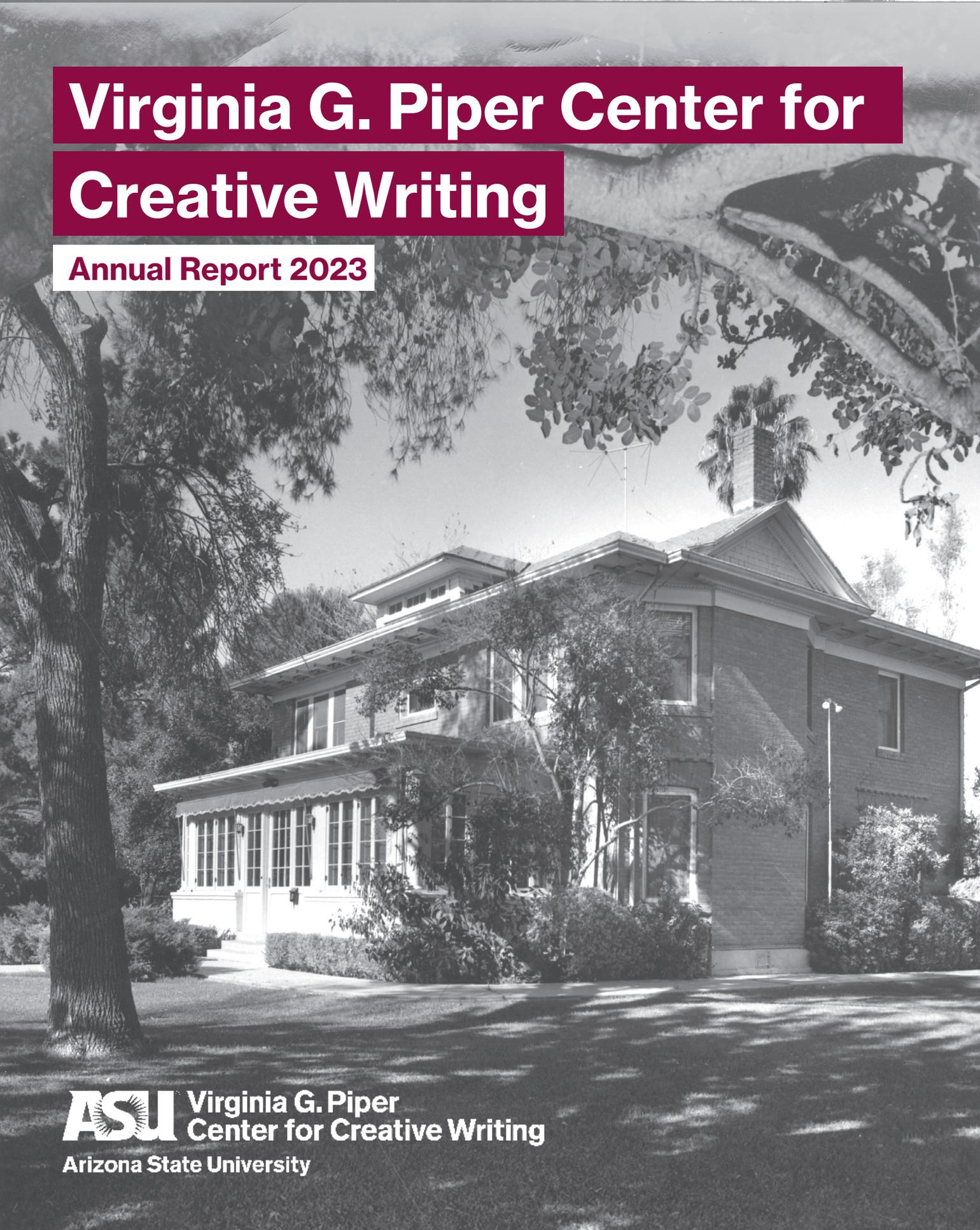


Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

Annual Report 2023



ASU Virginia G. Piper
Center for Creative Writing
Arizona State University

The teachers were knowledgeable about the subject. I particularly liked the bit about character development. **The instructor and subject were both excellent - honed in on a specific craft topic and packed so much info into two hours, while still remaining conversational and accessible. I would take another class with him in a heartbeat!** Unique subject for discussion. Got us thinking about what violence means to us as individual writers. I liked the opportunity to participate over zoom. At first I didn't think that it would be a topic that I necessarily use in my writing, but his presentation gave me so much information that can take my writing to another dimension. I really appreciate the breakdowns of the elements of horror/violence; in itself it is a huge subject. He is an excellent teacher. And last it was a reasonable price. **I felt like I got my money's worth because of how useful the information was and the orderliness of the presentation!** Thanks so much! Liked the subject matter, the instructor was engaging and knowledgeable. I liked the organization of the material. Thanks for all you do! Looking forward to more classes. Just thank you again. **These online classes have been very important creatively.** Some people don't applaud zoom meetings probably because they are meetings but these have opened up the world to me because locally I wouldn't be able to find much like them. I can't say enough about them and I do share the information about your center with lots of people. Thanks for all you do! Looking forward to more classes. Warm, collegial, welcoming vibe. Fun time that gave me tools for art journaling. The teacher was experienced. It was nice that the class was small! **I'm used to huge lecture classes where you don't get to talk to the teacher very much, it was nice that this class felt like a conversation** I liked her approach to the material and the course. She's dynamic, open, and friendly. She demystified the comic-writing process. She also encouraged us to ask questions (judgement-free) that she answered as we moved through the content. She's so knowledgeable AND well read; obviously she only got to share a fraction of what she clearly knows. She generously offered to workshop our writing, which shows that she is genuinely interested in encouraging and mentoring other writers. Overall, I left with lots of tips and guidance, and a stronger sense of how to draft a graphic novel. Finally, as a queer woman, I appreciated her queer openness. **Super knowledgeable and encouraging.** The class itself was great! I'd love to see more workshops like this about visual/script writing. I'm grateful I was able to attend and learn more about writing visually! Super great speaker, learned a lot. Love that the Piper Center is embracing hybrid form and comics/sequential visual storytelling. Thanks for offering this and other new and different offerings - and at a nice student rate, too! I'd like to take another course with her. **I was so impressed with this course that I signed up for another related course that day.** I have written identity poems before but this was the first time I looked

Words hold power.

"Say it and I will understand it. Say it well and I will feel it!"

– Alberto Ríos

Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

Annual Report 2023



Alberto Ríos
Director



Christie Mills
Associate Director



Sheila Black
Assistant Director



Susan Nguyen
Senior Editor
Hayden's Ferry Review



Jacqueline
Balderrama
Fellow-in-Residence



Joy Young
Educational Programs
Coordinator



Iliana Garcia
Events Manager



K'Ehleyr McNulty
Coordinator for
Outreach Programs



Laurel Streed
Digital Marketing
Specialist

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**"Passion equates to trying hard,
to intention and investment"**

Adaptation is creative energy

Director Alberto Ríos stands among saguaro in the Sonoran Desert. Photograph by Justine Garcia Photography.

Dear Friends,

2023 was a springtime for Piper—a new team, new resolution, and a year-long strategic planning process that both led us to reaffirm where we've always been and to explore genuine new pathways.

All my life I've been a goose-gone lover of language. Some years ago, I tried to figure out for myself what that might mean, and I came up with this idea: "Say it and I will understand it. **Say it well and I will feel it!**" At Piper we always want to be on the side of saying it well. We want to help people access the most engaged, urgent, and meaningful language inside them—then to share it as they choose. Perhaps even more important is simply to know that they can find those words.

In our strategic planning (about which you will read more later in this report), we focused on the question of how—as in "How do we maintain a high quality of teaching, learning, and knowledge sharing? How do we best serve you as your center for creative writing? How do we make sure we are including and honoring the communities around us—all of us who live in the unique Valley of the Sun metro area as well as the diverse and innovative ASU community, which we are so fortunate to be part of.

We are still asking and will continue to explore these questions, but we have come to a couple of conclusions. **For us, passion equates to trying hard, to intention and investment.** Through our strategic planning, the Piper team has focused on building a framework of intentional value and respect—for each other, for our communities, and for the tools and possibilities of language itself. We have some new workplans and lots of new ideas, but we're sticking with the values that were part of the original intent of the Piper Center—to be goodhearted, meaningful, joyful, and always forward-thinking in our approach to language and story. We stand for the party of saying it so you can feel it and once a thing is said and said well, we believe profoundly in the wisdom of sharing it.

Thank you for your support over this past year of so much growth and change. I'll sign off again as I did last year. Please know Piper will do our best to help – wherever you are in your journey as a storyteller, writer, or reader.



Who we are

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing is here to provide you with ways to engage with the literary arts whether you are a lover of literature, an emerging, or practiced writer.

Who is Virginia G. Piper?

The Piper Center proudly bears the name of Virginia G. Piper, one of the most influential and beloved philanthropists in the Southwest. A love of words and a belief in the value of literature were central to Virginia G. Piper's life.

In 2003, she made a historic gift to ASU through the Virginia G. Piper Trust to endow the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. In line with her vision, the Piper Center is charged with enriching the lives of the people across Maricopa County by providing access to excellent literary programming.



Our Historic Building

The Piper Writers House was constructed in 1907, one of three original historical buildings on the ASU Tempe Campus. The house has served as the residence for three ASU presidents and subsequently housed the Alumni Association offices and the University Archives. Today, the Piper House is a lively center for lectures, readings, and creative writing classes and workshops. Piper staff have their offices on the second floor. The historic rooms and surrounding gardens make Piper Writers House the perfect place for reading, writing, sharing, and gathering.



The Piper Writers House c. 1920

See if you can spot John Arthur Matthew's dog on the front path. Photograph provided by ASU Library.

What we do

In 2023, Piper Staff engaged in a year-long strategic planning effort. We put our hearts and minds to the task and came up with a new vision to guide our activities: **"Making literary exploration a space for everyone."**

Through fair cost classes, workshops, free readings, lectures, and our annual Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference, we serve EARL – educators, artists, readers, learners. Wherever you are at on your writing (and reading) journey, we seek to meet you there.

Our values:

- To authentically support literary exploration
- To inspire, cultivate, and connect through literary activities
- To support all who seek community in the literary arts.

SEPT

9/7 Hayden's Ferry Review Issue 70
Virtual Reading

DEC

12/1 MFA Poetry Gathering

OCT

10/25 Thousand Languages
Virtual Launch Celebration

JAN

1/5 Director Alberto Ríos speaks at Governor Hobbs's inauguration ceremony

NOV

11/1 HFR Coffee Chat

11/30 ASU Book Group reads *Dear Diaspora* by Susan Nguyen

FEB

2/3 MFA Poetry reading

MARCH

3/3 Distinguished Visitng Writers: Andrew Sean Greer & Amanda Eyre Ward

APRIL

4/1 Explore Translation with Thousand Languages Panel at the Northern AZ Book Festival

MAY

5/4 ISSUED: Stories of Service Launch

* Names may not be listed for events with multiple speakers

A year of revisioning!

12/6 Thousand Languages
Project Fall Intern Spotlight

1/12 Literary Translation
Panel with with Rachel Galvin,
Daniel Borzutzky, and Sarah
Viren

2/8 Black History Month
Open Mic Poetry Reading

2/16 Distinguished Visiting
Writers: Cynthia Hogue &
Wendy Barker

2/18 Introduction to
Memoir with Matt Ferraz

2/25 ASU Open
Door: Typewriter
Poets and House
Tours

3/21 Creating Vivid
Characters with
Ellen Birkett Morris

3/21 Co-sponsored
Translating
Gender in Sappho with Diane
J Rayor

3/30 Imagining Our Stories: The
Marriage of Speculative Fiction
and Black Feminine Storytelling
with Candice Lola

4/7 Peace Corp and visiting
author Kamaka Dias

4/17 PXU Pride Summit
tabling

4/13 The Department of You
Poetry Workshop: Engaging with
the Violence of Bureaucracy with
Dare Williams

4/28 Poetry Open
Mic

5/6 Thousand Languages
Spring Intern Spotlight

5/25 Rez Babes Book Club,
in-person gathering ahead
of DVWS reading

5/24 Distinguished Visiting
Writers: Tommy Orange & Debra
Magpie Earling

Supporting writers at every stage

The Piper Writers Studio offers a diverse array of creative writing classes, workshops, and other in-depth educational opportunities across multiple genres, subject areas, and levels of skill.

The Piper Writers Studio (PWS) seeks to meet writers where they are, offering an array of creative writing workshops in all major genres from the business of writing to editing your manuscript. Whether you are a brand-new writer or a writer with substantial publications, we have the perfect class or workshop for you.

Last year, PWS offered 14 classes with an average class size of nine. Offerings included “Creating Vivid Characters,” with Ellen Birkett Morris; “Promoting Your Poetry Book,” with Laura Van Prooyen; “Imagining Our Stories: The Marriage of Speculative Fiction and Black Feminine Storytelling,” with Candice Lola; “How to Get an Agent,” with Jeff Kleinman; and “Novel Boot Camp,” with Jenny Benjamin.

Who are instructors are: All PWS instructors are published, experienced, and often prizewinning authors, or experienced industry professionals. PWS instructors have a passion for sharing what they know and supporting writers at all levels.

Learn more about the Piper Writers Studio and browse upcoming classes and workshops at piper.asu.edu/classes

Everyone has a story

It's our job to help them write it down. Hear from some of our students in the Piper Writers Studio (PWS):

The Joy of Sharing

"Thank you for making a first-time writing-reading experience and refreshments for us a joyful time. The afternoon was perfect; everyone is still glowing. Inviting Piper instructors enabled them to hear finished creations they might never have seen or heard."

Tangible Inspiration

"I love virtual classes where I can leave with something tangible. Getting the packet especially was such a fun bonus – constraints can inspire, and working with the materials I was sent led me to ideas I wouldn't have had otherwise. Overall a great pandemic alternative to being in the same room together."

A participant has enabled Closed Captioning Who can see this transcript? X

[SAMPLE QUERY LETTER]

15 July 2013

Ms. Erin Niumata
Folio Literary Management, LLC
630 9th Avenue, Suite 1101
New York, NY 10036

Re: *My Dog Eliot*

Dear Ms. Niumata:

You may remember that we met yesterday at the water cooler. [or, next best] I recently completed a novel that is similar to *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, which I know your agency represents, and I thought you might want to take a look at it. [or, next best] I read your listing in Literary Marketplace, and thought that you might be interested in taking a look at a novel I just completed.

I have been writing for the past twenty-seven years. My short stories have appeared in *Playboy*, *GQ*, and *Martha Stewart Living*. [or] I am an avid dog-owner, and have owned the same dog for the past twelve years.

My Dog Eliot, a novel of 97,000 words, tells of these experiences. It is similar to *The Great Gatsby* only in that both novels are written in English.

Since I know you are an avid dog fan, I am writing to ask if you would be interested in representing me. I am enclosing an outline, synopsis, sample chapter(s), press clippings about my other published works, endorsements by: (1) bestselling authors; (2) celebrities; (3) experts; (4) other people who really would be useful for endorsements, and, of course, a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage if I want all of my materials returned to me.

This is on a multiple submission. If you are interested in reading the entire manuscript, however, I will be happy to give you exclusivity for six weeks.

Sincerely yours,
Jeff Kleinman

The Hook

Professional or interesting personal background. Why the author is the best person to tell about the novel

Information about the novel

Possible comparison to another novel

Submission information

Jeff Kleinman

folio literary management

From national bestsellers to your local community...

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series presents iconic writers alongside emerging voices for talks, readings, and other innovative and multi-genre literary engagements.

February 6: Poets Cynthia Hogue and Wendy Barker in reading and conversation. An audience of 52 poetry fans packed Piper Writers House. Sadly, Wendy Barker passed away a month later, making this her very last reading, and one in which she truly brought down the house.

March 3: An evening with Andrew Sean Greer, author of *Less* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize) and Amanda Eyre Ward, author of *The Jetsetters* and *The Lifeguards*. Friends since graduate school, these two bestselling novelists charmed and delighted an audience of 70-plus at Changing Hands Bookstore, Phoenix.

May 4: Veterans' poetry in partnership with *ISSUED*, a new magazine for service members. Brian Turner, author of *Here, Bullet* and *My Life as a Foreign Country*, joined poets Hugh Martin, Vincent Cooper, and Tonya Suther in a reading, followed by a conversation moderated by Phoenix Poet Laureate Rosemarie Dombrowski. OVMAE partnered with us to get out the word and over 50 veterans and their family members came out for the event at Changing Hands Bookstore, Phoenix.

May 25: Debra Magpie Earling, author of *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* and Tommy Orange, author of *There, There* in reading and conversation. The event at Changing Hands Bookstore, Phoenix, drew an audience of 80-plus. April Ignacio and other members of the Rez Babes Book Club moderated the conversation in a joyful conclusion to our 2023 DVWS season.

Learn more about this series at piper.asu.edu/DVWS



A gathering of hearts and minds

The Desert Nights, Rising Stars (DNRS) Writers Conference is an annual celebration of literary craft, culture, and community.

DNRS offers writers of all ages, interests, and levels of experience the opportunity to gather in a mutually supportive community and learn about the craft and practice of creative writing.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, DNRS was not held in 2022. However, we will be hosting an in-person conference for 2023. This year our keynote speaker is internationally renowned poet Joy Harjo. Stay tuned for an extraordinary gathering of hearts and minds.

Learn more about the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference at piper.asu.edu/conference

The poster features a teal background with a white cloud pattern. At the top left is the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing logo. The main title 'Desert Nights Rising Stars' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Desert Nights' in orange and 'Rising Stars' in yellow. To the right is a portrait of Joy Harjo with a red starburst graphic that says 'KEYNOTE SPEAKER'. Below the portrait, the dates 'OCTOBER 12-14 2023' and location 'TEMPE, AZ' are listed. At the bottom, a white button contains the text 'WRITERS CONFERENCE' and a URL 'LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT PIPER.ASU.EDU/CONFERENCE'.

Communities are built from stories

Community-embedded teaching artists, in-school writing programs, youth leadership, and a network of support strengthen local communities by connecting them with the tools and resources they need.

Outreach programs at the Piper Writers House are ever-evolving. From hosting events and connecting with community, to hiring teaching artists, Outreach strives to create a space for community expression and healing. Outreach provides creative writing workshops, at no cost, that support artists and readers of all backgrounds and experience levels.

This year, Outreach focused on reconnecting with partner organizations, local artists, and community members to rebuild partnerships and bring together a cohort of teaching artists that we're excited to launch in the fall of 2023. March saw the relaunch of our Veteran's Writing Circle which brings together veterans across the nation to share their stories and connect across genres in generative workshops, led by local veteran and poet AJ Baumel.

Learn more about Outreach programs and explore possibilities for partnership and collaboration at piper.asu.edu/outreach

We look forward to launching programs at several sites throughout Arizona in 2023, including partnerships with Dunbar Elementary School, BASIS Scottsdale, one•n•ten, and the Rez Babes Book Club. We're also excited to bring free workshops, open to the public, to the Piper Writers House on a monthly basis and to continue serving veterans through the Veteran's Writing Circle. Through a partnership with Community Word Project's Teaching Artist Program, we're able to bring a two-day professional development opportunity to our cohort of teaching artists where we will begin to build community ahead of the program year!



Black History Month Open Mic

On February 8, Outreach programs held a celebratory Black History Month Open Mic at the Piper Writers House. Local poets, Clottee Hammons and Sean Avery Medlin were the featured artists for the evening and opened the house with moving pieces.

Artists of all types were encouraged to attend and share their work, Outreach worked with and thanks the Black African Coalition, the Black Student Association at Barrett, and the ASU Black Alumni Chapter for sharing the event with their memberships. A total of 28 community members attended, and two shared their poetry. Great discussion followed the open mic, and folks found new community connections. We look forward to future collaborations!

Poetry Out Loud

As the Central Region coordinators for Poetry Out Loud, Piper staff supported ten schools and their contestants with coaching before the regional competition held on February 18. We were able to bring coaching sessions to all schools virtually, including sending out recordings for review, and made new connections with teaching artists in Tucson and Flagstaff. At the competition on February 18, nine in-person and one virtual contestant recited their chosen poems in front of family, friends, and community members, about 60 total attendees.

Veteran's Writing Circle

Piper is proud to have relaunched the Veterans Writing Circle in March of 2023. Lead by poet and veteran, AJ Baumel through July, attendees were able to connect across intersections of identity in a safe and welcoming, virtual environment. This circle is veteran led and veteran focused. We encourage veterans and their relatives to join us. All skill levels and genres are welcome!

Over five meetings from March-June, we had 16 total attendees. We look forward to growing this circle and have welcomed poet and veteran, Vincent Cooper, as the teaching artist for this circle beginning in August 2023.

Learn more at piper.asu.edu/veterans/writingcircle

Hiring Teaching Artists

After programs slowed or ended due to the global pandemic, new Piper staff spent time recruiting teaching artists and reconnecting with local organizations to plan invigorating community-led partnerships. We're excited to announce that as a result of the recruitment process, we are now working with twelve artists in many different capacities and across communities. Our artists' backgrounds and experiences are as varied as the communities they work with and include spoken word artists, page poets, fiction writers, filmmakers, and educators, to name a few. We are immensely grateful that their expertise and labor allow us the opportunity to provide creative writing services for youth and adults alike and look forward to launching all programs in the fall of 2023!

Enriching education

Advancing research

Fellowships, research funding, and other forms of support provide vital professional development opportunities for creative writing students and faculty.

One of the most important aspects of a creative writing career is the ability to access professional development education and opportunities, including presenting at conferences, attending residencies, teaching in new environments, and conducting research. Virginia G. Piper Fellowships provide funding support for students and faculty in these endeavors, and the Piper Center's professional development program series offers mentorship from experienced writers and professionals across a wide range of specialties and skill sets. These programs empower writers to put their education into practice while giving back to the community, setting them up for long-term success in the professional literary field.

Learn more about fellowship support and other professional opportunities for faculty and students at piper.asu.edu/fellowships



ASU MFA student Ayling Dominguez

Fellowships

Virginia G. Piper Fellowships are highly competitive, merit-based awards that fuel teaching exchanges, research, participation in residencies, presentations at conferences, and other projects and opportunities with a creative writing focus.

This year, the Piper Center received over 60 applications for our student and community fellowships. In total, the center distributed over \$80,000 in fellowship funding. Our competitive fellowships fund professional development opportunities, research, and the completion of creative writing projects for creative writing students, faculty, and Arizona literary community.

We were excited to announce this year a restructuring of our fellowships, which provided Arizona creative writers with more precise language and easier access to fellowship opportunities.

Students today. Authors tomorrow.

“Being a fellowship recipient allowed me to research Mexican and Dominican archives, and begin structuring what is to be my first manuscript. The poems I was able to write with the help of the fellowship would not have been possible without it and the time I was granted through this resource.”

-Ayling Dominguez, MFA Student

Scholar in Creative Writing Fellowship

A \$5,000 summer stipend to support a 1st or 2nd year ASU MFA student in completing a poetry or fiction manuscript or another significant literary arts project.

Cultural Exchange in the Literary Arts

A \$5,000 stipend to support a significant literary project with a cross-cultural, multicultural, or international focus. This fellowship is open to individuals or small teams with a lead artist based in Arizona, including but not limited to current ASU MFA students, ASU undergraduates, and individual Arizona-based community members, or members of a small creative team led by an individual based in Arizona.

Professional Development Fund

A stipend of up to \$1,500 to support current ASU MFA in Creative Writing students in accessing professional development opportunities.

Submission and Reading Fees Fund

A stipend of up to \$350 each year to ASU MFA in Creative Writing students to assist in covering reading and submission fees.

Hayden's Ferry Review

Founded in 1986, *Hayden's Ferry Review* (*HFR*) is the international, semi-annual literary journal curated by the MFA students in creative writing at ASU. The journal publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, translation, art, and interviews by emerging and established authors, artists, and translators. The journal is supported by a senior editor, student managing editor, genre editors, associate editors, and graduate and undergraduate interns.

HFR published issues 70, 71, and 72. Issue 72 featured a "Re-mix" theme, and the journal put out a call for creative work that embraced re-imagination in all its possibilities; forced us to re-consider myth, memory, and history as they're known; and re-consider the bounds of form and convention. *HFR* also published three web issues, including two art issues titled "Off Season" and "Re-mix: An Online Art Companion," and also launched a web series, "Tiny Architectures", which featured writing that functions in miniature and engages with visual and figurative architecture.



Jacqueline Balderrama and Susan Nguyen at the AWP Conference in Seattle.

Editors had the opportunity to interview renowned authors, such as Layli Long Soldier, K-Ming Chang, and Bojan Louis, and to review books by Rio Cortez and V. Ruiz, among others. A new micro-interview series, "Core Memories", was introduced. In the fall, *HFR* hosted a craft chat supported by an Arizona Humanities Mini Grant and which featured Lucy Zhang and Nkosi Nkululeko. In the spring, interns led drop-in writing sessions and an open mic in celebration of National Poetry Month in April.

Read excerpts from *HFR*'s latest issues on haydensferryreview.com

Looking ahead

In the coming year, *HFR* is excited to announce the award recipients of its inaugural Indigenous Poets Prize, to draft a mission statement that reflects its values, and to introduce an annual contest. The journal will transition into a course for the first time, which will be led by Senior Editor Susan Nguyen.



HFR hosted a spring Coffee Chat on 3/30 which featured three multi-genre writers

Hayden's Ferry Review

The *HFR* blog, which regularly publishes interviews and book reviews, introduced two new blog series: "Solid Objects," which asks writers about the objects most essential to their creative practice, and "3 Questions," which is a micro-interview series with contributors in each forthcoming issue.

Publications

HFR published and hosted virtual launches for issue 71 and issue 72: "Re-mix," as well as "Re-mix: An Online Art Companion," and two web series ("Tiny Architectures" in fall 2022 and "Revolutionary Forms" in spring 2023).

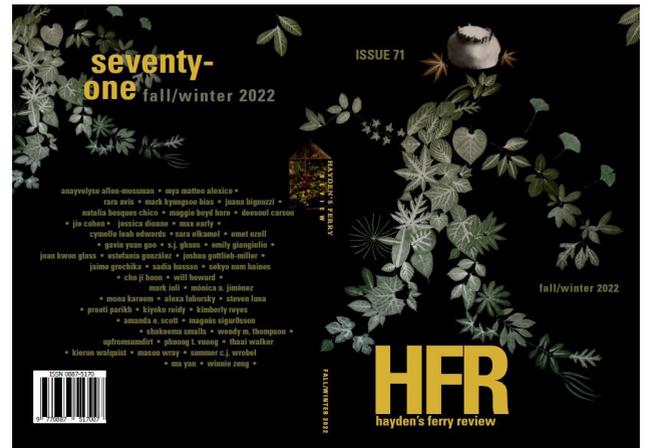
Awards and grants

Received an AZ Humanities Mini Grant in fall 2022, which provided funds for the inaugural Fall Language Series. The Fall Language Series included the Thousand Languages Project launch on 10/25 and an *HFR* Coffee Chat on 11/1.

In winter 2022, we learned that issue 67: "Haunted" was named a "notable special issue" by *Best American Essays 2022*.

Poetry Month

HFR (in collaboration with the Thousand Languages Project, Piper Center, Center for the Imagination in the Borderlands, and *Red Ink Journal*) hosted its inaugural Indigenous Poets Contest. *HFR* interns shared virtual poetry prompts in April for National Poetry Month. The month culminated with an in-person open mic for community members at the Piper House.



HFR issues 72 and 71.



Thousand Languages Project

The Thousand Languages Project is a living, ever-developing database of literary translation drawn from thirty years of back issues of *Hayden's Ferry Review (HFR)*. It contains work by emerging and established writers alike, translated from their original English into manifold languages. To facilitate the work of translation, Thousand Languages partners with ASU's English Department to offer internships to graduate and undergraduate students each year.

This year, continuing under the leadership of Piper Fellow-in-Residence Jacqueline Balderrama, the project reaffirmed its mission to support translations and advance connections to a multilingual community. In the fall, Thousand Languages celebrated the launch of its first and second issues and introduced the special project internship, allowing monolingual students or those interested in non-translation projects to participate.



Over the course of the year, eight undergraduate and five graduate students interned. Translations were completed into Indonesian, Chinese, Urdu, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, and Italian and will be featured in the third installment of translations on the database. This issue will have a record number of 24 poems and stories, many of which were translated into more than one language. Students were supported with regular meetings with Jacqueline Balderrama, correspondence with an expert in their language, and invitations to co-sponsored events on campus with guest translators, Rachel Galvin, Daniel Borzutzky, Sarah Viren, and Diane J. Rayor. With this year's contributions, Thousand Languages database will have a total of 10 languages represented in annual issues.

Interns leading special projects were instrumental in building community connection. Undergraduate Acacia Wastchak administered the Earth Day Translation Challenge in Aix-en-Provence, France, and Christopher Hoshnic led a "Landscapes of Language" community poem event presented alongside panelists at the Northern Arizona Book Festival. Other projects mark the beginning of Thousand Languages' database as a resource for teachers and students. Graduate students Cecilia Savala explored ekphrasis by translating artwork into poetry, and Shahzadi Laibah Burq created an ENG107 lesson plan teaching translation. These projects are already available for viewing on the site.

Translation Interns: JP Hanson, Andres Gutierrez, Sienna Blakely, Boi Ngoc Thai, Mia Bertha Bazbaz, Acacia Wastchak, Jillian Coronato, Asri Nurul Quodri, Zhongxing Zeng, Giannina Masias, and Shahzadi Laibah Burq.

Special Project Interns: Cecilia Savala, Acacia Wastchak, Christopher Hoshnic, Shahzadi Laibah Burq.

Representing Additional Languages

French, Indonesian, and Italian translations were completed and will make their debut during the launch of our third issue in fall 2023.

New Special Project Internship

Interns led translation challenges and community poems, developed teaching materials, and engaged in translation study across text type. One special project even took place in France.

Panel at the Northern Arizona Book Festival

Four interns presented at the "Exploring Translation" panel at the Northern Arizona Book Festival. This included a reading of the "Landscapes of Language" community poem.

"I believe that translation is one of the best tools for increasing visibility for a language, and I feel so privileged to be able to do so for Corsican and Sassarese [in the] Earth Day Translation Challenge I led in southern France... This semester has only cemented and strengthened what I know to be a life-long passion for languages and translation."

– Acacia Wastchak, spring undergraduate translation and special project intern.

Looking ahead

Next year, in partnership with *HFR*, Center for Imagination in the Borderlands, and *Red Ink*, Thousand Languages will translate the winning poems selected for *HFR*'s first-annual Indigenous Poets Prize. These works and translations set for publication in *HFR* 73 will also appear on thousandlanguages.asu.edu as an online feature.



Thousand Languages Project's interns speaking at Northern Arizona Book Festival.

Strategic Planning

Piper has engaged in a year-long strategic planning process facilitated by Dean Newlund of Mission Facilitators.

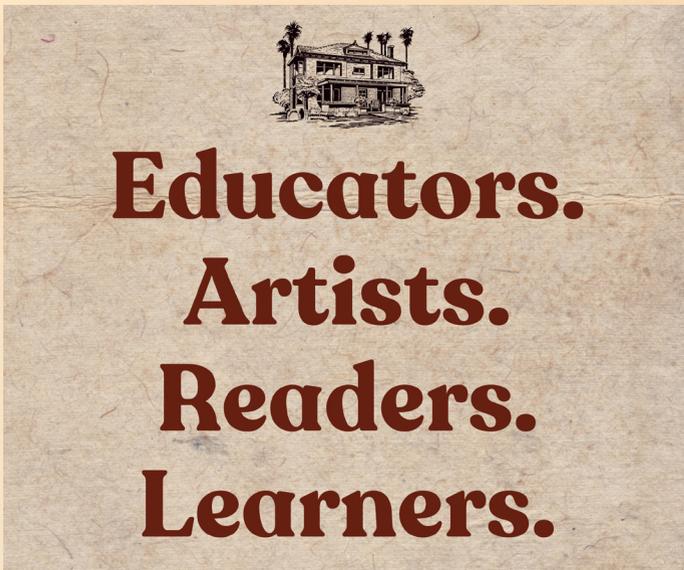
In March of 2023, the Piper team embarked on a strategic planning process. This included breaking down our audiences, understanding why we do what we do, long-term goals, and how to reach those goals.

We determined that our core audience consists of educators, artists, readers and learners.

Our new mission statement:

We are a center for literary exploration. We believe the power to speak what is and to imagine what could be belongs to everyone. Through workshops, events, and publications, we create brave spaces where individuals can discover and claim their stories.

These strategic planning sessions have been pivotal in shaping our organizational direction and guiding our actions towards achieving our long-term goals. These sessions serve as a forum where team members collaboratively assess our current standing, identify opportunities, and address challenges. We've learned several key lessons that have profoundly influenced our approach to decision-making and execution. The process brought us together as a small but mighty Piper team.



Effective communication emerged as a key theme. We learned that clear and transparent communication of the strategic plan throughout the organization fosters understanding and commitment from all team members. This ensures that everyone is aligned with the overarching goals and understands their role in achieving them.

We now have a roadmap for the future but have also gained a mindset of adaptability, collaboration, and continuous improvement. These sessions served as invaluable platforms for learning and growth, enabling us to navigate the complexities of our business environment with agility and resilience.

Things we're looking forward to in FY 2024

As the Phoenix/Tempe metropolitan area continues to expand, we're working to bring our community together around a vision of making literary exploration a space for everyone.

- Desert Nights, Rising Stars Conference featuring Joy Harjo
- Launch of *HFR* issues 72 and 73
- Piper Writers Studio Winter/Spring 2024 season of classes
- Seven DVWS events with writers like Kelli Russell Agodon and Sati Mookherjee
- Monthly outreach program events at Piper Writers House

...and many more!



All for you

Thank you for inspiring our work and sharing your voices as part of this vibrant artistic community



We hope you've enjoyed reflecting back on all of our work over the last year, and that you'll continue to join us as we look ahead to the years to come. There are so many new initiatives and programs we're leading in the community, and much more on the way. Your support has made this work possible.

Thanks to you, new scholarships, free workshops, and other forms of access are reaching more students, educators, and other members of the community. Together, we are changing the Valley's culture and creating deep and lasting connections – one story at a time.

To learn more about our work in the community, please reach out to a Piper Center staff member or visit our website at piper.asu.edu.

Thank you so much for being a part of what we do. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Please consider making your gift today at piper.asu.edu/giving

Acknowledgments

Photograph for the front cover was from ASU Library University Archives. Photographs for the back cover and back inside covers were taken by Ryan Krebs. Text for the front inside cover is taken from anonymous feedback surveys conducted by the Center over the last year. Design for the title page, “Words Hold Power,” is borrowed from John Risseuw and Dan Mayer’s limited edition broadside of “The Gathering House” by Alberto Ríos, which was commissioned for the Center’s opening in 2003 and is currently displayed at the Piper Writers House for public view. The photograph for the Piper Writers Studio spread, “Supporting writers at every stage,” was taken by Tim Peluso and features the Piper Writers House’s living room area. Book covers and illustrations for the Thank You page, “All for You,” and feature, from left to right: *Hayden’s Ferry Review* Issue 69 with cover art by Janelle Cordero; *Hayden’s Ferry Review* sticker designed by Sasha Anaya; Piper Writers House historic plaque taken by Anna Campbell; flyer for a Piper Writers Studio class designed by Dana Hernande; Piper Writers House typewriter was taken by Anna Campbell; *An Indian among los Indígenas: A Native Travel Memoir* by Ursula Pike; Thousand Languages Project logo; Piper Writers House front porch; *So Far* by Kamaka Dias.







**Virginia G. Piper
Center for Creative Writing**

Arizona State University