

**Literary Arts Capital Campaign - 716 SE Grand Avenue**  
**Cultural Resources Economic Fund Request**  
**February 3, 2023**

**Background.** Founded in 1984, Literary Arts is a community-based nonprofit literary center in Portland serving Oregon readers and writers of all ages, demographics, and socio-economic standings. We provide 40,000 in-person arts experiences to 20,000 unique individuals annually and reach as many as a half a million radio listeners each year. Mission: to engage readers, support writers, and inspire the next generation with great literature. Key programs:

1. **Portland Arts & Lectures** annually brings 5 of the world's most celebrated writers, artists, & thinkers to speak, reaching 2,200 subscribers, students & community groups.
2. **Youth Programs** inspire 3,400+ public high school students to write, revise, edit, publish, and perform their own creative writing and engage in free literary events.
3. **Portland Book Festival** draws 5,000+ for author events, workshops, a book fair & more.
4. **Oregon Book Awards & Fellowships.** 650+ Oregon writers and independent publishers apply annually. 7 books & 21 finalists receive awards & 14 fellowships/\$62k distributed.
5. **Writers Workshops & Readers Seminars** annually serve 650+ adult writers & learners.
6. **@LiteraryArts** free community events curated by Literary Arts & community partners (Slamlandia, Kundiman, Portland Jazz, Oregon Symphony, others) reach 1,150+/year.
7. **The Archive Project** makes lectures/conversations/panels from Literary Arts' 40-year history freely available on our Oregon Public Radio broadcast to half a million annual listeners.

**Need.** When Literary Arts moved into its current, rented building, our programming footprint was smaller: we had a third of the staff, we served a quarter of the students we reach now, and we weren't yet producing the regional Portland Book Festival that draws thousands. With only two of our own classroom and community spaces, our programming is reaching capacity, and we're unable to expand simply due to physical space constraints.

**Project.** Literary Arts respectfully request \$1M in Culture Resource Economic Funds to support ~\$12M in renovations on our newly purchased headquarters at 716 SE Grand on Portland's East side. This new 14,000 square-foot cultural and community center in the inner industrial eastside of Portland's downtown core will expand our community reach, anchor our work, and increase our visibility. While most of our programs will continue at partner venues around the city and the state, this anchor space will be the operational center for staff and small community events, and our new storefront hub with a café and bookstore will offer more opportunities for the public to discover Literary Arts' programs. By creating more classroom, seminar, and event space, and adding a bookstore, café, and commercial kitchen, we'll have the capacity to welcome more people annually from all walks of life, host more literary and humanities programs, and deepen engagement. Also, by expanding our administrative area, we'll have adequate space to accommodate existing staff, improve our team's productivity, and have room to grow as needed.

Literary Arts is committed to continuing its ten years of deep equity work through this project and seeks to serve a state-wide population of Oregon readers & writers. To be as inclusive as possible, we've engaged diverse community partners through the entire process to create a building that will be welcoming and inclusive for all. The headquarters will significantly shift how we're engaging with community, and it will become a new cultural asset for Oregon.

**Contact Information:** Andrew Proctor, Executive Director. Literary Arts, [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org). 925 SW Washington Street, Portland, OR 97205. 503-227-2583. [Andrew@literary-arts.org](mailto:Andrew@literary-arts.org).

**Project:** 716 SE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97205. **Census Tract:** 41051001101-Severe Distress.