

3-31-2000

Distinguished Visiting Poets Program

English Department

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THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE GRANT APPLICATION

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: English Department / National Poetry Foundation

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Steven R. Evans
b. Title: Assistant Professor
c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 215 Neville, 1-3809

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):
Poetry Readings & Residencies
Jay Wright Readings on 20 and 21 September
Jayne Cortez Reading on 3 October
Brian Kim Stefans Reading on 19 October
& Rod Smith
Kathleen Fraser Reading on 24 October
Robert Grenier Reading on 26 October
Joanne Kyger Reading on 9 November (cont'd)

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

IV. a. Total funding required for program: > \$21000
b. Amount committed by applicant organization: > 7000
c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: > 7000 (Libra)
d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: > 7000

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: Steven R. Evans 9/15/00
SIGNATURE DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

more budget details. go w/ \$7,000

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL

continued from above:

Elaine Equi Reading on 14 November
Lorenzo Thomas Reading on 16 November



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Department of English

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To: Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee
From: Steve Evans
Re: Distinguished Visiting Poets Program

I am writing on behalf of the English Department and the National Poetry foundation to request the Committee's assistance in continuing the vibrant new series of poetry readings and residencies that we began with your aid last Spring. As you will recall, Burton Hatlen applied for funding last year with a proposal that stretched over three semesters. It is my understanding that the Committee, in approving the Spring portion of the program outlined, also was kind enough to invite our reapplication for funds to support the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 semesters. At this time, then, we would like to request \$7000 towards the continuation of the series in the Fall.

As we enter the next phase of our programming, we are fortunate to be able to build on the momentum generated by the successful events of the past Spring, to which our Cultural Affairs grant contributed invaluable in helping us meet travel, accomodation, and publicity costs. A diverse audience of nearly 300 heard Amiri Baraka's reading on February 29, 2000, and roughly 150 were present the following afternoon to hear his thoughts on politics and poetry. Mr. Baraka also paid a stirring ninety-minute visit to English 429/529, an ITV course on "The Poetry of the 1960s," and spent numerous hours in conversation with UMaine students during his four-day stay. Theodore Enslin was similarly generous with his time: his reading on February 16 drew an audience of roughly 75 people; nearly twice that number again heard him read the following day in INT 101, "The Performance Event." Mr. Enslin also met with students in an informal "conversation with the poet" and paid class visits to more than one creative writing workshop. Robert Creeley's extended visit to campus in mid-April was a highlight in our Spring programming. His reading before more than 100 people on April 18th was in many ways a deeply personal homage to Maine and to our University. Like Mr. Baraka, Mr. Creeley visited the "Poetry of the 1960s" ITV-course and paid numerous other class visits, including a session of my own seminar on poets of the immediate post-WW2 years. On the final day of his residency, Mr. Creeley read and reminisced for nearly two hours before an attentive audience at Orono High School, where students from Old Town High School were also present. Both Mr. Enslin and Mr. Baraka returned to Orono in June as featured participants in a very successful conference called "The Opening of the Field: North American Poetry of the 1960s," hosted by the National Poetry Foundation and attended by nearly 200 scholars from around the country and the world.

As we turn to the present semester, we have already been in contact with nine poets--representing a wide diversity of voices--who are willing to visit UMaine during the Fall semester of 2000. The Libra Professorship diversity fund has already approved an earlier application for support and we expect to receive assistance as well from the English Department's Lloyd Elliott fund. If the Cultural Affairs Committee decides to continue its support, we will be able to realize our vision of bringing about an expansive, invigorating poetry series that will serve both the University and the wider local community.

The Fall schedule that we have arranged, and the expenses associated with each event, are as follows:



Jay Wright Week of 18 September
\$2000 honorarium + expenses \$3000

Jayne Cortez Week of 2 October
\$3750 honorarium + expenses \$4500

Brian Kim Stefans and Rod Smith Week of 16 October
\$500 honorarium each + expenses \$2000

Robert Grenier Week of 23 October
\$1000 honorarium \$1000

Kathleen Fraser Week of 23 October
\$2000 honorarium + expenses \$3000

Joanne Kyger Week of 6 November
\$2000 honorarium + expenses \$3000

Elaine Equi Week of 13 November
\$750 honorarium + expenses \$1500

Lorenzo Thomas Week of 13 November
\$2000 honorarium + expenses \$3000

The total expenses anticipated for the series is \$21,000. The visits of Mr. Wright, Ms. Cortez, and Mr. Thomas will have the support of the Libra diversity fund (approximately \$7,000) and we have requested an additional \$7000 from the English Department's Lloyd Elliott fund. We would thus request that the Cultural Affairs Committee assist us with a grant of \$7000.

We have received commitments (pending funding) from all nine of the poets and have extensive plans for tailoring their visits to curricular demands within the University as well as in neighboring high schools. All of the poets have agreed to participate in "The Vital Word: Encounters with Living American Poetry and Poets," an LAS 100 seminar being offered for the first time this Fall by Prof. Benjamin Friedlander. A variety of other events--ranging from a staged reading of Mr. Wright's plays, to a seminar with high school teachers by Mr. Thomas, to class visits by Ms. Fraser, to group discussions with aspiring writers by a number of the poets--are scheduled as well. We especially look forward to building on the very successful event that brought Robert Creeley to Orono High School last Spring by arranging similar visits this Fall.

Bio/Bibliographical Profiles of Invited Poets

JAY WRIGHT was born in New Mexico in 1935 and is the author of eight books of poems, including *The Homecoming Singer* (1971), *Dimensions of History* (1976), *Selected Poems* (1987) and *Boleros* (1991). His *Transfigurations* is due from Louisiana State UP later this year. Wright was the 1996 recipient of the Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets fellowship for distinguished achievement. His numerous awards include MacArthur, Rockefeller, and Guggenheim Fellowships and an American Academy of Arts and Letters Literary Award.

JAYNE CORTEZ was born in Arizona in 1936 and published her first collection of poetry in 1969. She is the author of *Festivals and Funerals* (1971), *Scarifications* (1973), *Firespitter* (1982), *Coagulations: New and Selected Poems* (1984), and *Somewhere in Advance of*

Nowhere (1996). She has also recorded six CDs with her band The Firespitters, including *Cheerful & Optimistic*, *Taking the Blues Back Home*, and *Find Your Own Voice*. Cortez's widely-translated works have earned her numerous awards, including NEA and New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, the International African Festival Award, and an American Book Award. She serves as one of the directors of the Organization of Women Writers of Africa.

BRIAN KIM STEFANS was born in 1969 and is the author of *Free Space Comix* (1998), *Gulf* (1998), and *Angry Penguins* (2000). He is the editor of *Arras* magazine, which after three print issues shifted to the world wide web in 1998. An active presence in the New York poetry community, Stefans has recently performed his works in San Francisco, Philadelphia, and London.

ROD SMITH was born in 1962 and makes his home in Washington D.C., where he manages Bridge Street Books. He is the author of *The Boy Poems* (1993), *In Memory of My Theories* (1996), and *Protective Immediacy* (1999). He is the editor *Aerial* magazine (founded by him in 1984) and publisher of Edge books.

KATHLEEN FRASER was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1935 and has lived for extended periods in New York, San Francisco, and Rome. She is the author of fourteen books of poetry, including *Change of Address* (1966), *Magritte Series* (1977), and *when new time folds up* (1993). In 1997, Wesleyan University Press published her Selected Poems 1970-1995 under the title *Il Cuore: The Heart*. Fraser has inspired generations of young writers as a teacher in the San Francisco State University Creative Writing Program (1972-1992) and has been an influential voice in feminist scholarship both through her visionary editing of the journal *HOW(ever)* and through her prolific output as an essayist, an overview of which is now available in the collection *Translating the Unspeakable: Poetry and the Innovative Necessity*.

BOB GRENIER was born in 1942 and began publishing poetry in the mid-1960s. His works include *Sentences* (1978), *A Day at the Beach* (1985), and *Phantom Anthoms* (1986). He was the founding co-editor of the influential journal *This* from 1971-1974. Since the early 1990s, Grenier been working increasingly at what some have called "illuminated poems," texts whose carefully wrought singularity does not easily tranpose to the print medium. Such works--disseminated mainly through the web and in photographic slide format--include *owl/on/bou/gh* (1997) and *r h y m m s* (forthcoming).

JOANNE KYGER was born in 1934, lives in Bolinas, California, and has published 15 books of poetry, including *All This Every Day* (1975), *Going On: Selected Poems 1958-1980* (1983) and *Just Space: Poems 1979-1989* (1991). Her *Japan and India Journals: 1960-1964*, first published in 1981 and scheduled for reprinting this year by North Atlantic Books under the new title *Strange Big Noon*, documents the shift in attention from western to eastern modes of thinking, writing and living which absorbed Kyger and her generation of poets in the 1950s and 1960s. Her diaries are also an important social document, and provide keen portraits of such significant literary figures as Gary Snyder, Allen Ginsberg and Clayton Eshleman. Her poetry is also a remarkable document of attention, and its wise humor, sharpness of intellect and unobtrusive responsibility to craft have influenced such later writers as Alice Notley, Robert Grenier, and Ron Silliman.

ELAINE EQUI was born in 1953 and is the author of a half dozen books, including, *Accessories* (1988), *Decoy* (1994), and *Voice-Over* (1999). She is a Senior Editor at the journal *Conjunctions* and a member of the New School and City College faculties. Her work has been featured in the *Best American Poetry* anthologies of 1989 and 1995, as well as in the *Norton Anthology of Postmodern Poetry*.

LORENZO THOMAS was born in 1944 and presently lives and teaches in Houston. As a member of the Umbra workshop in the 1960s, Thomas helped shape the terms of the emerging Black Arts Movement. His publications include *Chances are Few* (1979), *The Bathers* (1981), and *Sound Science* (1992). His groundbreaking book of scholarship, *Extraordinary Measures: Afrocentric Modernism and 20th-Century American Poetry*, just appeared from the University of Alabama Press this September.



Wednesday, October 18, 2000 2:49:50 PM
Message

From: Steven Evans

Subject: Cultural Affairs App Addendum

To: Wanda Legere

Dear Wanda,

I have provided below the additional information you requested on expenses associated with the New Writing Series in the present Fall 00 semester.

In addition to the costs associated with individual visitors, which were estimated in my original application, there are a number of series support costs that I did not foresee at the time of making application. These include

- Room rental (Soderberg Center): \$300 for the semester (8 events @\$50)
- Audio visual (microphones): \$200 for the semester (8 events @ \$25)
- Publicity
 - Poster design \$250
 - Printing \$400
- Group meals after events: \$1200 (8 events @ \$150 excluding alcohol)
- SERIES SUPPORT: \$ 2350
- VISITING POETS: \$19885 (breakdown below)
- TOTAL COST FOR F00: \$22235

If you have any further questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them. I can be reached at 581-3809 or (at home) 866-4137.

Thank you for your attention to this.

All best,

Steve Evans

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- JAY WRIGHT: \$2325
 - Honarium: \$2000
 - Accomodations: \$175
 - Travel: \$50 (by car from New Hampshire)
 - Meals, etc.: \$100

JAYNE CORTEZ: \$4390

Honarium: \$3750
Accomodations: \$75
Travel: \$525 (from New York)
Meals, etc.: \$40

ROD SMITH: \$1130

Honarium: \$500
Accomodations: \$150
Travel (car rental) \$400 (from Washington DC)
Meals, etc.: \$80

BRIAN KIM STEFANS: \$1255

Honarium: \$500
Accomodations: \$150
Airfare: \$525 (from New York)
Meals, etc.: \$80

KATHLEEN FRASER: \$2760

Honorarium: \$2000
Accomodations: \$180
Airfare: \$500 (from San Francisco)
Meals, etc. \$80

ROBERT GRENIER: \$1075

Honarium: \$1000
Accomodations: \$75
Travel: not covered
Meals, etc.: not covered

JOANNE KYGER: \$2830

Honarium: \$2000
Accomodations: \$150
Travel: \$500 (from San Francisco)
Meals, etc.: \$80

ELAINE EQUI: \$1390

Honarium: \$750
Accomodations: \$75
Travel: \$525 (from New York)
Meals, etc.: \$40

LORENZO THOMAS: \$2730

Honarium: \$2000
Accomodations: \$150
Travel: \$500 (from Texas)

Cultural Affairs Committee
including the
Distinguished Lecture Series
200 Alumni Hall
University of Maine

October 16, 2000

To: Steven R. Evans

From: Kathleen March & François Amar, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee, including the Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, National Poetry Foundation Lecture Series, has been awarded \$7,000.00. **Please contact Wanda Legere at 1-1516 before your event takes place to arrange for disbursement of award funds.** Reception expenses, however, are not reimbursable through this award.

Please note that acknowledgment of the *Cultural Affairs Committee* is required on all promotional materials. **A budget report must be submitted at the conclusion of your event and will be considered for future funding requests.** It is assumed that projects are completed within 12 months, therefore, any remaining balance will be returned to the Committee account for further distribution unless otherwise notified.

The Committee notes that it does not fund more than 50% of the amount for any given program. It also asks applicants to consider the most reasonable honoraria possible, as there may not be funding for the higher amounts.

We, the members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.