PSNY Statement of Purpose

The Poetry Society of New York (PSNY) is a membership-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting poetry within our culture. The society accomplishes its mission by creating engaging, one-of-a-kind poetry experiences; by creating strategic partnerships in the worlds of art, literature, and business; and by fostering healthy and progressive poetry communities in cities across the globe. PSNY’s primary programs include The New York City Poetry Festival, The Poetry Brothel, Milk Press, The Typewriter Project, and more.

Board Duties and Responsibilities

The overall functions of the Board of Directors is to:

1. Set long-term direction for the organization
2. Advocate for and represent the organization in order to promote its welfare
3. Help bring resources to the organization
4. Monitor, oversee and assure the financial, programmatic, ethical and structural integrity of the organization
5. Ensure that the organization’s programs express its mission

Board Member Expectations

Board members are expected to contribute to the organization in the following ways:

- Attend, to the best of their ability, all of the 3-5 board meetings each year
- Demonstrate support for PSNY’s mission by promoting its work, generating goodwill for the organization, encouraging support for its efforts, and keeping informed about its programs and activities
- Make personal financial contributions annually to the best of their ability
- Use their network to solicit & raise significant financial contributions for the organization
- Give/get, at minimum, $3000 in contributions each year (in-kind donations & winning auction bids count toward this figure)
- Serve on the society’s Spring Gala Committee & bring out at least 10 attendees to the event each year
- Participate in Poetry Society of New York events whenever possible
• Be willing to accept individual assignments when requested by the CEO

Board Work

Over the past few years, The Poetry Society of New York Board of Directors has engaged in a wide range of tasks, including the following:

• Spearheaded and coordinated The Poetry Society of New York’s Spring Gala
• Reviewed annual income and expense reports and projected budgets
• Reviewed program schedules & assisted with program development
• Helped address need for putting founders on salary & hiring part-time administrative staff
• Funded and spearheaded PSNY event presence at Art Basel in Miami
• Assisted in finding sponsors for the New York City Poetry Festival
• Volunteered at the New York City Poetry Festival & offered feedback about volunteer program
• Used media contacts to seek coverage of PSNY events
• Donated meeting and event space for PSNY

PSNY Accomplishments

• The New York City Poetry Festival has brought together over 14,000 attendees, over 300 poets, and over 100 literary organizations each summer since 2011 for a two-day free event on beautiful Governors Island.
• The Poetry Brothel has chapters in over 23 cities worldwide, all of whom collaborate, exchange, and translate one another’s work.
• The Poetry Society of New York has partnered with literary institutions like the Strand Bookstore and the New York Public Library to create micro-residency opportunities for New York City poets in the city’s most inspiring locations throughout the month of April, National Poetry Month, for the past three years.
• The Poetry Society of New York has been awarded funds from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Rockefeller Family Foundation, the Hagedorn Foundation, the Casement Fund, Fractured Atlas, the Delaware County Economic Development Fund, and more.
• All this has been achieved with a relatively small operating budget of approximately $200,000, a dedicated staff, and an active volunteer base of more than 100 people each year.