

**THE IMPACT OF  
 YOUR PHILANTHROPY**

January 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Every show you have seen, read, listened to, shared, and loved all began with a blank piece of paper. The struggle of filling that paper is something we can all relate to. Thankfully, the thousands of writers every year that interact with the Dramatists Guild Foundation have found ways to push through that doubt. They have inspired me and our whole team to take bold steps to better serve our community across the United States.

Personally, I faced the blank page, paper after paper while pursuing my Masters in Nonprofit Management at Columbia. I am proud to share with all of you that I graduated this year, and could not be more excited to be putting my new skills to use for DGF.

The last year and a half has been full of new beginnings. We have welcomed new staff and Board members, ushered in a new program, and expanded our outreach to writers in exciting ways. First, our Traveling Masters, supported by Roe Green and the Roe Green Foundation, has now reached writers and students in nearly all 50 states - we will reach this goal by the end of 2019!

We launched the New Voices program last year and have now expanded into a new school, doubling the number of 4th grade students we have helped find their unique voices. The program

is already receiving generous support to help it grow, including a grant from the Maurer Family Foundation that supports formal evaluation of our curriculum to improve our efficacy and ensure that young students are receiving the best playwriting education possible.

In December 2018, we received an incredibly generous gift from the Seller-Lehrer Family Foundation for \$2 million in support of our Fellows program and Emergency Grants. The Fellows program continues to be a leading entity in identifying and elevating the most promising voices of the future, with former Fellows like Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Michael R. Jackson, Antoinette Nwandu, Lauren Yee, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, and others making tremendous waves in the community with their groundbreaking work. We also awarded the inaugural Stephen Schwartz Award to former Fellow Oliver Houser. Thank you, Stephen!

We have worked to grow our community, reaching out to several luminaries of the stage who have become wonderful allies of DGF and our mission. In March, we were joined by legends Judith Light and Tony Kushner, who we awarded the Madge Evans and Sidney Kingsley Awards for Excellence in Theater. We also had the distinct honor of being joined by *Hadestown* composer, lyricist, and

bookwriter Anaïs Mitchell for a Salon in June, just days before she and the production won eight Tony Awards. As these individuals inspired us with their commitment to the preservation and continuation of the craft, so did many of you by joining DGF's new The Write Stuff Society. Thanks to our newly hired Development Director Mady Schuman and our Development Manager Jamie Balsai, The Write Stuff Society brings together our most dedicated supporters from all backgrounds.

Please take a look through this Donor Impact Report to learn more about our programs and see first hand how your support is creating exponential benefit to the lives of writers across the country. Educational programs, free space, and awards, grants and stipends that you help fund are having a huge impact on writers at all stages of their careers. Those programs, and all of the wonderful milestones we have hit this year, are all because of you. Just as writers inspire us to challenge ourselves and reach toward a more beautiful future, you too inspire us to thrive in our mission every day. Thank you!



Rachel Routh

*Rachel Routh*

Executive Director

# THANKS TO YOU...

## GRANTS

DGF's granting programs ensure that writers are able to do their best work, and that their accomplishments and potential are acknowledged. Emergency Grants, which provide immediate assistance to writers in crisis, ensure that writers can continue their important work. **Because of you, DGF awarded \$279,500 to writers**

**"An Emergency Grant from DGF is providing me with extraordinary peace of mind at an otherwise utterly bewildering moment."**

**-Emergency Grant Recipient**

**in need over the past 18 months.**

Last year DGF awarded **\$100,000** to the second ever group of Writers Alliance Grants recipients. These grants are awarded both to nonprofit theaters and to writers in celebration of working relationships that align deeply with DGF core

values. The writer is one whose work pushes boundaries and shows tremendous promise. The theater, which is either currently or slated to work with that writer, is one that holds itself to superlative ethical standards in supporting the livelihoods and careers of writers.

## EDUCATION

DGF offers educational programs across the country to writers at all stages of their careers, providing resources and opportunities to the storytellers of the American theater. Our educational programs include Traveling Masters, Fellows, and New Voices.

With your support, DGF has sent 21 Masters into theaters and schools across the country to lead educational workshops and public events. Your contributions helped us launch and expand our New Voices program, giving hundreds of children the opportunity to bring their words to the stage. We presented the work of 10 talented Fellows in an Off-Broadway reading and welcomed 12 new Fellows into a year of craft and development.

**"His talk covered a wide variety of topics that always came back to the point that it's about **who we are** and honoring **our own voices** as writers."**

**-Attendee of a Traveling Masters with Playwright Steve Yockey**

## MUSIC HALL

This year we celebrated the 4th anniversary of the founding of one of our most popular programs, the DGF Music Hall. Our beloved former Vice President Carol Hall believed that writers should be able to work in a space that is comfortable, well-appointed, and professional. Thanks to her, thousands of writers have been able to enjoy the Music Hall free of charge.

**"Walking into the Music Hall feels like coming home. I'm always greeted by a friendly face, I always feel comfortable, and most importantly, I feel that I can share my newest, most fragile work."**

**-Alex Rubin, Playwright, Lyricist, Bookwriter, and Music Hall guest**



## EMERGENCY GRANTS

**\$103,000** in housing emergency support

**\$46,500** in natural disaster support

**\$81,000** in medical emergency support

**\$49,000** in other emergency support



**FELLOWS** Our 22 Fellows have had  
**16** Off-Broadway and  
regional **productions**

**708**  
**New**  
**Voices**

4th grade  
playwrights  
were able to  
write and share  
their stories



## MUSIC HALL

**2,451** writers served

**\$1,332,100** saved in  
rental fees since 2015

## WRITERS ALLIANCE GRANTS

**\$100,000** in support of productions  
of new work across the country



 Traveling Masters

 2018 WAG Recipients



## A NOTE FROM MADY

In January of this year I took on the exciting role of DGF Development Director. A veteran of the non-profit sector, I come to DGF with 35 years of executive external relations and fundraising experience, helping diverse organizations and institutions including the 92nd Street Y, Planned Parenthood of New York City, American Cancer Society, NYU/Stern and SAGE build their

programs and secure their futures. No Money, No Mission!

Although my professional and volunteer life has focused on fundraising for healthcare and social services, my academic background is in theater history and popular culture. Of all of the organizations I have worked with and continue to serve, DGF is the one whose mission means the most to me – a return to my theater roots.

I have a lifelong commitment to the theater and championing its role as a change agent for society's good. No

writer's story ends when the curtain closes. Stories travel alongside audiences across nations, through generations. They help us understand ourselves and each other better, and empower us to become full, valiant, and loving participants in life.

I am floored by what DGF has already been able to accomplish – what YOU have been able to accomplish. Thousands of writers who are dedicating their lives to the enrichment of our society have been touched by DGF, which simply could not exist without our many friends and supporters. It is my honor to list those donors here:

## ANNUAL FUND DONORS (Jan 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019)

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\* Deceased

▼ The Write Stuff Society Member

▼ The Write Stuff Society Member through Dramatists Guild of America



Every play and every musical you have ever seen was written by someone. But in order to realize their full potential and create the stories that change the world, writers need a community of support.

## That's where DGF steps in...

The Write Stuff Society is a dedicated group of individuals who support DGF with annual gifts, providing playwrights, lyricists, composers, and bookwriters with the resources they need to create works that bring their vital messages to life.

By joining The Write Stuff Society, your gift will help support our core programs by:

- Providing financial assistance to writers facing unforeseen medical and housing emergencies
- Bringing an innovative and unique arts education curriculum to elementary school classrooms
- Nurturing the next generation of dramatists through an immersive year-long fellowship
- Partnering with theatrical institutions across the country to provide master classes and writing workshops with esteemed dramatists

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\* Deceased

▼ The Write Stuff Society Member

▼ The Write Stuff Society Member through Dramatists Guild of America

1



2



3



4

1. Madge Evans & Sidney Kingsley Award recipient Tony Kushner and Jordan Roth at the DGF Awards Salon

2. Jai'len Josey performs at the 2018 DGF Gala honoring Sheldon Harnick

3. Former Fellow Oliver Houser being presented the inaugural Stephen Schwartz Award by DGF Advisory Board Member Stephen Schwartz

4. Leonard Majzlin, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty celebrate the Music Hall's 4th Birthday



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR