



Exhibits, Public Art, and Programming

In lieu of owning our own space—a more distant goal—we periodically stage exhibits highlighting specific aspects of our literary heritage, such as our recent installation on Chicago comic book history at the Chicago Literacy Alliance. In addition, we regularly deliver programming on a range of topics (Hemingway in Fiction to Carl Sandburg’s Chicago to a *Back of the Yards* staged reading) at a variety of events (Printer’s Row Lit Fest to Carl Sandburg’s Festival of the Mind to the Evanston Literary Festival) at an assortment of venues (Newberry Library to Poetry Foundation to American Writers Museum). With our 2018 installation of Margot McMahon’s Gwendolyn Brooks statue at Brooks Park, we made good on our hopes to also commemorate our finest writers through public art.



Partnerships

CLHOF boasts strong partnerships with some of the best cultural organizations, big and small, throughout Chicago. This enables us to reach a wide audience in unique and pleasant surroundings, and deliver quality content on a tiny nonprofit’s budget. Our partners include some of our great private clubs (i.e. Cliff Dwellers), theatre companies (Court Theatre), universities (Roosevelt University), educational nonprofits (Chicago Literacy Alliance), publishers (Third World Press), museums (American Writers Museum), author organizations (Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park), writer groups (Chicago Writers Association), conferences (Chicago Book Expo), and independent bookstores (Volumes Bookcafe).

Information

CLHOF encourages volunteers to help shape and run the organization, and of course always welcomes donations. CLHOF is a federally registered 501 (c) (3); all donations are tax deductible.

**For more information, contact
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chicagoliteraryhof.org

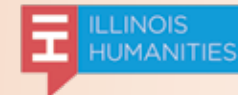


Chicago is not a city that can be crisply explained, neatly categorized, or easily understood.

Yet through our literature we strive to define our place in the world. Our literature speaks to our city’s diversity, character and heart. In our literature can be found all we love and hate, frozen snapshots of our vast terrain over the years, commentary on our ever-changing culture. In our literature can be found who we are and what we do and where we do it. The value and character of our city is not only reflected in but shaped by our great books.



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY



ILLINOIS
HUMANITIES



Our Mission

The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame (CLHOF) honors, celebrates, preserves, and promotes the development of Chicago's great literary heritage--past, present, and future. We celebrate authors whose words have best captured the essence of our city; writers whose Chicago roots enabled them to create narrative worlds far beyond our boundaries; people who've built and maintained a supportive infrastructure; people who've played instrumental parts in enabling great artists to thrive. People who have made this city a better place in which to live. We sniff out the dying scent of Chicago's literary history and mark the trail upon which it's wafted.

The Annual Induction Ceremony

Each year, starting in 2010, a new class of writers have gained induction--six writers per year, until 2017, when we cut that number in half. The ceremonies feature presenters ranging from leading academics to top authors to performing artists, and always include living descendants. Our 45 inductees represent the power and range of Chicago's literary history, from international stars like Saul Bellow and Gwendolyn Brooks, to underappreciated virtuosos like Leon Forrest and Cyrus Colter, to local heroes like David Hernandez and Carolyn Rodgers, to enablers like Harriet Monroe and Margaret Anderson.

The Fuller Award

Of all the great periods in Chicago literature, the most exciting might be right now. Chicago is absolutely brimming with accomplished writers, producing a greater variety of substantial work than at any other time. Our Fuller Award celebrates our finest writers for their lifetime of achievement. Gene Wolfe received the first Fuller at the Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills in 2012, and since then five other distinguished authors have been heralded. This occasion gives admirers a chance to explore the depth of these writers' contributions and witness the breadth of their accomplishments firsthand.

Budding Literary Masters

We're mindful, in the midst of our work on preserving Chicago's great history, that young writers hold our hope for maintaining a vibrant literary culture. CLHOF has sponsored youth writing contests in which our most promising teen authors were awarded thousands of dollars, given workshop certificates, granted publication in highly respected journals, and honored at thrilling ceremonies. We've incorporated young writers into various aspects of our programming, including select induction ceremonies. And, we've designed reading and writing workshops to provide mentorship and encouragement to children and young adults, particularly centered around our Gwendolyn Brooks statue project.

Building Chicago's Premiere Literary Database

A bookshelf, for those who care deeply about literature, is a sacred place. Our bookshelves contain not only books we have read or will read, but are a reflection on who we are, what we like, a statement about our core values and aesthetics.

The world of our bookshelf is a world stretching endlessly in any direction. Worlds come alive in our minds, and in subtle ways alter our mental landscape. Stories reinforce or question our existing beliefs, introduce us to new concepts and places, provide points of view previously inaccessible. Between bookends lay all the little sparks that at any moment can ignite laughter or tears, deep satisfaction or nagging anxiety.

Our Chicago Literary Map features dozens of sites associated with our city's important authors, characters, and books; those places, and many others, comprise the raw material for tours we offer throughout the year. Our Book of the Day project, just underway, aspires to catalogue Chicago's best historical and contemporary literature. We propose to create author bios and interviews; put together summaries and character sketches; lift memorable quotes; provide cultural context; and assemble relevant links to papers, obituaries, personal websites, and more. Add to that our upcoming installation of online exhibitions, and the CLHOF website is fast becoming a primary source for Chicago literature.

