SARABANDE BOOKS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

March 2020 found Sarabande, like so many others, quickly adapting our workdays, programming, and author tours to fit our new social-distancing reality. In spite of clear challenges, we were energized and inspired by our authors’ creativity and the chance to develop projects to connect with our readers in new ways. As we’ve moved our workshops online and imagined new ways to share our love of literature with our community members, we’ve grown more grateful than ever for the community and partnerships that sustain us.

Independent presses, through our vision, agility, and tenacity, have the power to shape the landscape of the publishing industry. Thanks to Sarabande’s founding vision—to champion writers whose works challenge and inspire—we’ve grown into a leader and an innovator in literary publishing. As we emerge from one of our most challenging years to date, our role remains clear: cultivating what’s best among us, elevating marginalized voices, and honoring beauty, intellect, and mindfulness.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

GRANTS

$90K+ Raised in new funding

ANNUAL FLO GAULT POETRY + PIE PARTY

Through the generosity and support of the Gault Family:

$16K awarded to KY student poets since 2006

160+ Pies served

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

15 young professionals who gave of their time and talent

SARABANDE WRITING LABS

“Publish Your Own Zine!” kits created for young Louisville writers, distributed by AWCC

50+ kits

Free online workshops, taught by Louisville authors Joy Priest and Minda Honey

12 workshops

Partnership with TAUNT magazine to publish poetry and essays by SWL writers online

10 BOOKS PUBLISHED

- Your New Feeling is the Artifact of a Bygone Era, poetry by Chad Bennett
- Where You’re All Going, novellas by Joan Frank
- All Heathers, poetry by Marianne Chan
- White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia, poetry by Kiki Petrosino
- New Bad News, stories by Ryan Ridge
- Night Animals, poetry by Yusef Komunyakaa and art by Rachel Bliss (Quarternote Chapter Series #18)
- After the Body: New and Selected Poems, poetry by Cleopatra Mathis
- Treason: A Sallie Bingham Reader, stories, novella, and a play by Sallie Bingham
- Hotel Almighty, visual poetry by Sarah J. Sloat
- Index of Haunted Houses, poetry by Adam O. Davis

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Americana World Community Center
- Quappi Projects
- Hound Dog Press
- Fund for the Arts
- Kerits Creative
- TAUNT

THINGS TO NOTE

189 MEDIA FEATURES

- 35 “Best of” lists
- 2 starred reviews
- 18 features in major trade journals
- 29 interviews

COVERAGE IN NATIONAL OUTLETS


20 PRIZES AND PRIZE FINALISTS

- 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature: Louise Glück
- 2021 Fuller Award from the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame: Sandra Cisneros
- 2021 UNT Rilke Prize: White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia by Kiki Petrosino

45 VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENTS

- Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry
- Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction
- Sarabande Series in Kentucky Literature
SARABANDE SUPPORTERS

CORPORATION AND PARTNERS
Kertis Creative
Bookmobile
Brown-Forman
Hyland, Block & Hyland
Quappi Projects
Ingram Content, Inc.

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTORS
Arts & Culture Alliance
Community of Literary Magazines and Presses
Fund for the Arts
Hardscuffle, Inc.
Kentucky Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Arts Cares Act
Samtec Cares
Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham

SARABANDE CIRCLE
Alice Sebold
Bert and Jane Emke
Cory France
Daniel Handler and Lisa Brown
Emily Bingham and Stephen Reily
Jamie Cox
John Wing
John Brooks
Karen Marple Long
Kathryn Luttner
Kathy Stearman
Kirker Butler and Karen Harryman
Laura Delano
Matthew and Brooke Brown Barzun
Nana Lampton
Nancy and Steve Haiman
Sandra Anne Frazier
Sarah Gorham and Jeffrey Skinner
Steve Gault

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SARABANDE BOOKS, VISIT SARABANDEBOOKS.ORG