



**the
poetry
room**

**ANNUAL
REPORT:
2025**



A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

The Poetry Room is a 501 3 (c) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering spoken word poetry in the greater Lansing area, providing an inclusive space for all that promotes expression and truth. We also bring notable names in spoken word poetry to the area so our local poets can learn and grow their craft.

I am so grateful to our many participants, supporters and volunteers who make The Poetry Room possible since 2017. We usually have standing room only at our events and the excitement over our open mic series has been growing exponentially from the start.

In this annual report you will find some of our most recent highlights from 2025, as well as a snapshot of our financial situation.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you at an upcoming event soon!

MASAKI TAKAHASKI

FOUNDER, THE POETRY ROOM

MASAKI.TAKAHASHI@THEPOETRYROOM.ORG

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

Highlights

In 2025, we hosted 22 events including open mics, three workshops and three poetry slams. Poets came from all over Michigan and even out of state to be part of The Poetry Room. As a result, we made many new friendships, connections and inspired our community.

It was really incredible to increase the competitive vibe in the Lansing area with our slams this year. We hosted our Fall Brawl at the Robin Theater. In the spring, we hosted our special techno music slam teaming up with the Michigan State University RCAH Center for Poetry, who also partnered with us for our Summer Slam.

Some of our featured poets included:

Ephraim Nehemiah
Marcel "Fable" Price
Claretha "Peace" Bell
Lord Kwaj
Brittany Rogers
Karla Cordero
Breeze the Poet
Amy Love
Aris Kian
Maya Write
Steven Willis
Olivia Gatwood
Bare Bones Improv
Galaxy

Special Events/Sponsorships:

Sponsor of the City Pulse Holiday Poetry Contest



SUMMER SLAM 2025, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

A woman with curly hair and bangs is performing at a microphone. She is wearing a dark, short-sleeved button-down shirt and has tattoos on her left arm. Her hands are raised as if speaking or gesturing. The background is a bookstore with shelves and a string of red and white bunting.

Financial Snapshot

In 2025:

The Poetry Room raised \$10,730 through foundation grants, Greater Lansing Arts Council funding, and sponsorships. \$5,052 of that money was through individual donations.

72%

72% of The Poetry Room's expenses supported direct program services, including artist compensation and event production.

28%

28% supported administrative and operational costs.

OLIVIA GATWOOD PERFORMS AT "A NOVEL CONCEPT" BOOKSTORE IN LANSING

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

Grants & Sponsorships:

Community Foundation: \$5,000.00
Arts Council of greater Lansing : \$2230
MSU Sponsor: \$3,500.00

Total

\$10,730.00

Total Individual Donations

\$5,052.05

Total Revenue: \$15,782.05

- Grants/Sponsors:68%
- Individual Donors:32%
- Total expenses: \$16,849.58
- ▼ Net result: -\$1,067.53

Program Services:

\$12,131.70
(72% of total expenses)

Includes:

- Artist honoraria & features
- Slam prizes
- Venue rentals
- Program production costs
- programming & events
- Direct costs tied to shows and workshops

Administrative & General:

\$4,717.88
(28% of total expenses)

Includes:

- Bank & processing fees
 - Insurance / compliance costs
 - Supplies
 - Technology & admin tools
- General operations





SPECIAL THANKS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE POETRY ROOM

The Robin Theater
A Novel Concept
The City Pulse
(Scene) MetroSpace
Michigan State University RCAH Center for Poetry
Michigan State University Art, Art History & Design
Capital Area District Library
Lansing Lit
Michigan State University Library

Thanks to anyone who came to an open mic or event to support our poets, or shared our content on social media!



The Poetry Room Board:
Masaki Takahashi
Adam Montri
Dylan Rogers
David Langlois
Michael Clark
Claire Donohoe

We Need Your Support

We cannot continue to bring this level of spoken word poetry enrichment to the Lansing area without your continued support. If you would like to donate or volunteer, contact Masaki Takahashi masaki.takahashi@thepoetryroom.org

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for the latest on upcoming events and much more! Also, visit us at the www.thepoetryroom.org