

# P O E T S     H O U S E

## ANNUAL REPORT 2010

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

### A Year of Homecoming

Poets House is home at last! On September 25, 2009, Poets House opened the doors of its extraordinary new home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City. The transition to our new home on the banks of the Hudson River launched with a four-day Grand Opening celebration full of readings and performances attended by thousands.



This new space marks the start of a new era in the life of Poets House—an era defined by greater visibility for our organization; increased stability; room to grow for our collections; and expanded capabilities. Here we will continue to create a place for poetry that nurtures poets and invites a wide public to experience the art with pleasure and understanding.

Just two blocks south of Chambers Street, this permanent home for Poets House includes:

- **Elizabeth Kray Hall**, a state-of-the-art programming space;
- the **Poets House Reading Room** with sweeping views of the Hudson River and the Statue of Liberty, housing the *Reed Foundation Library*;
- the **Constance Laibe Hays Children’s Room**, a light-filled children’s space to host children’s programs throughout the year; and
- the **Cheney Chappell Exhibition Space**, a spherical, museum-quality gallery above our entrance hall.

While the Capital Campaign and construction of this 11,000-square-foot, light-filled, “green” poetry sanctuary have required unwavering attention over the last six years, the possibility for what Poets House *can be* has never eclipsed what we *are*. Because of sustained programming despite two interim moves, tireless work on the part of our staff and Board of Directors, outreach to neighbors in the Lower Manhattan community, and remarkable partnerships with downtown organizations, we have been able to fill and animate our new home from the very start.



In our first year at 10 River Terrace, we saw three times the number of library patrons than at our 72 Spring Street home. Overall, we served close to 40,000 people on site; and nationally and online, over 2.5 million people have been introduced to the work of Poets House. In addition, we have received unprecedented press coverage, membership has surged and proceeds from our annual benefit have exceeded expectations.

Remarkably, the dream of creating a permanent *place for poetry* was realized in the face of one of the most dramatic economic downturns in recent memory. With a lease through 2069, Poets House is now able to focus energy and resources on programs and collections to better serve a growing audience. The long-term lease, larger space (twice the size of our former space in SoHo) and new technological capabilities will enable Poets House to secure its role as a world-class poetry center and champion for public access to poetry for generations to come.

## The Grand Opening



Over 3,000 supporters celebrated Poets House during four days of festivities in September. Events included readings and performances by poets Meena Alexander, Billy Collins, Marie Howe, Kimiko Hahn, Galway Kinnell, Cornelius Eady, performance artist Laurie Anderson, former U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan,



actor Bill Murray, poet and storyteller Kurt Lamkin performing on the kora (an African stringed instrument), and singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant singing poems set to music in an outdoor concert in Nelson A. Rockefeller Park, just outside our front door. Pulitzer Prize winners, neighborhood high school students, children, senior citizens, long-standing patrons of Poets House, U.S. Poets Laureate, members of New York City’s literary world, and new friends from Lower Manhattan all came together to help us open our new doors.

Among the celebrations was a dinner for major donors and a Members preview event, which allowed us to share with our long-time supporters the house they helped to build. For the Members preview, 350 supporters packed into Poets House’s new, sun-drenched home to wander the stacks for the first time and gather for a toast before being treated to an exclusive private screening of the Jane Campion film *Bright Star* at the Regal Battery Park movie theater.



## The Library, Catalog & Multimedia Archive

**Poets House by the Books**

Number of titles in our library

**1990: 20,000**  
**2000: 35,000**  
**2010: 50,000**

The Reed Foundation Library at Poets House is an open-access collection, free to the public, which has grown from a few hundred books in a home-economics room in a public high school 24 years ago to its current size of over 50,000 volumes.

During the transition to the permanent home, our collection was placed in temporary storage for almost two years. One of the highlights of our move was bringing the books out of storage and shelving them in our spacious new reading room. The collection is a touchstone for our programs, class trips and workshops, and we are thrilled to have this resource available to our patrons once again.



The Reed Foundation Library at Poets House offers unparalleled scope, ranging from hand-stitched chapbooks to signed first editions. It is among the most comprehensive collections of poetry available to the public anywhere.

The Poets House Showcase—our annual exhibit of new poetry and poetry-related publications (more on this later)—has gathered every book of poetry produced in the United States since 1992. The collection also includes distinguished donations from the personal collections of

Stanley Kunitz, Paul Zweig, Jane Cooper, Quincy Troupe, newly named U.S. Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin, and many others.

This new home allows for the full breadth of the collection to be available to the public. In order to hold the weight of our continually expanding collection, the floors were specially built to support 250 lbs. per square foot throughout the space and 400 lbs. per square foot to accommodate the high-density stacks in the library receiving room (standard flooring sustains only 100 lbs. per square foot). The collection has been freshly organized, and we are now able to provide public access to back issues of literary journals, chapbooks and a wide selection of multimedia items. Library use by scholars, students and all members of the public has already tripled, and we look forward to building this phenomenal resource for years to come.



During the transition and our first year in the space, we continued to develop the catalog of the collection, which is now available in a beta-version on site and will soon go live beyond our walls.

### The 18th Annual Poets House Showcase

The annual Poets House Showcase collects, documents, displays and promotes all of the poetry books, chapbooks and multi-media titles published in the United States during the previous year. There is no other program like this anywhere.

We presented the 18th Annual Poets House Showcase from June 28 to July 31. Visitors browsed the year's offerings—including volumes of collected works by major poets, first volumes by emerging poets, biographies, scholarly studies, anthologies, poetry in translation, hand-stitched chapbooks, poetry postcards and other poetry objects. This year's Showcase included 2,176 books, representing nearly 649 American presses. For the first time, because of our new home, library use, readings, children's programs and workshops could continue undisturbed while the Showcase was on view.

Each year, the Showcase provides American poets with visibility and the public with a sense of the breadth and vitality of contemporary poetry. Poets House takes care to give equal attention to micro-press chapbooks and volumes from major publishers in a democratic embrace of the full expression of poetic publishing activity in this country. Each new book in the Showcase becomes part of the Poets House permanent collection and is included in the definitive record of poetry in our time.



Poets House's *Directory of American Poetry Books*, one of the most current and complete sources of data on American poetry books anywhere, also provides one of the most important research tools for poetry in the country.

This year we made the decision to shift the timing of the Showcase from its traditional spot in April (during National Poetry Month) to the summer in order to garner increased attention for this event, and to capitalize on the increased public traffic to the New York City waterfront. The result was record-breaking attendance and enthusiastic press coverage, including a *New York Times* feature article that praised the Showcase as “wondrous evidence of the genre’s vitality.”



Accompanying the Showcase this year was a series of readings, which filled our program hall to capacity. On certain nights during the summer we lifted the hall's garage-style door opening the room to Teardrop Park South, with its outdoor seating and slate ponds, turning the park into an amphitheater for new poetry.

## Literary Programs for Adults

This year we produced some 226 events, 80 of which were literary programs for adults offered on site. These included panel discussions, readings, workshops, masterclasses and more. Exploring past masters, contemporary practices, and poetry's bearing on leading social issues, the first season in the new space has re-established Poets House as a premier venue for poetry programs in New York City. Already, we are making full use of the technological amenities and flexible layout of our new facility. Not only does Elizabeth Kray Hall open out into Teardrop Park South to accommodate larger audiences during the summer, but because of the way we wired the space, overflow audiences can also be accommodated in the Reading Room and throughout our new home. Kray Hall is also fully outfitted to record video and audio of all of our programs for both archival and dissemination purposes.

### Ecopoetic Futures

During the Fall 2009 season, our *Passwords* series opened with a talk by John Felstiner that asked: Can poetry save the earth? This theme framed our 15-event *Ecopoetic Futures* series, which examined poetry and the environment and featured:

- former US poet laureate Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman;
- a seminar on biodiversity with Jonathan Skinner;
- an examination of creative language used by scientists with rainforest ecologist Nalini Nadkarni and poet Leonard Schwartz;
- a discussion of the poetics of flora & fauna with essayist Diane Ackerman and poet Kimiko Hahn;
- a panel discussion with Marcella Durand, Brenda Iijima, Ted Mathys and Tyrone Williams on how poetry might marshal diverse languages to engage with a global ecosystem under duress;
- a panel discussion and poetry reading with Camille T. Dungy, Sean Hill, Yusef Komunyakaa and Evie Shockley on African-American nature poetry; and
- a forum on the image of the Green Man in English literature, from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* to Ronald Johnson's *Book of the Green Man*, with Carolyn

Dinshaw, Michael Hrebeniak, Basil King and Thomas Meyer. The forum was accompanied by an exhibit of paintings by Basil King inspired by the myth of the Green Man.

### Poets—Emerging, Collaborative, Established and International

Poets House programs continue to grow in diversity and scope. Programs have included:

- legendary figures like Anne Carson and Richard Howard;
- experimental practices of Kit Robinson, John D’Agata, Thalia Field and Jena Osman;
- tributes to David Bromige, Thom Gunn and Ruth Stone;
- collaborations, such as current Pulitzer Prize winner Rae Armantrout and Zen Buddhist Norman Fischer, as well as Jerry Pinkney and Marilyn Nelson; and
- artists working across disciplines, from theater (Fiona Templeton’s production of Leslie Scalapino’s play *Flow*) and puppetry (Ariel Goldberger and Leonard Schwartz’s presentation of *Sudden Orpheus*) to music (an evening with Meredith Monk) and sound (Stacy Doris’s seminar on recording audio landscapes).

We featured acclaimed and emerging talent from different geographical landscapes. There was particular emphasis on Latin America, including programs focusing on:

- **Cuba** (Maria Isabel Alfonso, Lourdes Gil, James Irby, Mark Weiss and Christopher Winks);
- **Chile** (Raúl Zurita);
- **Brazil** (Regis Bonvicino); and
- the **Dominican Republic** (Linda M. Rodriguez Guglielmoni, Judith Kerman, Ylonka Nacidit-Perdoma and Angela Hernandez Nunez).

We hosted Jesus Aguado from **Spain**; a discussion on **Chinese poetry** with Arthur Sze and Lucas Klein; and two evenings dedicated to **Polish poets** Bozena Keff, Marzanna Kielar, Tomasz Rozycki and Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki. We also presented evenings dedicated to poets living in diverse regions of the United States, including Darrell Bourque and Sheryl St. Germain from Louisiana, Maurice Manning and Norman Minnick from Kentucky, and Angela Jackson from Chicago, who was interviewed by Patricia Spears Jones.

The diversity of our programs and presenters reflects Poets House’s commitment to creating multiple points of entry into an art form with enormous aesthetic breadth.

### Literary Programs for Children & Families



The Constance Laibe Hays Children's Room officially opened to the public on April 17 with a reading by U.S. Children’s Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman and teacher Linda Winston. Children—along with their caretakers and educators—now have a large, inspiring room dedicated solely to their reading and writing. Even before the formal launch of the whimsically outfitted children’s room, thousands of kids visited the space and actively engaged with poetry by way of class field trips, open reading hours and poetry programs specifically designed for children.

Every object in the room is unique and intended to promote thought and association. Children can compose on old-fashioned manual typewriters (believe it or not, a huge favorite among the digital generation) or explore our wooden card catalogue that is filled with mysterious objects and related poems to be used as writing prompts. Children’s poetry books can be enjoyed at colorfully painted kid-sized desks or on soft “rock” cushions. An empty bird cage, large-scale stuffed animals, a canoe-shaped bookshelf, floor cushions that fit together like jigsaw puzzle pieces create a fun, fantastical atmosphere that spurs the imagination and unleashes ideas for poems.



Understanding how critical “creative play” is to children’s intellectual, sensory, emotional and language development, Poets House offered opportunities for children to read and write poetry with Richard Lewis and Naomi Shihab Nye; participate in making art, music and dance with Matthea Harvey and Calef Brown; and attend unique performances with poets such as Robert Hass.



Since our opening, 4,000 children have come through our doors; 3,000 of those on free class trips from 85 different public schools. School groups have included students from as far away as Washington D.C., as well as those closer to home—including P.S. 18 in the Bronx and I.S. 392 in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, P.S. 2 in Chinatown and classes from just down the block. The students’ dynamic experiences with poetry have prompted teachers to write to us:

- “The new space is so beautiful, so thoughtfully made, so full of possibility.”
- “The students enjoyed learning about the life of a poet and felt inspired to create their own poetry!”

This year we offered 15 family programs, 88 school trips and two neighborhood events. We piloted Children’s Room open hours for families and a weekly “Tiny Poets Time” for toddlers. Through all of these activities, Poets House seeks to support the next generation of poetry readers and writers.

## Exhibition Space



The Cheney Chappell Exhibition Space is our first dedicated space for visitors to engage with the visual and book arts in a museum-quality environment. A glass-encased display floating above our lobby, the Exhibition Space stakes out new territory for interdisciplinary exploration and exchange. Pilot exhibitions, which have included a show of Robert Frost’s holiday chapbooks and a retrospective on student-created poetic spaces in public schools, are paving the way to this program’s full launch in fall 2011.

## Regional & National Initiatives

While we actively reached out to our neighbors in Battery Park City, we also reached beyond to garner audiences throughout New York City and around the country.

### Poetry in The Branches

Poetry in The Branches (PITB) is Poets House's nationally recognized program for developing new audiences for poetry and increasing poetry circulation in libraries nationwide. Our multifaceted, replicable model assists librarians in creating a complete environment for poetry in their libraries.

In October 2009, the Poetry in the Branches National Institute featured acclaimed poet Mark Doty as keynote speaker. Approximately 30 librarians from the five boroughs of New York City and from around the country came together for training on how best to improve their library poetry collections, create poetry displays, learn to curate and conduct poetry programs for adults and teens, and market both poetry programs and collections. Other PITB trainings were given for the Mid-Hudson Library System and the Nassau County Library Association during this fiscal year.

Here in New York, we realigned our partnerships with the city's local library systems in a special three system initiative, training staff from the New York Public Library (serving Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island), the Brooklyn Public Library and the Queens Public Library. This series of trainings focused on incorporating poetry into existing book discussion groups. This program culminated in over 30 poetry discussion groups during Immigrant Heritage Week (April 15 – 21, 2010), offered at libraries throughout New York City in cooperation with the Mayor's Office on Immigrant Affairs.



### The Language of Conservation

A leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provided Poets House with the opportunity to replicate nationally its immensely popular *Language of Conservation* program, which brings together poets, zoo staff and librarians to curate permanent, conservation-themed poetry installations in zoos and create supporting programs at local libraries.

The original program at the Central Park Zoo was a collaboration between Poets House and the Wildlife Conservation Society. There, an installation of 40 poems and poem fragments throughout the zoo's exhibits and walkways dramatized the impact humans have on natural ecosystems and led to a new appreciation in the conservation community of how poetry can deepen conservation awareness among zoo visitors.

In Spring 2010, poetry installations were unveiled at zoos in Brookfield, Illinois (outside of Chicago); Little Rock, Arkansas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Jacksonville, Florida; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Each zoo worked with a nationally recognized poet-in-residence to select poems to be installed alongside habitats, exhibits and walkways. Poets in residence Sandra Alcosser, Joe Bruchac, Mark Doty, Alison Hawthorne-Deming and Pattiann Rogers attended installation openings and presented poetry programs for adults (and, in some cases, children) at all of the partner libraries this year. Library programming will continue throughout 2011, while research is conducted to analyze the



impact of the installations on conservation thinking. Already this project has brought poetry to millions, while deepening visitors' appreciation for the natural world and their role in it.

## The 15th Annual Poetry Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge

The 15th Annual Poetry Walk Across the Brooklyn Bridge, our gala fundraiser, attracted over 350 supporters and helped us raise 10% of our annual operating budget.

The walk began at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge in Manhattan with a reading by poet Anne Carson, then continued with Brooklyn Poet Laureate Tina Chang and poet Thomax Lux reading on the Brooklyn Bridge, and ended with Galway Kinnell reciting Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" at Fulton Ferry Landing in Brooklyn.



Readings continued throughout dinner at Bubby's Brooklyn, where tribute was paid to poet and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, recipient of this year's Elizabeth Kray Award for service to the field of poetry. In honor of Ferlinghetti, actor Bill Murray read the poet's work as well as poetry published by City Lights, Ferlinghetti's seminal publishing house.

## Marketing and Visibility

Before our move, we spent years developing institutional partnerships downtown with schools and other cultural organizations. Working with these partners we presented programs downtown in order to familiarize existing audiences with our new neighborhood. These efforts ensured that when we arrived in our new home this past September, we found a host of friends waiting to welcome us, and we seamlessly integrated into the neighborhood's arts community.

Our opening at 10 River Terrace received coverage that was nothing short of a media coup—with write-ups in major media outlets ranging from the front page of the Arts Section of the *New York Times*, to a feature on Bill Moyers *Journal*, and an especially poetic piece in the *New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town." We were also featured in a number of other media outlets, including: *Downtown Express*, *Poets & Writers*, *New York Daily News*, *The Tribeca Trib*, *The Architect's Newspaper*, and the *Battery Park City Broadsheet*.

We plan to build on the momentum of our recent press attention, as we formally celebrate our 25th anniversary in fiscal year 2012. Poets House is already drawing unprecedented numbers of people to our new home. We have also established a vibrant presence on key social-media platforms (such as Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube). Now we are moving forward to develop a new virtual home, a welcoming, yet sophisticated website with an imaginative multimedia portal. With new functions, including video streaming capabilities and the full integration of our library catalog, our new website will become a powerful tool for global, 24-hour access to our archive, establishing Poets House as an invaluable online resource to the scholarly community and general public.

## Sustainability

The new space at 10 River Terrace is a dramatic demonstration of planning, growth and stabilization. An organization that defines itself as a physical place must eventually deal with issues of real estate in order to create a sustainable future. Now, after years of planning and fundraising, Poets House has a secure 60-year lease.

To make this possible, Poets House built on a history of artistic vision and programmatic excellence supported by sound management, fiscal responsibility and a consistent commitment to careful planning. Throughout the growth of the organization, and particularly during the capital project, Poets House engaged in targeted consultancies that have made enduring contributions to organizational capacity.

Still there were surprises. The organization had to quickly adjust to the realities of the new space. Poets House's first ever street presence and increased visitorship necessitated a more vigorous intern and volunteer program: 45 individuals participated in this new program this past year. We received feedback from many of the high school, college and MFA interns that the experience has been particularly formative. We now see this initiative as an integral part of our program service.

Though we moved into the new space during a recession, we have paid back our bridge financing and are without debt. In addition, we designed our campaign to provide support for the Grand Opening, the start of new programming initiatives and the management of the facility during our first year in the new space. Modest reserves will continue to support our growth and help us to meet contingencies during the next few years. However, the Capital Campaign is on-going. Though we have come very close to our goal, closing the gap will ensure that Poets House can continue from a place of strength, and that we will have the resources we need to meet every opportunity presented by this new capacity and visibility.

Also this year, we began to reinvent our Development Department, strengthening our outreach to Members and donors, as well as corporate partners in the neighborhood. We have recreated and expanded our long-standing space rental program for book parties and special poetry events. We are reaching out to new foundations and creating new public partnerships. We have also begun to develop new IT support capacities, since a refurbished website is an essential goal for the upcoming year.

Margo Viscusi—former, long-time Board President and now Board President Emerita—supported a new generation of Poets House Board leaders. Martín Gómez, the current Board President and City Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library System, has refocused Poets House's board governance, mobilizing the board to work in committee structures that highlight the individual and unified strengths of our Board members. Poets House also retained Judy Levine of Cause Effective to work with us throughout the year on issues related to Board growth, leadership and planning as we ramp up for our 25th Anniversary.



## Conclusion

During our first year at 10 River Terrace, Poets House welcomed close to 40,000 visitors to our new home and continued to set a literary gold standard for poetry programming both locally and nationally—solidifying its reputation as a place of intellectual exchange and deep, continued learning. Now firmly established as a downtown cultural anchor and an international meeting place, Poet House is poised to invite ever expanding audiences into the art as we ramp up for our 25th Anniversary celebrations next fall.

Due to the dedication and hard work of our Board, staff, donors and friends, Poets House was able to raise the funds necessary to meet our annual operating expenses. Our operating expenses this year came to \$1,556,582. We closed out the year with a slim operating surplus of \$11,179, which shall be returned to our reserves. This would not have been possible without extraordinary efforts on the part of many.

Additionally, as you will see from the financials on the following pages, we broke the \$10M mark in our Capital Campaign. The project represents a remarkable private/public partnership with Battery Park City. The long-term lease was the direct result of many years of relationship building while we simultaneously created the institutional capacities to be ready for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Our new home and all it represents was made possible through the support of many diverse partners: poets, librarians, Members, poetry enthusiasts, government agencies, foundations and members of our Board, all working together to build this *place for poetry*. We are deeply grateful to all of you and rely on your continued help to fulfill the promise that our new home represents.

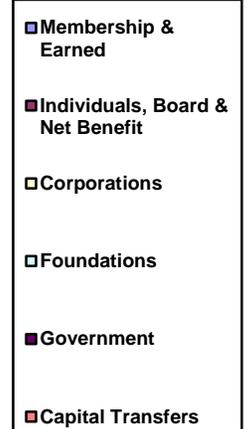
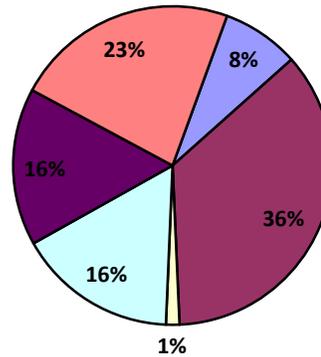
We look forward to this coming year with you. It will include a greatly enhanced, interactive website that will soon become our virtual home; many exciting new programs; more community partnerships; and new possibilities just around the corner.

## Poets House Financials, Fiscal Year 2010

### OPERATING INCOME

Membership and Earned Income	123,150
Individuals, Board & Net Benefit Income	562,676
Corporations	21,399
Foundations	254,075
*Government	250,461
Program and Capital Transfers	<u>356,000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,567,761</b>

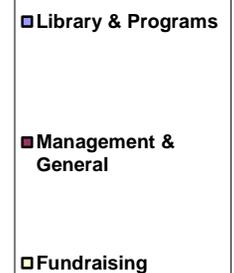
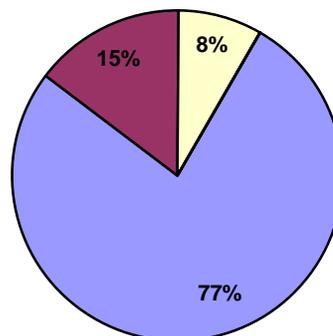
Operating Income  
\$1.56 million



### OPERATING EXPENSES

*Library and Programs	1,198,540
Management & General	230,171
Fundraising	<u>127,871</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,556,582</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>11,179</b>

Operating Expenses  
\$1.56 million



\*Poets House is the recipient of a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the *Language of Conservation*, which runs for 3 years beginning October 1, 2008. For the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2010, the net of \$504,161 income and \$374,920 of direct outlays are reflected for support services to our program in five U.S. cities.

## CAPITAL PROJECT

### Income

Government Agencies	5,515,000
Foundations	1,929,500
Board	1,821,140
Other Individuals	738,354
Interest	<u>185,995</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,189,989</b>

### Expenses

Trades and Other Hard Costs	5,042,573
Architecture & Engineering	802,089
Project Management & Other Consulting	926,254
Furniture & Equipment	874,680
Insurance, Financing and Miscellaneous	98,878
Interim Buildout, Storage & Moving Costs	189,594
Facility Management Year 1	175,000
Fundraising & Administration ('04-'10)	742,109
Publicity ('04-'10)	249,651
Grand Opening, Program Start-up	<u>133,500</u>
<b>Total Expense and Accounts Payable</b>	<b>9,234,328</b>

NEH Endowment (grants and pledges)	275,000
Reserves (cash on hand)	101,722
Reserves (pledges through 2018)	<u>578,939</u>
	<b>10,189,989</b>

These figures are as of June 30, 2010. Our Capital Campaign is still ongoing, especially as we seek to raise additional commitments needed to match the endowment challenge from the NEH. The goal for that Fund is \$500,000. To help us meet this goal or to contribute to our reserve, please call Christina Lem, at 212-431-7920, ext. 2835.

Expenses above include some \$105,532 in accounts payable outstanding as of June 30. While our project is substantially complete, there may be some minor adjustments to the figures above as the last contracts are formally closed out.

## POETS HOUSE

### Board of Directors

Martín Gómez, President  
 Frank C. Platt, Co-Vice President  
 Robert Kissane, Co-Vice President  
 Fredric Hugue, Treasurer  
 Nicholas F. Potter, Secretary  
 Penny Barr  
 George Cigale  
 Cheri Fein  
 Wendy Larsen  
 H. Bruce McEver  
 Myra Shapiro  
 Michael T. Sillerman  
 Ward Smith  
 André Spears  
 Margo Viscusi, *President Emerita*

### Staff

Lee Briccetti - *Executive Director*  
 Jane Preston - *Managing Director*  
 Maggie Balistreri - *Librarian*  
 Reggie Harris - *Poetry in The Branches Coordinator*  
 Robert Holczer - *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Alice Kaasic - *Bookkeeper*  
 Christina Lem - *Director of Foundation & Government Partnerships*  
 Krista Manrique - *Development Manager*  
 Claude McCalla - *Facilities Manager*  
 Stephen Motika - *Program Director*  
 Mike Romanos - *Children's Room Director*  
 Bleuberthol Scott - *IT Coordinator*  
 Suzanne Wise - *Marketing & Publicity Coordinator*

**POETS HOUSE IS GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PLACE FOR POETRY.**

**We salute those individuals and foundations whose recent generous leadership donations have enabled the growth of**

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