



# **THE FRIENDS** **MINNESOTA CENTER FOR THE BOOK**

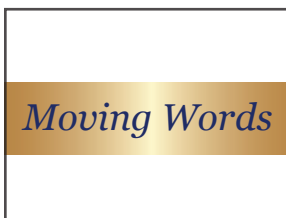
The Friends is the Center for the Book in Minnesota, designated by the Library of Congress. The Center for the Book is a national initiative to promote reading, literacy, libraries, as well as the scholarly study of books. All 50 states, plus the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, have a designated Center for the Book. The Friends was honored with this distinction largely because of the success of our statewide programs, including the Minnesota Book Awards. As Minnesota's Center for the Book, The Friends produces dynamic programming for all ages that celebrates our state's literary heritage, fosters civic engagement, and connects readers and writers statewide. Center for the Book programming and initiatives include:



## **The Minnesota Book Awards**

A year-long program that fosters the statewide literary arts community and connects readers and writers throughout Minnesota.

- **Representation and Reach:** 2021-22 finalists from Worthington, Bemidji, Buffalo, Duluth, Rochester, Center City, Farmington, North Champlin, Cleveland (MN), Duluth, Excelsior, Forest Lake, Red Wing, Collegeville, Shafer, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, White Bear Lake, Arden Hills, Edina
- **Ceremony Attendance:** 700+ in person, 1,518 livestream



## **Moving Words: Writers Across Minnesota**

A statewide touring program for readers and Minnesota Book Award writers to explore the impact of literature in their lives, how being a Minnesotan informs their content and writing life, and the lens through which we read.

- **2021-22 Series Site Locations:** Princeton, Minnesota, Saint Paul (Rondo Library, Arlington Library), Moorhead, Park Rapids, Hoyt Lakes, Big Lake, New York Milles, Rochester (twice), Ortonville, St. Peter, Park Rapids, Worthington, Willmar, Buffalo, Alexandria, Sauk Centre, Cloquet
- **Total Attendance (In Person & Virtual):** 421



## One Book | One Minnesota

Started in response to the pandemic, this statewide book club invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. Minnesotans can read the e-book for free for eight-weeks and enjoy a free virtual author event. Featured authors include Louise Erdrich, Kate DiCamillo, William Kent Krueger, Kao Kalia Yang, Marcie Rendon, and more.

- **Program Reach (readers):** readers from all 87 Minnesota Counties – from 242 Minnesota towns and cities; 11,742 unique downloads in 2021/2022; more than 65,000 since 2020.
- **Program Reach (events):** 891 attendees for five events with authors in conversation with readers (virtual)



## Minnesota Writers Directory

An online directory that connects writers across the state with people who want to hear more about their stories and their craft.

- **Reach:** hundreds of MN writers profiled; 215 contact forms and connections made between schools, reading groups, organizations, etc. and writers



## Minnesota Writers on the Map

A physical poster and online site provide educators and others with biographical information about a collection of the state's writers, from historical to modern times, whose contributions to Minnesota's literary legacy are profound.

- **Reach:** 3,000 copies mailed to teachers and schools across Minnesota in 2021 for classroom usage.



## Poet Laureate Programming

A new initiative in partnership with the Minnesota Humanities Center and Governor's Office to support the vision of Minnesota's Poet Laureate and promote awareness and engagement with poetry statewide.

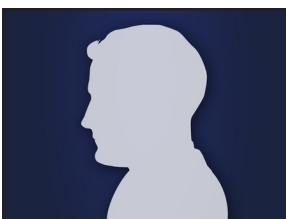
- **Timing:** Year-round, 3-5 programs



## Fireside Reading Series

One of The Friends' longest running and most popular programs, this author-focused series annually highlights the work of some of Minnesota's finest writers who have published a new work in the previous year.

- **Timing:** January and February, 6 programs



## Fitzgerald in Saint Paul

Programming which explores the history and context of F. Scott Fitzgerald's writing and influences, especially as it relates to Saint Paul, as well as the impact and resonance of his work for modern audiences.

- **Timing:** Year-round, approximately 4-6 programs

## Legislative Funding History:

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**2017:** \$250,000 biennial appropriation through the MN Department of Education

**2019:** \$250,000 biennial appropriation through the MN Department of Education

**2021:** \$200,000 biennial appropriation through MN Arts and Cultural Heritage (Legacy) fund

**2023:** REQUESTING \$400,000 biennial appropriation through MN Department of Education

- Funding restoration increases capacity and scope of work
- Funding increase expands program scope and statewide reach
- Funding increase will restore in-school residencies as part of Moving Words: Writers Across Minnesota, based on need and demand from Minnesota public school educators
- Funding to provide additional, new in person and hybrid programs and services based on demand from libraries and schools

**For more information, contact:  
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