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PULITZER PRIZE AWARDS \$40,000 TO HUMANITIES WASHINGTON AND COPPER CANYON PRESS

CENTENIAL CAMPFIRES INITIATIVE GRANT WILL FUND LIVE CONVERSATION PROGRAM FEATURING WASHINGTON STATE POETS

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—The Pulitzer Prize Board announced an award of \$40,000 to Humanities Washington and Copper Canyon Press for “Pulitzers in Person,” a Washington-wide program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Prizes in 2016 through Pulitzer’s Campfires Initiative.

Consisting of three live events, “Pulitzers in Person” will bring Pulitzer Prize-winning and -nominated poets from Washington State together for conversations about reading and writing poetry. The central question addressed will be: What makes a poem, or a poetry collection, “extraordinary?”

The events will be held in Seattle, and streamed live online. To take the discussion beyond the walls of the event space, Copper Canyon Press will be creating discussion guides and providing reduced-cost books for distribution among book clubs and writing circles. Further, poets and scholars featured in the materials will be available for visiting select groups.

“Too often, poetry is considered an esoteric and solitary pursuit, written by tortured artists and read by academics,” said Julie Ziegler, executive director of Humanities Washington. “The brilliant poets and the poetry awarded the Pulitzer Prize provide us with a place to start shedding light on the process of writing, exploring, and experiencing poetry. Who better to collaborate on these events than Washington State poets, a long-time publisher of poetry, and a nonprofit organization committed to bringing the humanities to a broader audience?”

The events will be held in the fall of 2016, with a lineup of award-winning Copper Canyon poets reading and discussing Ted Kooser’s Pulitzer-winning collection *Delights and Shadows*; Lucille Clifton’s *Good*

Woman: Poems and a Memoir, 1969-1980, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; Jean Valentine's *Breaking the Glass*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, **W.S. Merwin's** Pulitzer-winning *Shadow of Sirius*, **Carolyn Kizer's** Pulitzer-winning *Yin: New Poems*, **Theodore Roethke's** Pulitzer-winning *The Waking*, and Arthur Sze's 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist *Compass Rose*. Additionally, Pulitzer finalist Forrest Gander's translation of Pablo Neruda's lost poems and the most recent works of W.S. Merwin will be presented.

ABOUT THE CAMPFIRES INITIATIVE

To prepare for the centennial, the Pulitzer Prize Board announced the Campfires Initiative, which aims to ignite broad engagement with the journalistic, literary, and artistic values the Prizes represent. To inspire year-long programming throughout the country, the board partnered with the Federation of State Humanities Councils on the initiative. After a review of grant proposals, the Pulitzer Prize Board awarded more than \$1.5 million to forty-six state humanities councils.

The programs will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning work in journalism, arts and letters, and music. The goal of the board and the Federation of State Humanities Council is to engage American communities in discussion about the values these disciplines represent. "We look forward to bringing the centennial to life next year with a diverse array of council programming that reconnects Americans with the nation's amazing cultural production of the last 100 years," said Esther Mackintosh, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

The Federation and the Pulitzer Prize Board, which is headquartered at Columbia University, developed this initiative together. It is supported by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Pulitzer Prize Board.

To learn more about the Federation of State Humanities Councils, please visit www.statehumanities.org.

To learn more about the Pulitzer Prizes Campfires Initiative, please see their March 2015 [announcement](#).

ABOUT HUMANITIES WASHINGTON

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state. For more about Humanities Washington, visit humanities.org.

ABOUT COPPER CANYON PRESS

With dual locations in Port Townsend and Seattle, Washington, Copper Canyon Press is a nonprofit publisher dedicated to poetry. Their mission is to publish extraordinary poetry from around the world to engage the imaginations and intellects of readers. For more about Copper Canyon Press, visit www.coppercanyonpress.org

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