



## 2021 LitTAP Advancement Regrant Awards Award Notice to the Field – August 31, 2021

LitTAP, a coalition of New York State literary arts nonprofit organizations, is pleased to announce a total of \$60,000 in Advancement Regrant awards to nine literary arts organizations throughout New York State.

New York's community of literary arts nonprofit publishers, presenters, and service organizations include some of the best and 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. It enables them to improve operations and financial viability; extend program reach; build solid foundations upon which to pursue their artistic visions; and institute planning, development and communication strategies that contribute to near- and long-term stability and sustainability.

Launched in 2013, the Advancement Program has awarded sixty-four (64) capacity building regrants of \$2,500-\$10,000 to date, distributing \$330,000 to the field. Reallocated funding for 2021, due to COVID, allowed LitTAP to award (2) \$10,000 regrants and support all awardees at full-funding capacity. LitTAP's 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 through the literary arts.

The 2021 Advancement Regrant recipients are:

**BOA Editions, Rochester, NY: \$10,000**

For the production and marketing of six books within the BOA Audiobook Series.

**The Community of Literary Magazines & Presses, New York, NY: \$10,000**

To upgrade outdated office computers.

**n+1 Foundation, Brooklyn, NY: \$7,500**

For website upgrades that ensure ADA accessibility and increased reader engagement.

**Poetry Society of America, New York, NY: \$7,500**

For website refreshment to address questions of equity and social justice, and to ensure access regardless of age or ability.

**Teachers and Writers Collaborative, Brooklyn, NY: \$7,500**

For website redesign to ease access to lesson plans and articles and essays on teaching writing; create a platform for student writing; and archive 47-years of the TWC magazine.

**Electric Lit, Brooklyn, NY: \$5,000**

To make the Virtual Salon Series of events, developed during Covid, into a permanent offering.

**Hudson Valley Writers Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY: \$5,000**

To purchase an AV Technology system for in-person and virtual hybrid programming.

**Nightboat Books, Brooklyn, NY: \$5,000**

To increase diversity and access in the field of literary publishing by establishing a BIPOC Editorial Fellowship Program.

**Wendy's Subway. Brooklyn, NY: \$2,500**

For developing a comprehensive domestic and international distribution strategy to support the circulation of authors' work and reach wider audiences and readerships.

The 2021 Advancement panelists were Cathy Linh Che, poet and Executive Director of Kundiman, Sue Landers, poet and Executive Director of Lambda Literary, and Samantha Thornhill, poet. Individual 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. It 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 the Governor 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 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, LitTAP's importance cannot be overstated. Serving the people of New York 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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