



2020 LitTAP Advancement Regrant Awards
Award Notice to the Field - July 15, 2020

LitTAP, a coalition of New York State literary arts organizations, is pleased to announce a total of \$40,000 has been awarded to nine literary arts organizations throughout New York State.

New York's literary arts nonprofit publishers, presenting, and service organizations are among the best in the country and represent the great majority of literary organizations nationwide. They nurture and promote contemporary writers and writing, and serve as distinguishing assets in their communities. Yet they are also often profoundly under-resourced and challenged to sustain themselves institutionally while building and enriching relationships with audiences.

LitTAP's Advancement Program empowers organizations to define their own priorities through thoughtful program development and expanded capacity building opportunities. The goal is to help these vital organizations access the tools and resources they need to flourish, so they may provide writers and communities with opportunities to create, publish, learn, teach, experiment, and thrive. Launched in 2013, the Advancement Program has awarded fifty-five (55) capacity building regrants of \$2,500-\$10,000 to date, distributing more than \$250,000 to the field.

The 2020 Advancement Regrant recipients are:

Cave Canem Foundation, Brooklyn, NY: \$8,500

To launch an organization-wide professional development and emerging administrator mentorship initiative.

The Poetry Project, New York, NY: \$8,500

To build a shared commitment among board and staff around equity, justice, anti-oppression, and inclusion.

Writers & Books, Rochester, NY: \$6,000

To design and implement a new web site that enhances user experience and increases efficiencies for staff.

The Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn, NY: \$4,500

To host the 2020 Brooklyn Book Festival & Literary Marketplace online, live streaming events on "virtual stages" and their web pages

The Arts Branch of the YMCA of Central NY, Syracuse, NY: \$2,500

To expand and promote their new online programming to a wider, national audience.

Bright Hill Press & Literary Center, Treadwell, NY: \$2,500

To upgrade computer equipment and software programs.

The Center for Fiction, Brooklyn, NY: \$2,500

To establish a Digital Media Fellowship, and expand audiences for Center for Fiction programs.

Kweli Journal, New York, NY: \$2,500

To redesign their website for increased functionality and accessibility.

The National Book Foundation, New York, NY: \$2,500

To develop a 2021-2023 Strategic Plan that fosters significant organizational growth by increasing visibility, streamlining operations and programming, and developing fundraising capacity.

2020 Advancement panelists were Cathy Linh Che, poet and Executive Director/Kundiman, Dennis Maloney, editor and publisher/White Pine Press, and Karen Phillips, Executive Director/Words Without Borders. Request amounts were based on an organization's annual operating budget, and awards made based on project merit, score, and measures of inclusion such as geographic diversity, communities served, and organization type. Assessing applications, panelists considered Artistic Quality, Managerial Competence, and Demonstrated Need.

The Advancement Program was designed and is directed by Debora Ott, LitTAP Founding Director, is administered by Just Buffalo Literary Center, Inc., and is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the generous support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Advancement is open current NYSCA/Literature General Support, Re-grants & Partnerships, Public Programs, and Book & Literary Magazine Publication grantees. Advancement projects must propose new activity that reaches beyond the scope of an organization's current NYSCA funding.

Each year, LitTAP provides direct, essential support to more than sixty NYS literary organizations through technical assistance, networking, a resource rich website, Peer Mentoring, Advancement Re-grants and the *Facing Pages* - Statewide Literary Arts Convening. With COVID's arrival, and demand for ongoing, new and adapted creative literary arts programming surging, the Program's importance cannot be overstated. Serving the people of NY and the many distinct populations with literary arts initiatives has now become even more essential and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

For more information about LitTAP and its programs please contact:

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