

# THE NATURE OF WORDS BOARD AND STAFF 2008



Front row, left to right: Louise Hawker (Assistant Director), DeeAnn Hoff, Sandra Miler, Hilary Garrett (Secretary), Angelina Montoya, Laura Tavalocci (Administrative Assistant). Back row, left to right: Ellen Waterston (Director), John Martin, Peter Lovering (President), Margie Robberson, Leslie Conley, Susan Humphrey (Treasurer), David Bilyeu (Vice-President).  
Not pictured: Neil Browne

# ANNUAL REPORT

*The Nature of Words 2008*



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The mission of The Nature of Words is to foster an appreciation of the literary arts and humanities in the High Desert region of the Northwest through community interaction with acclaimed authors, and through creative writing programs for high school and college-age students in the region.



Craig Childs, 2008 Guest Author—Tower Theatre

*"Craig Childs touched a spot deep within me, the source of my own stories. He peeled back layers of resistance – or was it just that he brushed away the fear? I've started writing again."*

~ **Sandy Anderson,**  
**Workshop Participant**

## 2008—A YEAR OF DIVERSITY AND GROWTH

**Peter Lovering, President**  
**Board of Directors**



Imagine a slam poet, a diehard environmental and social activist journalist, an icon of the science fiction genre, and a 21-year-old poet prodigy on the same program. That scenario captures the diverse and fascinating year that was The Nature of Words 2008.

I was privileged to lead the dedicated Board of Directors and staff in achieving widespread recognition for and participation in November's annual literary festival. The staff, led by Director Ellen Waterston, did a yeoman's job of ensuring every event achieved the quality our audiences and participating authors have come to expect. In this record-breaking year, the festival attracted approximately 2,000 people.

Equally important, The Nature of Words finished 2008 financially in the black for the fourth year in a row—no small feat for a cultural organization in these challenging times. We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the many sponsors, donors, volunteers and participants who

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made this possible. In return, we have been, and will be, careful stewards of the donations that allow The Nature of Words to present programs on a finely-honed budget.

In 2009, The Nature of Words will launch the Creative-Writing-in-the-Schools program. With this addition, along with the ongoing writing classes and Rising Star Creative Writing Competition, our transition to year-round offerings will be complete. The support we have received from foundations, businesses and Individuals makes it possible for us to deliver this exciting new program, I look forward to reporting on the success of the program as it unfolds.

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE NATURE OF WORDS 2008 A SUCCESS!

### Laureate

Anonymous Donor  
Central Oregon  
Community College  
Collins Foundation  
Miller Charitable Fund  
of the Oregon  
Community  
Foundation  
Old Mill District  
Oregon State  
University-Cascades  
Campus  
The Starview Founda-  
tion in support of  
Deschutes Land Trust  
Writing Ranch

### Booker

Bank of the Cascades  
BMC Cardiology  
Emily Bonavia  
Craig & Linda Moore  
Deschutes Brewery  
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### Pulitzer

Cascades East  
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### PEN/Faulkner

Brooks Resources Corp.  
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Caldera  
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Landscapes  
Margaret Heater  
Mike & Sue Hollern  
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Foundation  
Mike & Susan McKnight  
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Village Resort  
Oregon Cultural Trust  
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of Bend  
Robberson Ford  
Sally Russell  
Samuel S. Johnson  
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Shelk Fund of the  
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The High Desert  
Museum  
The Source Weekly  
Umpqua Bank  
Ursula K. Le Guin  
US Bank Foundation

### Booker

Bank of the Cascades  
BMC Cardiology  
Emily Bonavia  
Craig & Linda Moore  
Deschutes Brewery  
Deschutes County  
Board of

Commissioners  
Devore's Good Food  
Dr. Bruce & Eileen  
McClellan  
Friends of Cascades  
Academy  
Karnopp Petersen LLP  
KOHD News  
Leonardi Media  
Sandra & Steve Miller  
Nancy & Trent Tyler  
Ron & Molly Foerster  
Sun Forest  
Construction  
William Smith  
Properties

### Page Turners

Allied Arts  
Steve Apfelbaum, DDS  
Ray & Jean Auel  
Ann Bard  
Barnes & Noble  
Bend Public Library  
Eleanor Berry  
Between the Covers  
David & Linda Bilyeu  
Marion Biscay  
Nancy Bosch  
Vivian Bristol  
John Cain  
Camalli Book Co. LLC  
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Jay & Caryl Casbon  
Cascades Academy of  
Central Oregon  
Central Oregon  
Pumpkin Co.  
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Guild  
Marjorie Chandler  
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Bob & Wanda Coil  
Mark and Gigi  
Copeland  
Crook County Library  
Eloise Damrosch  
Julian Darwin  
Sharon Dawn  
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Laura & Roger Fox  
Fred Meyer  
Hilary Garrett  
Leonard Gross  
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David & Lee Husk  
Dee Ann Hoff  
Kake Huck  
Nancy & John James  
James Property  
Investments  
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Don Harker  
Ellen Lindsay  
Peter Lovering &  
Loretta Slepikas  
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MacCloskey  
Linda Mack  
Sally Mann  
Tina McGeary &  
Ernie Pool  
David Stranahan &  
Maggie McLaughlin  
Suzie & Peter Miller  
Judith Montgomery  
Janice Moore  
Greg & Patricia Moss  
Newport Market  
Ruth Norman  
John & Vivian Nosler  
Elizabeth &  
Robert Noyes  
Volker & Denise Oakey  
Cate O'Hagan  
Julio R. Gallo  
Foundation  
Kathleen Ort  
Paulina Springs Books  
Margaret Quintong  
Ray's Food Place  
Redmond Public Library  
Reuben Rich  
Janine Robberson  
Elise Rochina  
Robert's on Wall Street  
David Rutiezter

Commissioners  
Devore's Good Food  
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McClellan  
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Safeway  
Janice Schock  
Shelf Life Books  
Silver Moon Brewing  
Sisters Public Library  
Strictly Organic  
Lynda & David Sullivan  
Patricia Driscoll &  
Paul Theiner  
Steve Timm, DMD  
Diana & Matt Tomseth  
Kay Tompkins  
Cassie Tuft  
Helen & Raymond  
Vandervort  
Volcano Vineyards  
Gioia Wadsworth  
Betsy Warriner  
Elizabeth Warriner  
Joanne Richter &  
Sara Wiener  
Louis Pepper &  
Ruth Williamson

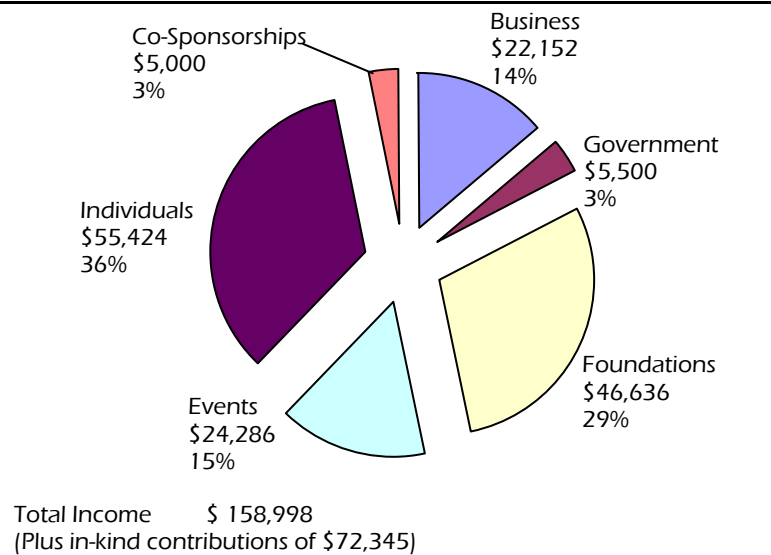
### The Nature of Words Advisory Committee 2008

Pamela Andrews  
Marian Biscay  
Lisa Broadwater  
Larry Colton  
Chris Schroeder Fain  
Teresa Fehrenbacher  
Molly Foerster  
Sarah Follet-Wuepper  
Nancy Knoble  
Wendy May  
Susan McKnight  
James Middleton  
Rene Mitchell  
Mark Molnar  
Mary Heather Noble  
Cate O'Hagan  
Carolyn Platt  
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Jarold Ramsey  
Sally Russell  
Diana Sloane  
Marney Smith  
Chantal Stroebel  
Helen Vandervort  
Rich Wandschneider  
Andy Whipple

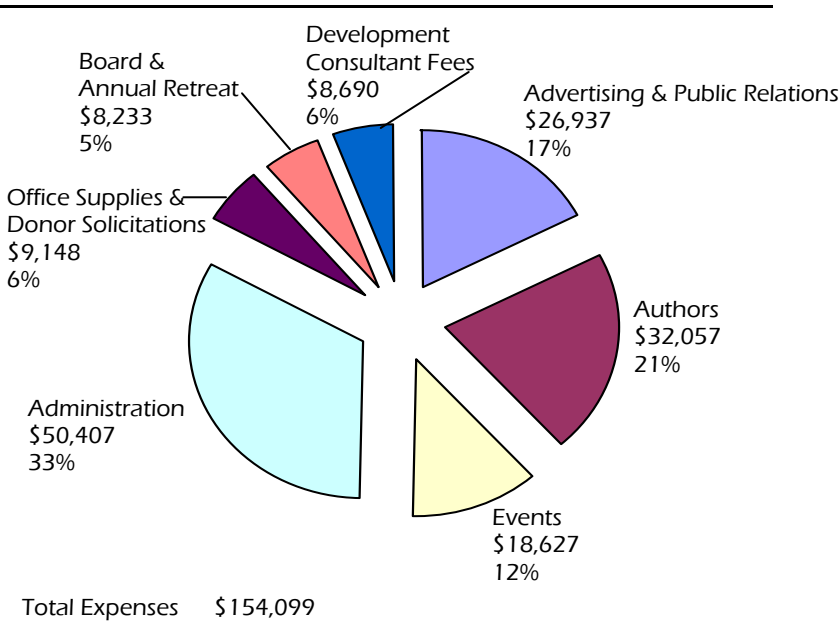
Please accept our  
apologies if we missed  
any contributors.

# BUDGET SUMMARY

## Income



## Expenses



*"I hope you will continue promoting the value of writing to students: at this point in history we need good communicators of emotion, of opinion, and of truth. I hope to be one of those communicators, and your recognition will help me in achieving this goal."*

~ **Madeline Gobbo, Hood River, Oregon**  
**2008 Rising Star Winner**



## ON THE LINE

**Ellen Waterston, Director**

If one person can epitomize The Nature of Words, consider the young woman who came from Wassila, Alaska to the 2008 literary long-weekend. When Shaina, who had never ventured beyond Alaska's borders, learned her favorite poet, Patricia Smith, would be at The Nature of Words 2008, she booked a flight, found lodging in Bend, and made her way to the festival on her own. Her story came to light only as a result of casual conversations with other attendees who alerted the staff.



For Shaina – and for most who attended, if the evaluation forms are any indication – The Nature of Words was a life-changing experience. She reported how inspired she was by the readings of the acclaimed authors and poets. How informed she was by their lectures and panel discussions. At The Nature of Words she met like-minded lovers of literature and had the opportunity to hone her writing skills at author-led workshops. As a fitting conclusion to the weekend, Shaina read a poem at the Open Mic she wrote in the creative writing workshop she attended over the course of the literary long-weekend—a poem that demonstrated newly-found confidence in her voice as a writer.

The Nature of Words' annual literary festival underscores our belief that great authors and poets, through their writing, reveal us to ourselves in a very important way. That conversations with these writers, in the form of panel discussions and lectures, help raise the level of discussion in the community and increase overall awareness of the literary arts within the context of a vibrant and dynamic event. And that The Nature of Words' writing workshops, Rising Star Creative Writing Competition and, now, Creative-Writing-in-the-Schools program illustrate our year-round commitment to encouraging one and all to put their creative selves on the (written) line, to explore the craft and art of creative writing and, through writing and reading, to explore the world within and the world around us. Thank you to everyone who is a part of this literary adventure and for helping make 2008 the most successful The Nature of Words to date.

## RISING STAR POWER

With 100 entries in fiction, literary nonfiction and poetry to choose from, the judges were challenged to name a select group of winners in the two age groups: ages 15-18 and 19-25. The November 5th awards ceremony included winners from as far as Seattle, Washington.



Some of 2008's Rising Stars, left to right: Kai Hoffman-Krull, Erica Dietz, Elizabeth Charles, Mac Baldner, Eleanor Ellis

## READINGS & BOOK SIGNINGS DRAW CROWDS



Charles Bowden, Patricia Smith and Judith Barrington sign books after their reading.



Camalli Book Co. did a brisk business in book sales.



Luis Urrea



Charles Bowden



Patricia Smith



Judith Barrington

## WORKSHOPS & AUTHOR DINNER SELL OUT

Demand was high for the workshops offered by guest authors at Oregon State University-Cascades Campus and Central Oregon Community College. The author dinner and panel at the High Desert Museum was sold out.



Luis Urrea



Workshop registration in the capable hands of volunteers Nancy Knoble and Lisa Broadwater



Ursula K. Le Guin



Ekiwah Adler-Belendez

## CREATIVE-WRITING-IN-THE-SCHOOLS

The Nature of Words staff launched the Creative-Writing-in-the-Schools program in 2008 with workshops conducted in three area high schools by Central Oregon poet Jamie Houghton. This program will get under full sail in 2009, thanks to grants from the Collins Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation.



Jamie Houghton



Guests had an opportunity to chat with the authors at the author dinner and panel.