

Authors Guild Annual Report for 2021

The Authors Guild
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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Coping with the two years of pandemic and the resultant economic fallout has been difficult for nearly all Americans. It's been particularly hard for authors trying to balance writing new work, promoting their current project, meeting the needs and wants of family and friends, and coping with a business environment that relies heavily on content-driven products but too often treats creators of that content as second-class citizens.

I know that each of you makes difficult decisions every day about how to spend your time, creativity, and financial resources. That nearly 90 percent of our members made the choice to renew their Authors Guild membership and a record-setting 2,135 authors opted to join our ranks for the first time in 2021 is both humbling and deeply gratifying. With now more than 12,000 members, we recognize the trust you place in the Guild to advocate for your best interests as working writers, provide legal advice and educational programs about the business of writing, and create a supportive community of talented book-writing and translating professionals.

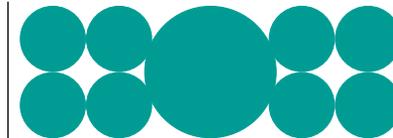
Your participation in surveys and willingness to provide feedback is helping us to refine our services and programs to better meet the needs and wants of a diverse membership. This includes the upcoming restructuring and reorganization of our website to make it easier to search, access, and read the information you value. Because of you, we secured a 25 percent increase in the amount of money raised by the Authors Guild Foundation, fielded 15% more requests for legal services with 1,500+ queries, experienced a 120% rise in media coverage, were extremely active in our advocacy initiatives, and launched three new online member communities.

We made huge strides in advocacy in 2021, particularly when the Department of Justice sued to block Penguin Random House's proposed acquisition of Simon & Schuster, citing many of the arguments we provided in its reasons for stopping the merger. We successfully helped prevent the implementation of library e-Book licensing laws in New York and Maryland. The \$7.8 million victory in the copyright infringement case filed by 12 Authors Guild members against the operators of KISS not only resulted in the shuttering of the international piracy network but sent the message that e-book piracy will no longer be tolerated.

In 2022, we will continue to fight for major antitrust reform to help address Amazon's unfair practices, lobby Congress for collective bargaining rights for writers and other freelance creators, work to amend the copyright law to better address piracy, and lead a year-long campaign to combat book banning. We look forward to the launch of our annual WIT: Words, Ideas, and Thinkers Festival from September 23-25 in Lenox, Massachusetts, as well as the upcoming publication of our collaborative novel *Fourteen Days* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), conceived by AG President Doug Preston and edited by Margaret Atwood, the proceeds of which will go to the Authors Guild Foundation.



Mary Rasenberger
CEO of the Authors Guild and Authors Guild Foundation



In 2021, the Authors Guild’s advocacy focused on additional pandemic relief, antitrust matters, and workers’ rights for writers. We helped secure a relief package for mixed-earners—i.e., workers whose earnings derive from both W-2 and 1099-based jobs, a category that covers most authors and creative professionals. We also lobbied for two new pieces of legislation to provide grants to writers and creators. Several different antitrust tracks converged this year, leading our efforts to focus more on antitrust law than probably ever in our history. We hit the ground running with our efforts to win collective bargaining rights for writers and other freelance creators. Our ongoing efforts to fight e-book and audiobook piracy resulted in an important victory when a federal court shut down notorious pirate site Kiss Library and awarded \$7.8 million in damages. At the same time, we continue lobbying for stronger enforcement initiatives, including reform of Section 512 of the Copyright Act (the section that governs the notice and takedown process and that provides safe harbors to the internet platforms). We also partook in the rulemakings to establish the rules governing the new Copyright Claims Board for small copyright claims created by the CASE Act and responded to a host of emerging issues, such as the introduction of mandatory e-book licensing bills in many states, the growing trend of banning books in schools, and federal and local efforts to assist creators who were especially hurt by the pandemic and to revitalize the U.S. creative economy.

Federal Initiatives

Antitrust Enforcement

We supported the introduction of several antitrust bills proposed by Congressional members in summer 2021, particularly the American Choice and Innovation Online Act (ACIOA) introduced by Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI). The provisions of the bill address many of our issues with Amazon and target practices by retail internet platforms

to favor their own products and services. Prior to ACIOA’s introduction, the Authors Guild arranged a meeting between several high-profile members and Rep. Cicilline, who also chairs the House Antitrust Subcommittee, to discuss Amazon’s anticompetitive practices including preferencing its own imprints on bestseller lists, charging high marketing fees for product visibility, and extracting excessive discounts from publishers to undersell independent and small booksellers. We are pleased to see that the bill thoroughly addresses these and other concerns.

When news of Penguin Random House’s deal to acquire Simon & Schuster was first announced in late 2020, we wrote a letter to the Department of Justice with Open Markets, which four other author organizations joined, expressing our concerns about the merger, as well as Amazon’s downstream pressures on the publishing industry. We strongly supported the DOJ’s civil antitrust lawsuit filed in November 2021 to block the merger—primarily on the basis of its potential harm to authors, which the DOJ has called “the lifeblood of book publishing in America” in a complaint that echoes many of the concerns that we had expressed about the merger. While the DOJ’s action is an important step towards ensuring parity between authors and publishers, we view this also as an opportunity to remind enforcers and lawmakers that Amazon is the primary driver of inefficiencies and inequities in the publishing market, and that unless steps are taken to loosen its hold on every aspect of book publishing, authors will continue to suffer.

Collective Bargaining

We drafted an amendment to the National Labor Relations Act, as well as a straight exemption from antitrust laws to allow “professional creators” to engage in collective bargaining with those who buy their services (publishers, streaming platforms, production companies, etc.). We created and are leading a [coalition of creator groups to advise and lobby for the bill](#). We are

meeting with Congressional members’ offices, seeking sponsors to introduce our legislative amendments. In January 2022, we submitted written testimony before the House of Representatives’ Small Business Committee in response to its hearing *The Power, Peril, and Promise of the Creative Economy*, to reiterate the need for a labor or antitrust solution to the problem of unequal bargaining power in publishing. In addition to legislative lobbying, we responded to the FTC and the DOJ Antitrust Division’s joint inquiry on using antitrust law to improve labor bargaining power and shared our legislative amendments as a viable solution.

Federal Writers Project and Creative Economy Revitalization Act

We lobbied for the 21st Century Federal Writers Project Act (H.R. 3054/FWP) and the Creative Economy Revitalization Act (H.R. 5019/CERA) before members of the House Labor and Education Committee—where the bills are currently pending—as well as with staff members of more than 20 additional lawmakers for their sponsorship. Despite strong support from author groups and renewed lobbying efforts, the future of FWP remains unclear as cuts are being sought to the budget, and the FWP would add \$60 million. We also continue to support CERA, which creates a program to disburse \$100 million in grant funds to hire creative workers for public arts projects, which has a counterpart in the Senate.

DMCA: Section 512 Reform

The process of reforming Section 512 of the Copyright Act stalled in the summer of 2021 due to lack of consensus around the draft Digital Copyright Act released by Senator Thom Tillis’ office in late 2020. Several smaller, targeted bills are currently being discussed, and we expect to see legislation soon. We put together an informal coalition of creator organizations in music, photography, and other industries to share information and to ensure our mutual interests are reflected in any legislation.

Protections for Journalists, Freelance Writers, and Press Publishers

In November, we submitted comments to the U.S. Copyright Office in response to its “Publisher Protection Study,” recommending changes to copyright law and policy to give newspaper and magazine publishers greater power to negotiate with platforms that aggregate news content. Our comments addressed how Facebook and Google’s “duopoly” over the digital advertising market has siphoned revenue out of news publishing without compensation, causing hundreds of newspapers and local periodicals to close and in consequence depress rates for journalism and freelance writing. In addition to our engagement with the Copyright Office on these issues, we are lobbying for the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA) (S.673 and H.R.1735), with some qualifications. That bill creates an antitrust exemption for news publishers, allowing them to engage with large internet platforms collectively and negotiate fair terms for use of news content. The bill, if passed, would likely yield additional revenues for news publishers, but we want to ensure that journalists also benefit and not just the corporate owners. As such, we have requested adding a provision that would require the news publishers that benefit from the JCPA to reinvest any additional revenue generated from the antitrust exemption into journalist and news stories, especially local journalism which is in particular crisis.

CASE Act/Copyright Claims Board

We continue our participation in the Copyright Office’s public comment process to establish rules that will govern the Copyright Claims Board (CCB), the small claims tribunal created by the CASE Act, which is expected to begin operations in June 2022. The Copyright Office has drafted most of the regulations for the conduct of the proceedings and has hired three judges, all experts in copyright and litigation as Copyright Claims Officers, as well as attorneys to support their work. The Authors Guild is also building resources to help authors bring claims before the Copyright Claims Board once it launches, and will assist members who bring claims in the CCB.

State and Local Advocacy

Campaign Against State Book Bans and Censorship

In response to state bills banning books or prohibiting the teaching of certain ideas related to race, racism, antisemitism, gender orientation, sexual identity, and reproductive rights, we launched a national write-in campaign in November. Fourteen states—Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia—have already outlawed discussions of critical race theory, not only at K-12 public schools but in some cases also at colleges and universities. These laws often include confusing and wide-sweeping restrictions on discussions of—and texts related to—race, gender, and sexuality in general. We are working with the American Library Association, PEN America, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and other groups on programs, initiatives, and advocacy to oppose the growing swell of censorship and to support the teachers, librarians, and authors who are being targeted through such laws.

State Mandatory Library E-book Licensing Bills

In 2021, state legislatures tried to enact laws that would require anyone who publishes e-books or any other literary work in electronic form to offer e-lending licenses to public libraries on vaguely defined “reasonable terms.” The bills apply to self-published authors as well as traditional publishers, and most cover audiobooks and other literary works in audio form (e.g., potentially podcasts), internet blogs, and other online literary works—works which few libraries collect. These laws are not only overbroad, they are unnecessary since libraries can already secure licenses to e-books and audiobooks from all major, and most small, publishers. Moreover, such laws are unconstitutional because all copyright matters fall under the exclusive domain of federal law. Only the U.S. Congress has the power to create such compulsory licenses, and Congress has done so only in cases of clear, severe market failure—which does not exist here.

As of this writing, state legislatures in seven states—Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, and Tennessee—have introduced such bills. The Maryland bill, the first to be introduced, was passed by the state legislature and signed by Governor Hogan before a Maryland court recently enjoined it from taking effect, thanks to a suit brought by the AAP and supported by the Authors Guild that argued that the law was unconstitutional, overbroad, and unnecessary. The New York bill was vetoed by Governor Hochul following significant lobbying by the AAP, the Authors Guild, and other copyright industry associations. The Authors Guild and the AAP have submitted testimony in opposition to the bills in other states as they have come up in the legislative calendars, and we will continue to oppose them as new bills arise. We have joined the AAP in an effort to advise these other states of the Maryland decision and the clear unconstitutionality of the laws.

Litigation

Kiss Library

We won an important victory in the lawsuit we organized against a notorious Ukraine-based pirate network known as Kiss Library. The network operated Kissly.net, Libly.net, Cheap-Library.com, and dozens of other domains that illegally sold pirated e-books to unsuspecting book buyers as discount sales. On December 20, 2021, the U.S. Court for the Western District of Washington permanently shut down the sites and awarded \$7.8 million in statutory damages to the plaintiffs, which included twelve Authors Guild members, Amazon Publishing, and Penguin Random House, for 52 acts of copyright infringement. The victory also sends a message to pirates everywhere that they can and will be sued in the U.S.

Statements, Letters, and Briefs

A crucial part of the Authors Guild's advocacy work is speaking out on issues that affect authors. We do that by filing public comments and issuing public statements. We also submit amicus (friend of the court) briefs in cases that will likely impact authors to let the court know how authors and journalists might be affected by the decision. In 2021, the Authors Guild drafted or signed onto a wide variety of written statements, letters, and amicus briefs, including the following:

Public Comments and Statements

- [Submitted comments](#) in response to the Copyright Office's ongoing rulemaking to set up the Copyright Claims Board, which is slated to launch in spring 2022. Last fall, the Copyright Office announced that it has hired three experts in copyright and litigation as Copyright Claims Officers, and attorneys to support their work
- Issued statement [supporting AAP's lawsuit to stop Maryland's implementation](#) of its library e-book licensing law, and [a subsequent statement supporting AAP's winning a preliminary injunction](#) in that case.
- Issued public statement applauding the [introduction of Senate Bill 2992, the "American Choice and Innovation Online Act."](#) which like its sister bill in the House, makes it unlawful for online platforms to self-preference their own products or services, discriminately apply terms of service to similarly situated business, impede businesses from promoting products and services that compete with the platform's services, and use or withhold data unfairly to materially harm competition. These bills draw on recommendations we laid out in a 2020 [joint letter](#) to the House Judiciary's Antitrust Committee outlining Amazon's anti-competitive behaviors.
- Issued a public statement [in support of Congressional members proposed antitrust laws](#) to rein in the anti-competitive practices of large internet platforms such as Google and Amazon.

- Issued a public statement [calling for revisions to the proposed PRO Act](#) that includes a clause allowing for freelance writers and other creatives to collectively bargain.
- Issued a public statement [calling for increased transparency in ACX/Audible's revised reporting system.](#)
- Issued a public statement [telling McGraw Hill to stop charging freelancers a fee for processing their invoices.](#)
- Issued a [statement in solidarity with Ukraine](#) and expressing support for Ukrainian authors and journalists.
- Issued a [statement in support of New York's proposed Freelance Isn't Free law.](#)
- Issued a [statement supporting the textbook publishers' lawsuit against e-commerce platform Shopify.](#)
- Issued a [statement condemning the dissolution of Belarusian writers organizations.](#)
- Issued a statement [condemning Dow Jones for curtailing journalists' book rights.](#)
- Signed a statement [issued by the NCAC expressing concern about an organized political attack on books in schools](#) and its impact on education, the rights of students, and freedom of expression.
- Signed a [non-partisan coalition statement opposing "Divisive Concepts"](#) legislation intended to limit teaching related to racism, gender, and critical race theory.
- Signed a joint statement [opposing legislative efforts to restrict education about racism and American history.](#)
- Submitted [comments to the U.S. Copyright Office on press publisher protections](#) recommending changes to copyright law and policy to stop internet platforms like Facebook and Google from monetizing news content freely, and to give newspaper and magazine publishers more power to negotiate with platforms that aggregate news content.

- Issued a statement [applauding New York Governor Kathy Hochul](#) for vetoing the state's library e-book licensing bill.

Letters

- Issued an open letter [condemning the arrest and detention of internationally renowned journalist and Authors Guild member Alan Weisman](#) while he was covering protests against construction of an oil pipeline through Native American reservation land in northern Minnesota.
- Wrote a letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, the Chair of the Committee on Libraries, [urging them to increase the size of the NYPL's annual budget](#) particularly in wake of enhanced digital services the public library branches need to provide due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Submitted a memorandum opposing a proposed Georgia law](#) that would require all local boards of education to review any complaints they receive claiming that books and other materials made available to students are "harmful to minors," and should the school principal determine the materials appropriate that they be publicly posted online for four years. The legislation died in committee.
- Submitted [a letter from the Authors Guild and 14 sister organizations](#) to McGraw-Hill's CEO Simon Allen and General Counsel David Stafford demanding that the company immediately end its practice of charging freelance writers and other contractors a 2.2% fee for processing their invoices.
- Signed an open letter supporting a ["Rap Music on Trial" bill](#) as a much-needed initiative to protect writers and artists from having their lyrics used in court as criminal evidence.
- Signed a letter [opposing the cancellation of an event](#) with the authors of Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth at the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

- Signed on to more than 20 separate letters with the NCAC opposing efforts to remove books such as Gender Queer, Lawn Boy, and Fun Home from school and local libraries.

- Signed an open letter [urging publishers to include translators' names](#) on book covers.

Amicus Briefs

- [Filed an amicus brief in the appeal of Starz v. MGM](#) supporting the right for copyright holders to sue for infringement beyond three years given that individual copyright holders like authors lack the necessary resources to learn of infringing activities in a timely fashion.

- [Filed an amicus brief in SAS Institute v. World Programming](#) asking for reversal of the lower court's decision, which would increase plaintiff's burden in proving copyright infringement. The decision would force plaintiffs to demonstrate that any portion of their copyrighted work that a defendant copied is not unprotected under the law. This requirement would make it even harder for plaintiffs to prove infringement.

- [Filed an amicus brief in Markham Concepts v. Hasbro](#) in support of plaintiff's request that the U.S. Supreme Court hear the case on appeal. The Supreme Court's input is needed to clarify when a work is considered a "work made for hire" under the 1909 Copyright Act (which still covers a number of works).

- [Filed a motion requesting leave to file an amicus brief in Netchoice v. Moody](#) supporting a preliminary injunction against a bill that would compel private communications platforms to carry speech by others that they would otherwise not host, allowing the State to directly regulate how private communications platforms curate, edit, or comment on that speech.

Testimonies

- [Submitted written testimony](#) in response to the House Small Business Committee's hearing in January 2022.

- Testified in opposition to e-book licensing bills in various states including [Maryland](#), [Illinois](#), [Connecticut](#), [Rhode Island](#) ([1](#), [2](#)), [Missouri](#), and [New York](#).

Working with Coalitions

We regularly collaborate and form working groups or coalitions with other organizations with whom the Guild shares one or more common goals. This includes groups like the [#DisneyMustPay Task Force](#), our [Creators Coalition](#), and [Audible/ACX Authors](#), in which we take a leading role to help resolve payment disputes and unfair policies and advocate for improvements to or new laws that benefit working authors and journalists.

We continue to serve on the Advisory Committee of the NYC Literary Action Coalition, a group of NYC-based writers organizations founded by PEN America. The Committee helps Coalition members collectively mobilize to address and call attention to free expression and social justice issues in the five boroughs. In 2021, the Committee conducted a series of virtual roundtable conversations with the leading Democratic candidates for NYC mayor (including the current Mayor Eric Adams) about their commitment to helping NYC's literary community recover as the city emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently the Coalition meets and works with the newly inaugurated NYC Council Members to determine the best way to allocate funds to the literary community on a steady and ongoing basis. We are also facilitating the hiring of a staff member at the mayor's office to serve as liaison between the mayor and the literary community.

We also continue our support and advocacy of free speech, free expression, a free press, and other First Amendment rights through our active participation in the National Coalition Against Censorship, Free Expression Network, and ALA's Banned Books Week to fight censorship in the nation's schools, jails, and other arenas.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiative

As a continuation of 2020's three-part series "Black Voices: Pushing for Change," the Guild hosted a follow-up webinar in 2021 exploring whether current industry efforts to publish more children's books by Black authors and illustrators reflect a short-term improvement or a sustainable change. We also developed programming partnerships with BIPOC writers groups to increase speakers from diverse groups to conduct our webinars and bootcamps. Most recently, we worked with the Asian American Writers Workshop, which helped us develop the recent webinar on "Making the Switch from Academic to Trade Publishing."

Anecdotal evidence shared with us over the past several years indicate that BIPOC writers, particularly Black authors, tend to be offered lower advances and less attractive publishing terms, including providing them with little or no marketing support. We currently seek funding to conduct an anonymous survey of American authors to learn about the size of author advances, percentage of royalties offered, and other financial remuneration or marketing support publishers offered in their most recent book contract based on the author's race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

This survey will allow us to develop a data-driven report on how factors such as race or ethnicity impact the financial terms of a book contract offered by mainstream or literary publishing houses. Collecting hard data like this will likely be more effective in addressing inequities in book publishing contracts for BIPOC and other traditionally marginalized authors than anecdotal evidence alone.

Our DEIA Board Committee is also discussing what efforts we might take to address the growing problem of state lawmakers and local school boards removing books by BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ authors from school curriculums and school libraries, and what efforts the committee might take to assist authors thus harmed.



MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

In fiscal year 2020–21, we had 11,729 members in good standing, with a renewal rate of 88 percent (up 3 percent from the prior fiscal year). A record-setting 2,135 new members joined in 2021, an increase of 22 percent over the previous calendar year. The number of members enrolled in auto renewal has also continued to increase, leading to increased retention rates and smoother payment processing. As of February 1, 2022, 7,517 members are signed up for auto renewal.

We attribute the growth in membership to two main factors:

- Free online workshops that reached far more people than ever before and demonstrated the value of our programs and services. For example, more than 400 new members joined our Business Bootcamps for Writers webinars in October and November 2021.
- Increased social media outreach and a 120 percent rise in media coverage exposed more people to what the Guild is and how it benefits writers. In the month that *The New York Times* ran a story on how the Authors Guild helped Blushing Books authors secure owed royalty payments, 278 people became members, the greatest number of people to join in a single month.

Membership Demographic Survey

Last spring, we conducted our first major demographic survey to obtain a better understanding of who our members are as writers and individuals. We received more than 1,600 responses.

The long-term viability of the Authors Guild and a thriving American literary culture depend upon the participation, talents, and input of a diverse array of authors. As such, with the results of this survey in hand, we are working to better target our programming to meet the diverse needs of our members and writers at large, determine

what sorts of organizations we need to partner with to enhance/support capabilities and offerings that we don't currently have, and develop demographic-specific member recruitment campaigns to attract younger and more diverse authors.

New Benefits and Perks

Publishers Weekly Discount

We arranged special discount rates for our members to *Publishers Weekly* print and digital subscriptions. The discounted rate includes online access to PW's digital archive of 7,000+ issues published since 1872.

Dinghy/NSM Insurance Group

As of October 18, 2021, the Authors Guild is offering media liability insurance through Dinghy/NSM, which offers a streamlined enrollment and vetting process for insurance for 30 different writing-related occupations—from journalists and editors to book authors, bloggers, ghostwriters, and more—across 45 states (excluding writers in Alaska, Hawaii, Kentucky, Vermont, and Wyoming). Pricing starts at less than \$1/day (\$24/month for \$100,000 in coverage; \$39/month for \$1,000,000 in coverage). Members can choose to pay annually or by monthly installments with no interest charges. Insurance covers claims related to copyright infringement, defamation, public disclosure of private facts, and misappropriation of name or likeness.

While new discounted policies are no longer available through AXIS Pro, existing policies will continue in effect per their terms.

Model Translators Contract

In recognition that book translators have unique needs and face different issues than authors, in April 2021, we finalized our [model publishing contract for translators](#). Both that contract and our model [trade publishing](#)

[contract](#) are now available publicly for anyone interested in using them.

Recruiting Initiatives

To recruit new members to the Authors Guild, we deploy a variety of strategies and programs to grow a more diverse membership base that better reflects the overall author and American population. Some of these programs are:

Epiphany Mag Partnership

In 2021, we once again partnered with *Epiphany Magazine* to co-sponsor the Breakout Prize. Launched in 2018, the prize recognizes new outstanding literary voices and brings visibility to the writers of our future. This year's judges Nadia Owusu and Shane McCrae chose four winners to receive publication in *Epiphany*, a \$1,000 cash prize, a year-long mentorship, including a short manuscript review with *Epiphany's* editor-in-chief Rachel Lyon, a one-year membership with the Authors Guild, and a one-year subscription to the literary magazine.

Business Bootcamps for Writers

As part of our programming, we relaunched our Business Bootcamps for Writers series. Open to the public and aimed at educating writers on the different aspects of the business of writing such as querying agents, diversifying your income streams, different paths to publication, and more, the webinar series resulted in an increase in new member sign-ups in the weeks following the webinars.

Partnerships with Organizations

As part of our efforts to better serve a diverse community of writers and interests, we also partnered with organizations focused on promoting diversity in publishing such as the Asian American Writers' Workshop, the Harlem Writers Guild, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Las Musas, and the Nuyorican Poets Café.

Advertising

In fall 2021, we launched a “5 Reasons to Join the Guild” advertising campaign in *Poets & Writers* magazine, as well as for AWP’s upcoming conference program.

Newsletter Campaign

In 2021, we created a drip campaign designed to convert more readers of our biweekly newsletter into paid members by offering them an easy way to enroll.

Legal Services

Our legal department set a record in the last fiscal year for handling the greatest number of service requests from members. We responded to 15 percent more inquiries over fiscal year 2020, while continuing to keep up with our internship program despite everyone working remotely.

In FY 2021 we:

- Fielded 1,511 total queries
- Conducted 397 book contract reviews
- Conducted 121 agency contract reviews
- Advised on 67 reversion of rights inquiries
- Addressed 129 inquiries on copyright law, including infringement, registration, duration, and fair use
- Advised on 30 inquiries regarding securing permissions and privacy releases
- Provided counsel on 44 First Amendment queries
- Provided counsel or addressed 723 other inquiries, including electronic rights, literary estates, contract disputes, contract questions, periodical and multimedia contracts, movie and television options, internet piracy, liability insurance, finding an agent, and attorney referrals

Regional Chapters

We established our Regional Chapters initiative in 2018 to bring a sense of community to members throughout the country. We began with 14 chapters in various regions across the country. The ongoing pandemic necessitated a switch from live in-person meetings to virtual. These Zoom meetups helped maintain a sense of community and also resulted in the opportunity for more people to interact across geographic borders. Some virtual chapter events were open to other chapters and the membership at large.

We currently have active chapters in: Phoenix, AZ; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; Washington, D.C.; St. Petersburg/Tampa, FL; Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Raleigh-Durham, NC; Las Vegas, NV; New York, NY; Portland, OR; Philadelphia, PA; and Seattle, WA.

List of 2021 Chapter Events

January 13 - Conversation with Lisa Sharkey: The Publishing Process Inside a Large Publishing House, Los Angeles

January 21 - Chapters Meetup, Philadelphia

February 2 - Coping with COVID-19 as Writers, Seattle

March 23 - Audio Book Marketplace, New York

March 24 - Discussion with Veronica Alvarado, Los Angeles

April 7 - Chapter Meetup, Las Vegas and Phoenix

April 13 - Public Relations with Andrea Pass, New York

May 18 - Parent Writers with Pen Parentis, New York

July 20 - Paths to Publishing, New York

July 28 - Vetting Your Manuscript for Legal Red Flags, Los Angeles

September 23 - Meet the New Ambassadors, Portland

September 29 - Meet and Greet, Washington, D.C.

October 6 - Conversation with Caroline Leavitt, Los Angeles

October 10 - General Meeting, Philadelphia

October 13 - Inaugural Weekly Chat Meeting, Seattle

October 23 - Conversation with John Pitts, Tampa

November 18 - Setting New Goals, Creating a New Path, Washington D.C.

November 30 - NYC Zoom Chat, New York

December 8- Holiday Social, Los Angeles

December 15 - New Years Writing Resolution, Detroit (in-person)

December 16- General Meeting, Bay Area

Authors Guild Website

We continued to augment the content on our website this past year and to make materials easier to find within our existing structure. We published 384 new posts to the website in 2021, more than one post for every day of the year. We also made the decision to take some of our content out from behind the member wall, including the Model Trade Contract—per a unanimous vote of the Council. We worked hard with input from numerous agents on our new 2020 Model Contract and want it to be widely adopted. As such, we realized that it was not in our interest to keep it hidden to all but members. In total, 307,996 visitors viewed a total of 807,352 pages.

Built eight years ago, our website is due for a much-needed reorganization and redesign. That's why last year we hired Industrial, an agency that specializes in evaluating and designing websites for nonprofit associations, to perform a site audit to tell us how we might improve the organization of our website and make it easier for members and others to locate all our excellent resources. Industrial is now working with us on a site redesign based on the many good recommendations that came out of the audit.

New Redesign and Reorganization Coming Soon!

Based on the recommendations, the staff is now working on the following:

- Better organizing our content and navigation with clearer pathways to find the information that our users seek
- Highlighting all the services and support offered to members on the legal and business aspects of the writing life
- Rewriting content to be more responsive to how people read on the web: less text, more images, clear heading structures and calls to action
- Making content more SEO-friendly to drive traffic and attract more visitors

- Ensuring our website is easy to access and use for people with disabilities

- Creating a more modern, visually appealing, and engaging site more overall

Online Members Community Update

The Members Community section of our website continues to be a valuable forum for members to exchange ideas, ask questions, and have longer-term discussions. In 2021, engagement generated 1,732 thread discussions with 15,075 comments. Even more exciting was the creation of three new communities, bringing the total to 12. This includes a Wisconsin Chapter community and two genre-based forums—one for Romance Writers and one Mystery-Thriller-Suspense Writers—where members discuss genre-specific issues and share resources. The Romance Writers even decided to set up monthly review sessions in which interested members provide feedback on each other's manuscripts.

Most Popular Pages and Posts

Not surprisingly for a member-driven organization, the pages visited most often last year were those offering member-only content and assistance. Our [Web Services](#) page generated the most traffic, followed by our [Legal Services](#) page. The third most visited page was [An Author's Guide to Agency Agreements](#) which provides authors with recommended provisions to incorporate into any contract offer a publisher makes when acquiring a writer's book.

Our online readers this year gravitated towards posts with practical advice and newsworthy information. After California enacted its AB5 law to keep companies from misclassifying full- or part-time employees as freelance workers to avoid costly benefits, other states began considering using the ABC test to determine how best to classify workers, including freelance writers. [What is the ABC Test?](#) became our most-read post of 2021. [Our statement on W.W. Norton's decision to stop publishing nonfiction author Blake Bailey](#) was the second-most-read post of the year, while the announcement of our Fall 2021 [Business Bootcamps for Writers](#), a free series of interactive webi-

nars to learn about the business aspects of a successful writing career, was third.

Sitebuilder Author Websites

Sitebuilder is our low-cost, easy-to-use proprietary platform for members to quickly build effective websites. Author websites are essential today for promoting books and the author's brand. The Sitebuilder platform enables members to effortlessly build and update their sites themselves using a pre-built template—without the need to learn HTML or hire a designer. New members are entitled to have staff build their sites for them. The Authors Guild hosts and maintains these sites for a minimal fee.

In 2021, 2,421 members subscribed to our website services. We currently host 2,014 websites, manage 3,157 domain names, and 1,127 email accounts.

We activated 110 new authors' websites last year, deploying 118 Site Express applications. Authors can now choose from 77 different themes and color palettes to customize the website template to reflect the author's unique brand

Based on member feedback requesting better or enhanced features, below are updates and improvements we made to Sitebuilder in 2021:

- **Improved Onboarding Experience:** Members could always test drive the software, but now people can now fill out simple forms with information such as a biography, author photo, and information about works, and be presented with a full test website in a matter of minutes. Visit https://go.authorsguild.org/create_site.
- **New Hits Page:** Authors now get more information, including graphs, about which pages and posts generate the most traffic and where these hits come from. Sitebuilder users can now also search hits by dates.
- **Enhanced Site Features:** Want to add an image carousel to one's website? Or let site followers know new content has been posted? Members can now do both on

their home pages with the addition of banner images and a new notifications too

- **Turned on SSL for All Users:** SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) is a security technology that makes server to browser transactions safer by protecting sensitive data, such as a credit card number when a consumer purchases a copy of one's latest book from a website or online store. Even if members do not conduct any transactions on their websites, Google and other search engines penalize sites if SSL technology is not enabled and can make it difficult to access those sites. We've automatically turned on SSL for all site owners to ensure that members experience no site disruptions.

- **Improved SEO for Sites:** The more optimized the website the higher up on the page the site appears in a search. To improve where members' sites rank when a user conducts a search on Google, Facebook, or other search engine, Sitebuilder can now add per page meta descriptions and keywords, optimize posted images for SEO, and create sitemaps, all capabilities that Google and other search engines value.

- **Other Improvements:** We included the ability for users to upgrade their accounts, easier ways for authors to approve on their blogs, and additional options to the WYSIWYG editor.

Sitebuilder users who have questions about any of these new features should contact webservices@authorsguild.org.

Member Technology Updates

Other technology upgrades or changes include retiring the need to use a unique username to access the member-only sections of our website. Members can now login using just their email address and password. We've also updated our automated payment system to enable customized receipts making it easier for members to keep track of what they paid for, be it for web hosting through Sitebuilder or to pay dues.



As the leading nonprofit advocacy organization for published authors, journalists, and translators, we take an integrated, proactive approach to keep target audiences apprised of the latest issues and news impacting professional writers and the business of writing, as well as our educational programs, advocacy initiatives, services, and literary events. We conduct outreach to the following constituencies: members and potential members, publishing professionals, lawmakers and regulatory agencies, sister organizations, donors, public libraries, readers/book buyers, and news reporters and editors on pertinent issues relating to the publishing industry, as well as free speech, copyright, antitrust, and labor laws.

Press Releases

In 2021, we issued several press releases resulting in significant media coverage. The sale of *Fourteen Days*—a collaborative novel conceived by AG President Doug Preston about the early days of the pandemic when New York City was in lockdown—to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt generated the most coverage. We anticipate equal or even more coverage when the book is published in November 2022. Below is a list of press releases that we issued in 2021:

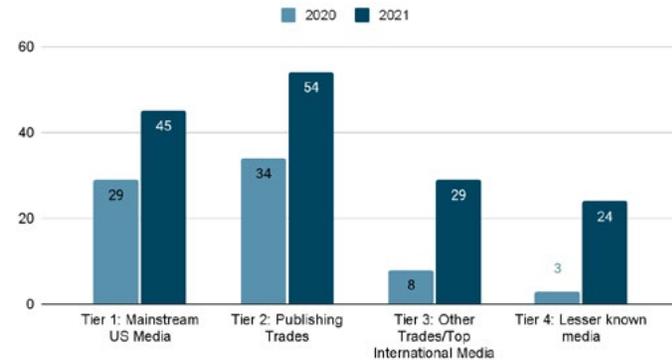
- [U.S. District Court Grants Win to Plaintiffs in Kiss Library E-Book Piracy Suit](#)
- [Virtual Business Bootcamps for Writers Return October 18](#)
- [#DisneyMustPay Task Force Begins Outreach to All Comic Book Creators Looking for Missing Royalties](#)
- [The Authors Guild Files Amicus Brief in Starz v. MGM](#)
- [The Authors Guild Foundation to Receive \\$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts](#)

- [The Authors Guild Goes Entrepreneurial with Launch of Writers Marketplace](#)
- [Authors Guild Foundation to Honor Louise Erdrich, Ibram X. Kendi and Chris Jackson at 2021 Virtual Gala](#)
- [Authors Guild Releases Model Book Contract to the General Public to Guide Writers When Negotiating with Trade Publishers](#)
- [Authors Guild Foundation Signs Deal with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to Publish COVID-Era Collaborative Novel *Fourteen Days*](#)
- [Authors Guild Foundation and Carol Shields Prize for Fiction Form Charitable Partnership to Benefit Women Writers](#)
- [Authors Guild Granted Observer Status for Standing Committee on Copyright And Related Rights by WIPO](#)
- [Nonprofit Development Professional Lynn Boulger Named Executive Director of The Authors Guild Foundation](#)

Top Media Coverage

Our proactive approach in sharing press releases and position statements paid off significantly in 2021, generating **more than 160 news stories**—a **120 percent increase** over 2020 as the chart on the right shows. Moreover, we experienced a rise in the number of stories appearing in mainstream news outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Harper's*, and *Slate*.

Media Coverage by Tier 2021 v 2020



The topics that generated the most coverage were:

Dept of Justice Sues Penguin Random House to Stop Simon & Schuster Merger	46 stories
Harcourt Houghton Mifflin to Publish AGF COVID-19 Novel <i>Fourteen Days</i>	18 stories
Audible/ACX Difficulties and AG's Role in Negotiating Fixes	8 stories
#DisneyMustPay Task Force	7 stories
Book banning and censorship	6 stories
E-book licensing to libraries laws	4 stories

Top Social Media Coverage

In 2021, our advocacy-related posts accounted for **58 percent of our Twitter engagement**. In our quest to reach younger writers, we also focused heavily on growing our Instagram presence, yielding a **64% increase in followers** as the chart on the right shows.

In terms of top social posts, followers reacted most strongly to messages that spoke to authors' financial concerns or how best to protect their work, such as our campaigns about the rise in book publishing scams, particularly Silver Ink, the introduction of our Model Translator Contract and re-vamped Model Trade Book Contract, and the heated #DisneyMustPay campaign, as shown on the right:

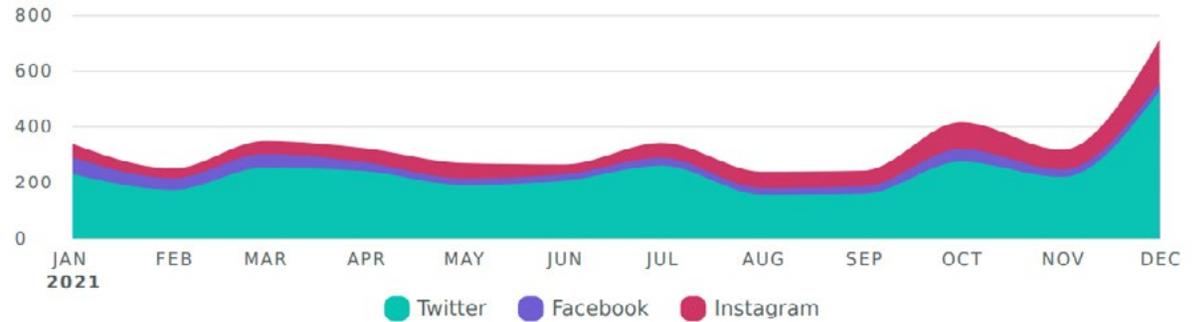
Community engagement is only heightened by social media outreach. Series like our "Experiences in Publishing," in which authors share the insights and obstacles they overcame to publish their first book and build a long-term career and fan base are particularly well-received. Recent posts from the series include:

[Stephen Graham Jones Reflects on the Publication of His Debut Novel](#)

[Janice Lee on Finding Support in an Indie](#)

[Courtney Maum from First Acceptance to Established Author](#)

Audience growth



Top Tweets

Tweet Content	Total Engagements	Likes	@Replies	Retweets	Post Link Clicks	Other Post Clicks	Other Engagements
PSA: Beware of the Silver Ink Literary Agency scam.	974	68	0	78	1	826	1
For the first time in at least 70 years, we are making our Model Trade Book Contract available to all. We hope authors will find it model useful, as its terms and	555	67	3	29	192	264	0
#DisneyMustPay Disney has been reprinting media tie-in works without notifying their creators who are contractually owed statements and	531	261	0	120	14	136	0



Programming

Educational Webinars

The Authors Guild Foundation provides free programs to support all authors in the business of writing. Our virtual events this past year focused especially on financial topics and career-building advice. Attendance continued to tick up, despite the reports of Zoom fatigue and burnout, with upwards of a thousand attendees for many of our webinars. About half of our live attendees were Guild members, with the other half tuning in after hearing about our events through email, social media, and partner organizations that help spread the word about the Guild's services and the unique community we provide.

Money Matters: The Road to Financial Literacy



Dedicated explicitly to financial matters as they concern book authors, journalists, and freelance writers, we contracted with Erin Lowry, author of the popular *Broke Millennial* series, to host 10 Money Matters sessions. Lowry and guest experts deftly explained the arcane and tackled the awkward questions we all have about money. [View Money Matters series on YouTube.](#)

- April 14, 2021 - Freelancer Finances: Negotiating Rates, Getting Paid, and Streamlining your Accounting
- April 29, 2021 - Royalty Statements: The Nuts and Bolts That Authors Should Know
- June 16, 2021 - All About Advances
- June 29, 2021 - Handling Student Loans (Without Having a Full-Blown Panic Attack)
- August 18, 2021 - Me, Myself, and ROI: Doing Your Own Marketing
- August 19, 2021 - Forming an Entity: When Should Authors Create an LLC or S Corp?
- September 23, 2021 - Estate Planning: Tips for Your Financial and Literary Legacy
- September 28, 2021 - Planning for Retirement as an Author and Freelancer
- November 16, 2021 - Navigating Difficult Conversations Around Money
- December 9, 2021 - Diversifying Your Income

From Manuscript to Marketplace



Funded with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the

New York State Legislature

This series features authors from various genres in discussion with agents and editors about what it took to find a publisher for their particular manuscripts and how they introduced and promoted that book upon publication. The discussions serve as case studies of the current realities of publicity, social media, virtual events, working with agents and editors, and more, offering insights and practical tips that authors can apply to their own quest to find the right home for their work. [View From Manuscript to Marketplace series on YouTube.](#)

- October 6, 2021 - *The Passenger*: Chaney Kwak in conversation with Joshua Bodwell
- November 9, 2021 - *The City of Good Death*: Priyanka Champaneri in conversation with Leigh Feldman and Nathan Rostron
- November 12, 2021 - *One of the Good Ones*: Maika Moulite in conversation with Maritza Moulite
- November 18, 2021 - *Lotería*: Karla Valenti in conversation with Ammi-Joan Paquette and Katherine Harrison
- December 2, 2021 - *The Centaur's Wife*: Amanda Leduc in conversation with Anne Collins and Samantha Haywood
- December 6, 2021 - *Sevastopol*: Zoë Perry and Emilio Fraia in conversation with Tynan Kogane

Business Bootcamps for Writers



Funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and support from Penguin Random House

In September 2021, we launched an ongoing, virtual version of our Business Bootcamps for Writers series, previously held in 2018 and 2019 as one-day intensives in cities across the country. The online format allows us to reach an enormous audience and bring new writers into the fold. Each session focuses on a different aspect of publishing, drawing on insights from authors, lawyers, agents, publishing professionals, book coaches, and publicists about the many paths to publication and building a career as a professional writer. These series particularly appeal to early and mid-career writers who often lack a grounding in the publishing process.

- October 18, 2021 - Paths to Publication: Traditional and Small Press with Mary Gannon, Judy Hottensen, Vivian Lee, Anne Trubek, Howard Yoon, and moderator Jane Friedman
- October 19, 2021 - Paths to Publication: Alternatives to Traditional Publishing with Tara Cremin, Darien Hsu Gee, Mark Lefebvre, L. Penelope, Brooke Warner, and moderator Jane Friedman
- October 26, 2021 - Finding Your Agent: 7 Steps to a Successful Query Letter and Mistakes to Avoid with Mayra Cuevas and Saritza Hernandez
- October 28, 2021 - Legal Vetting for Manuscripts to Manage Risk with Carolyn Levin
- November 1, 2021 - Your Legal Rights and Making Your Contracts Work for You with Umair Kazi and Adam Schear

- November 3, 2021 - The Editorial Acquisition Process: A Look Behind the Scenes with Jennifer Baker
- December 7, 2021 - Marketing for Indie Authors with Nicholas Erik, Pamela Kelley, Michael La Ronn, Susan Kaye Quinn, and moderator Jane Friedman.
- January 18, 2022 - Best Practices in Marketing, Promotion, and Reader Engagement with Dana Kaye, Vaishali Nayak, Leila Siddiqui, and moderator Jane Friedman
- February 4, 2022 - Making the Switch from Academic to Trade Publishing with Manan Ahmed, Sharmila Sen, Wendy Strothman, Molly Turpin, and moderator Richard Thompson Ford
- February 22, 2022 - Rejected: Emotional and Practical Tips to Move Forward with Bonnie Friedman and Terese Svoboda

Special thanks goes to our Business Bootcamps for Writers partner organizations: **Asian American Writers' Workshop, Blue Stoop, Broadleaf Writers Association, The Carnegie Center for Literary & Learning, The Harlem Writers Guild, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Las Musa and Nuyorican Poets Cafe.** These organizations have helped us shape the content for several events to ensure we meet the needs of diverse writers at every career stage, in a variety of genres, and across the country.

In spring 2022, we will return with another Business Bootcamps for Writers series, which will feature special topics developed with our partners to serve authors with niche interests or facing unique publishing challenges.

Black Voices

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Kelly Starling Lyons and Judy Allen Dodson, we hosted “Centering Black Voices: Short-Term Progress or Sustainable Change?” on July 28, 2021. Featuring Carl Lennertz of The Children’s Book Council and Wade and Cheryl Hudson of Just Us Books, the discussion reviewed past efforts to push for equity in the publishing industry and how 2021 was different in the wake of the protests to the tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Paula Chase of The Brown Bookshelf and Denise Adusei of Black Creators in Kidlit also discussed new organizations and programs that have launched this past year to support Black authors.

Festival and Conference Partnerships

We collaborate with literary organizations around the country to sponsor and produce events that address the unique needs of different writers. This enables us to increase awareness of the Authors Guild and the Authors Guild Foundation while furthering our collective mission to support all working writers.

- February-November 2021 - The Brown Bookshelf Presents: Amplify Black Stories 2021 in partnership with the Highlights Foundation
- December 7-10, 2021 - Latinx Kidlit Book Festival
- January 21, 2022 - *Epiphany* 2022 Breakout Writers Prize Winners announced
- January 22, 2022 - DVcon: Build-a-Brand: A Marketing & Publicity Panel

2022 AWP Conference and Bookfair

We are once again a literary partner for the Association of Writers & Writing Programs’ annual conference, taking place in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, March 23–26, 2022. The Authors Guild will have a booth at the conference and will host a featured event and a book marketing panel.

- March 25, 2022, 12:10 p.m. EST - Book Tour Revolution: Strategies for the Current World with Erin Lowry, Priyanka Champaneri, Chloe Gong, Tim Herrera, and Kwame Mbalia
- March 26, 2022, 3:20 p.m. EST - Rivka Galchen and Ruth Ozeki in conversation; moderated by Zachary Steele

Authors Guild Members-Only Events

The following programs for Authors Guild members addressed advocacy issues and the state of the industry.

- March 16, 2021 - Trends and Opportunities in Publishing 2021 with Jane Friedman, Andy Hunter, Michael Cader, Ayesha Pande, and AG’s Umair Kazi and Cheryl Davis
- April 9, 2021 - The PRO Act: How Would It Impact Freelance Writers? with Mary Rasenberger and Umair Kazi
- June 10, 2021 - The Best Time for Books Since Gutenberg with Markus Dohle and Mary Rasenberger

- September 13, 2021 - Book Buyers of Color: Unlocking America's Next Growth Markets with Peter Hildick-Smith, Cheryl Davis, and Mary Rasenberger

In the year ahead, we'll provide an array of programs on our model trade book contract, our new literary translation model contract, book marketing and publicity, and other in-demand topics.

While we look forward to hitting the road for in-person events in the future, we are also committed to continuing virtual events that are easily accessible and allow us to reach all the writers who need our support.

Fundraising

In fiscal year 2021, we raised \$1,502,598 from nearly 900 donors. Our efforts yielded a 25 percent increase in total dollars raised (up from \$1,201,574), a 30 percent increase in Giving Society members (up from 100) and a five percent increase in the total number of donors (up from 857) in 2020. We also secured an advance from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the publication of the Authors Guild's collaborative novel *Fourteen Days* which will be published in the fall of 2022.

2021 Authors Guild Foundation Gala

The 2021 Authors Guild Foundation Gala on May 18 was a free, online event hosted by Samantha Bee honoring Louise Erdrich, Ibram X. Kendi, and Christopher Jackson for his One World imprint. With Books that Inspire Change as our theme, one event highlight featured short videos of well-known authors discussing the books that inspired them. Over 900 people registered for the event from all over the country.

The 2022 AGF Gala will also be held online on Monday, May 9, 2022. Award winners include David and Michelle Baldacci for their distinguished service to the literary community and Amanda Gorman for her inspirational poetry that demonstrates the impact of art as activism. Rita Dove will host a conversation with Ms. Gorman as a highlight of the event. Stay tuned for more information.

Guild Nights

Both fundraising and friend-raising events, Guild Nights are dinner parties held in private homes and feature a guest author. While Guild Nights planned for the winter of 2021 in NYC were canceled due to the pandemic, we organized 10 events in Maine during the summer, creating a new group of donors and friends. Authors included Heather Cox Richardson, Doug Preston, Monica Wood, Christina Baker Kline, Stuart Kestenbaum, Roxana Robinson, Dan Brown, Michael Chabon and Ayele Waldman, Jonathan Taplin, and Tess Gerritsen. We have already lined up a new series of Guild Nights for this spring and summer. They will be held in New York City, Maine, the Berkshires, and Cape Cod.

WIT Series and Festival



Throughout 2021, we hosted our online WIT: Words, Ideas, and Thinkers series of one-hour discussions that included noted writers Jia Tolentino, James Shapiro, Sam Sifton, Ronan Farrow, Jay McInerney, Roxana Robinson, André Hueston Mack, David Baldacci, David Grann, Doug Preston, Ralph Eubanks, Christina Baker Kline, and Ted Widmer, among others.

We will launch our inaugural WIT: Words, Ideas, and Thinkers Festival on the campus of Shakespeare & Co. in Lenox, Massachusetts from September 22-24, 2022. This live, three-day festival will celebrate America's rich body of literature, explore critical contemporary challenges, amplify new voices and perspectives, and feature conversations with some of the nation's most highly regarded authors and thought leaders. In this way, the WIT Festival will introduce and reinforce to donors, book lovers and

the general public the importance of the Author's Guild mission to build a supportive community of authors and advocate for the rights of working writers and journalists and the continued need for a thriving literary culture in the United States.

The theme will be Reimagining America, featuring conversations, presentations, panels, and talks related to the many ways we conceive of and experience the United States, including topics like social justice, climate change, the meaning of identity, reimagining history, how the arts accelerate social movements, alternative Americas, the impacts of tech and artificial intelligence, and visions for our future.

Confirmed speakers include:

- David Blight
- Niko Bowie
- Dan Brown
- Linda Greenhouse
- Elizabeth Kolbert

Speakers pending: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Jennifer Egan, Bill Gates, Samantha Power, and others.

While the event is free and open to the public, space is limited. Donors who join or are already members of the Giving Society will have access to early registration as well as preferential seating. Giving Society members will also have the opportunity to attend receptions, book signings, and smaller private ticketed dinner parties on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Thursday night's dinner is at Edith Wharton's home, The Mount.

The Berkshire Eagle will serve as the WIT Festival's media sponsor to help promote the event locally. Every session will be video recorded and shared with our 12,000 members as well as the greater public on the AGF website, pushed via social media channels. We are also exploring the possibility of having the talks air on the local NPR's public forum show.

The Authors Registry



The Authors Registry was created in 1995 to distribute fees and royalties that were collected, mainly in foreign jurisdictions, for photocopying and electronic use in educational, business, and governmental institutions, as well as for library lending payments, on behalf of U.S. authors. Library lending royalties had not previously been paid out to U.S. authors.

These royalties and fees come from a variety of sources, with most currently coming from the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, which collects fees for secondary uses of copyrighted work, such as photocopies, cable retransmissions, digital reproductions, and educational recordings, throughout the U.K. The Authors Registry also disburses fees collected by the Dutch agency LIRA, which sends the Authors Registry royalties for American

authors from libraries under the Netherland's Public Lending Right. In 2021, the Authors Registry distributed over \$2.3 million to more than 6,000 American authors. To date, the total distributed is over \$40 million. Payments range from a few dollars to a few thousand. The Authors Registry pays authors of academic, nonfiction, fiction, children's, and every other category of literature and charges a fee of 10% on all distributions.



THE AUTHORS LEAGUE FUND

The Authors League Fund was founded in 1917 to help authors, journalists, poets, and dramatists during financial emergencies. The Fund provides direct aid for urgent needs, such as rent/mortgage, utilities, groceries, and medical bills. With the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of writers across the U.S. saw a sudden and dramatic loss of income. The Authors League Fund immediately shifted its focus to address this need, while continuing to help writers with medical crises and older writers living on a fixed income. In 2021, the Fund gave \$600,000 to 200 writers.

The Authors League Fund is a sister organization to the Authors Guild that encourages Guild members to apply for support if needed and to spread the word about its assistance to colleagues. The Authors League Fund helps any writer living in the U.S. and American writers living abroad; Authors Guild membership is not required. Apply online at www.authorsleaguefund.org.

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