Hello friends,

2012/13 was a year of tremendous change and transformation for Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL). We transitioned our executive leadership and made some tough decisions to right-size our staff and operations. It was a challenging year.

And yet, thanks to the partnership and support of so many of you, it was also a year filled with dynamic and meaningful work. From our Writers in the Schools teaching in 23 schools and Seattle Children’s Hospital to hosting nationally acclaimed writers like Karen Russell and Susan Orlean, the year was full of inspiration and opportunities for the community to engage with the best writers of our time, and of the future.

With the hard work and partnership of the staff, Board, community partners and funders, we are proud to share that we honed our mission, closed our year in the black, made strategic choices, and are poised to even more robustly champion the literary arts by inspiring and engaging readers and writers of all generations in the Pacific NW.

We’re proud to share this snapshot of our work last year, and we look forward to an even more inspiring year to come!

Ruth E. Dickey
Executive Director

Mark Madsen
Board Co-President

Geoff Prentiss
Board Co-President

Mary Ingraham
Immediate Past President

Seattle Arts & Lectures champions the literary arts by engaging and inspiring readers and writers of all generations in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank You!

Seattle Arts & Lectures is profoundly grateful to the following corporate, public and foundation partners for their generous support of our programs in 2012/13.


We are also immensely grateful to the individuals and organizations that supported our work last year. A full list is featured on our website: http://www.lectures.org/support_sal/individual_supporters.php.
Writers in the Schools (WITS)

From songs to sonnets, from cover letters to love letters, Writers in the Schools (WITS) inspires young people to discover and develop their authentic writing and performance voices.

In 2012/13 WITS writers-in-residence worked at twenty-four sites: twenty-three public elementary, middle and high schools in four Washington State school districts and at one hospital. WITS provided 2,229 hours of sequential in-class writing instruction to 5,500 students and 100 teachers. An additional estimated 1,500 students and 35 teachers received benefits from WITS through visits from spotlight authors and complimentary tickets to Seattle Arts & Lectures events.

- 94% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of most of their students’ writing improved as a result of working with the writer.
- 97% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that most of their students’ interest in writing increased as a result of working with the writer.
- 97% of teachers agreed or strongly agreed that most of their students’ self-confidence increased as a result of working with the writer.

Thank you so much. I am proud and feel great. It was an amazing experience... Not only reading my own poem but also listening to Stanley Plumly talk. Everything about last night was like a dream, and I can't thank you enough for the opportunity.

—9th grade West Seattle High School student and featured WITS reader at Poetry Series event

Where’s WITS?

In 2012/13 WITS teaching artists inspired students across our region at these schools:

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- K-12

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