

Dear Friend,

As long as I can remember, I have been a writer. I wrote my first musical at age five - *The King and the Fairy* - to be performed by my two-year-old brother and me. His was a non-speaking role, sitting on the floor with a crown on his head while I sang and danced around him. Tickets were five cents and our total revenue earned was 10 cents (from our parents). Since then, I have had good years and some very lean years - years when my revenue roughly equaled the revenue of that first production. It has been a bumpy ride.

So 23-years ago, I joined the Board of Directors of the Dramatists Guild Foundation (then called the Dramatists Guild Fund) because one of the founding goals was clear: to take care of writers in need. I remember those early days so vividly - when a cancelled production, the loss of a day job, an unexpected illness, or tending to an aging relative meant a real crisis for a writer. Back then we dreamed of building a safety net for dramatists - something we could count on in the hardest of times. And we did.

That dream became the DGF Emergency Grants Program, which continues to this day as a lifeline for theater writers across the country.

Every year, DGF gives out more than \$300,000 in direct emergency grants to playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists. These funds help writers respond to crises whether they face eviction, a cancer diagnosis, or the destruction of their home in a wildfire. This year, we have supported writers in 32 states, with an average turnaround time from application to payment of just 16 days. In just over two weeks, a dramatist can receive real help that keeps them safe, stable, and able to continue their work.

That's the kind of organization DGF is—and it's the kind of generosity your gift makes possible.

I've experienced the thrill of seeing my musical *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road* come to life on stages around the world—and I've also known the long, uncertain stretches between opportunities. It's hard enough to get your work produced in the best of times—let alone when the cost of living is soaring, theaters are struggling, healthcare premiums are rising, and federal funding for the arts across the country is being cut.

But every time DGF steps in with an emergency grant, we're saying to a writer: You're not alone. Your voice matters. We believe in you. That message is more vital than ever.

**When you make a year-end gift to DGF, you're not just helping writers survive—you're helping ensure that the stories, songs, and voices that define our culture can keep going. This year, our goal is to raise \$150,000 so that we can support hundreds more dramatists across the country. Your gift can make all the difference - will you be there for writers this year?**

Please, before December 31, join me in supporting this essential work. Together, we can make sure that no writer has to give up on their art because of hardship. Wishing you and those you love the happiest of holidays.

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gretchen Cryer'.

Gretchen Cryer  
Playwright, Lyricist  
DGF Board President Emeritus