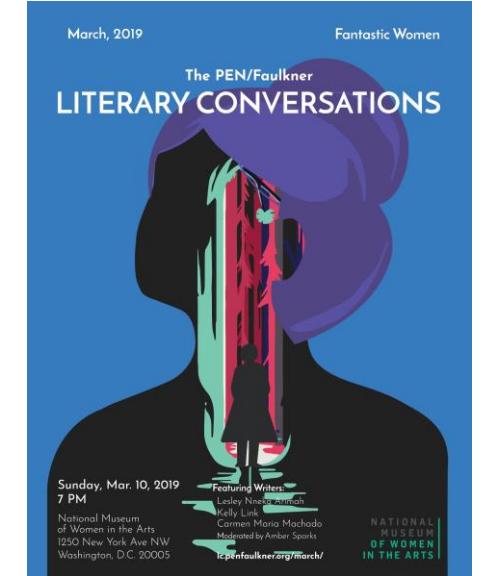
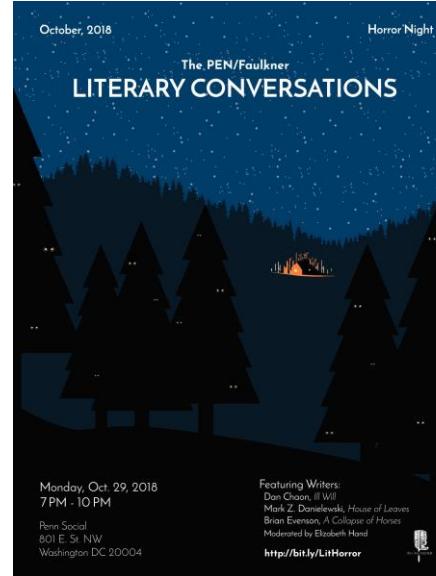
- The Folger Shakespeare Library
- The Library of Congress
- National Museum of Women in the Arts
- The American Film Institute
- George Washington University
- The Shakespeare Theatre
- Arena Stage
- Sixth and I
- Penn Social



2018-19 Highlights

This year's Literary Conversation subjects included:

- *Literary Horror*
- *Finding Home*
- *Beyond La Frontera*
- *Afrofuturism*
- *Fantastic Women*
- *Literature on Screen—The Hate U Give*



2018-19 Highlights

The authors and artists who joined us for our public literary programs included:

Hannah Allam • Osama Alomar • Lesley Nneka Arimah • David Bradley • Dan Choan • Kate Christensen • Jennifer Clement • Michael Cunningham • Mark Danielewski • Elizabeth Hand • Susan Muaddi Darraj • Tananarive Due • Brian Evenson • Karen Joy Fowler • Laila Halaby • James Hannaham • Maria Hinojosa • Russell Hornsby • N.K. Jemisin • Kelly Link • Lorraine López • Carmen Maria Machado • Airea D. Matthews • ZZ Packer • Ernesto Quiñonez • Sarah Shun-lien Bynum • Joan Silber • Amber Sparks • Angie Thomas • Sheree Renée Thomas • Luis Alberto Urrea • Joy Williams • Tobias Wolff

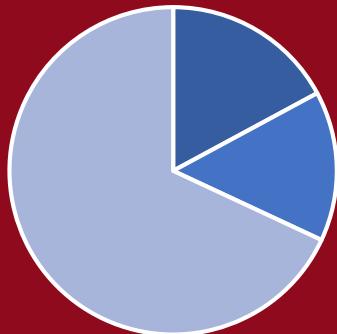


2018-19 Highlights

Our Education Programs served 254 classrooms in grades 4-12; we are adding grade 3 in school year 2019-20:

- 147 high school
- 32 middle school
- 37 elementary

■ Elementary
■ Middle
■ High



2018-19 Highlights

Of our 254 school visits in 2018-19:

- **76%** were Writers in Schools visits
- **12%** were Essay Writing Workshops
- **10%** were Summer Writing Program sessions
- **2%** were Together We Read gatherings

16% of our visits in 2018-19 were part of our Nuestra Voz initiative.



2018-19 Highlights

Our Education Programs achieved the following totals:

- 5,128 books donated
- 3,892 students served *
- 51 schools and community partners
- 68 educator partners *
- 110 visiting authors

* new highs for PEN/Faulkner



2018-19 Highlights

Our Education Programs served 91.5% Title I students in all eight wards of DC:

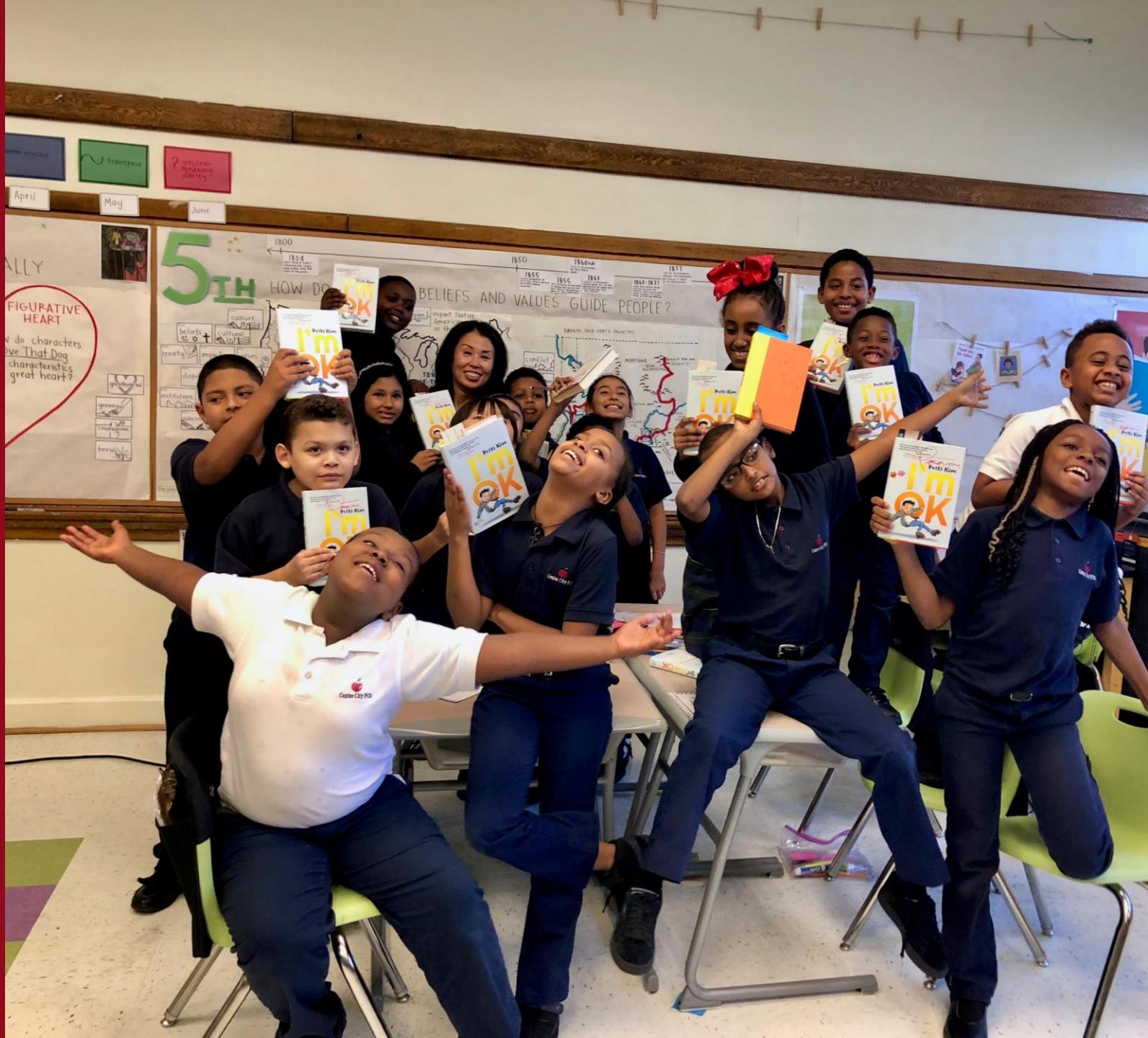
- Ward 1—18%
- Ward 2—10%
- Ward 3—2%
- Ward 4—22%
- Ward 5—20%
- Ward 6—8%
- Ward 7—10%
- Ward 8—10%



2018-19 Highlights

Education Program survey results:

- **74%** of our students want to engage in more literary activities
- **85%** of our students can't wait to tell others about having met an author
- **97%** of our educators say students related the books we gave them to their own lives
- **80%** of our educators returned from previous years

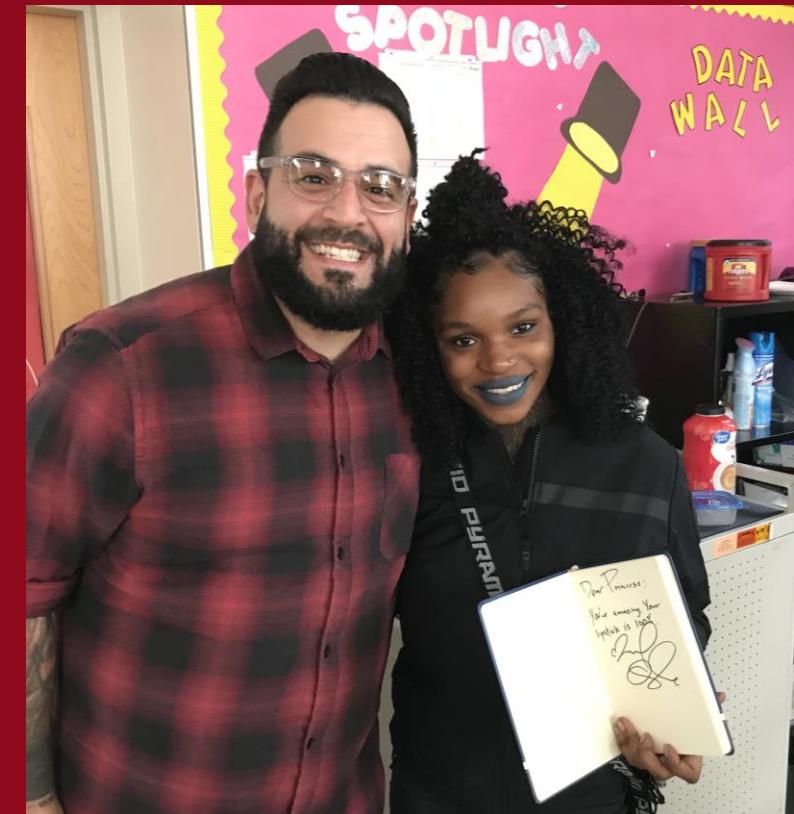


2018-19 Highlights

Selected authors who participated in Writers in Schools, our Essay Writing Workshops, Together We Read, and our Summer Writing Programs:

Alan King • Alexandra Zapruder • Allison Leotta • Amina Gautier • Andrea Ruggirello • Andrew Donkin • Anjanette Delgado • Atia Abawi • Ayeh Bandeh-Amadi • Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi • Blanche McCrary Boyd • Camille Acker • Charmaine Craig • Consuelo Hernández • D. Watkins • Dan Chaon • Danielle Evans • David Baldwin • David Bradley • Derrick Weston Brown Devin Gallagher • Duncan Tonatiuh • Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez • Edward Robinson • Elissa Brent Weisman • Eoin Colfer • Ernesto Quiñonez Giovanni Rigano • Hayes Davis • James Forman • James Hannaham • Jerry Craft • Jessica Spotswood • Joan Silber • John Freeman • Karen Joy Fowler • Kate Christensen

Kathleen Wheaton • Kim Thuy • L.Y. Marlow • Laini Mataka • Lauren Francis Sharma • Leah Henderson • Lorraine López • Marcelo Hernadez Castillo • Mark Danielewski • Mark Oshiro • Maud Casey • Melanie Hatter • Michael Cunningham • Milagros Teran • Minh Lee • Morowa Yejide • Naomi Ayala • Nicole Chung • Nikky Finney • Patrice Vecchione • Patricia Valdez • Patti Kim • Paul Butler • Robert Girón • Robin Talley • Samantha Thornhill • Sarah Shun-lien Bynum • Sheri Booker • Simba Sana • Tananarive Due • Teri Cross Davis • Tiffany Jackson • Tobias Wolff • Valerie Patterson • William Jones • Willona Sloan • Winifred Conkling • ZZ Packer



Financials

Total Income: \$798,623

Individual: 46%

Government: 27%

Foundation: 15%

Corporate: 4%

Earned Income: 4%

In-Kind/Other: 4%

Total Expenses: \$795,462

Education Programs: 45%

Literary Programs: 19%

Awards: 13%

Fundraising: 12%

Administrative: 11%



Thank You!

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the following organizations, without which our work would not be possible.

Government

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
The National Endowment for the Arts

Corporations

Hogan Lovells
Politics & Prose
BP America
DMM Strategies
Lockheed Martin
Sazerac



Foundations

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
The Scottish Rite Foundation
The Share Fund
The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
The Gannett Foundation
The Whitehead Foundation

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Contributors to PEN/Faulkner are the lifeblood of our organization, and we are delighted to recognize the invaluable part they play in our success.

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Lacey Dunham, *Writers in Schools Director*
Shahenda Helmy, *Programs and Logistics Director*
Nina Arroyo Santiago, *Nuestra Voz Associate*
Antynia McIntyre, *Education Programs Associate*



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“For the past seven years, I have been privileged to provide my students not only with books that they can annotate and keep, but also with unforgettable conversations with living authors.”

—Clare Berke, *English Teacher and Department Chair*

“Winning the PEN/Faulkner Award at such a delicate and trying juncture in our nation’s troubled history is an honor I am infinitely grateful to carry.”

—Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi, author of *Call Me Zebra*

