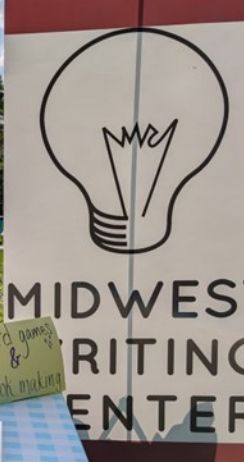


The Midwest Writing Center 2025 Annual Report



WRITE MORE LIGHT INTO YOUR LIFE
MIDWEST WRITING CENTER

PARTNERSHIPS



Euria already knows how to read aloud. She didn't expect to be so interested in sports stories but since she's declawed and mellow, it gives her a way to live vicariously through others.

SUPPORTING WRITERS & ARTISTS

In 2025, MWC paid \$27,019 to 80 writers, designers, editors, performers, etc. (22% of MWC's FY2025 total operating budget)

PARTNERSHIPS

MWC worked with 21 different organizations, schools, libraries, etc. in 2025, including six new partners (new partnerships shown in bold)

- Rock Island Public Library
- Black Hawk Community College
- Rock Island/Milan School District #41
- Scott Community College
 - Rozz-Tox
- **Wake Brewing**
- Narratives QC
- City of Davenport Parks & Recreation
 - **The Project of the Quad Cities**
- Moline Public Library
 - Get Lit / Western Illinois University – QC
 - **King's Harvest Pet Rescue**
 - Galvin Fine Arts / St. Ambrose University
- Davenport Public Library
 - **Poetry Out Loud**
 - ISU/Spoon River Poetry Review
 - The Atlas Collective
 - The Brewed Book
 - Bettendorf High School
 - Rock Island High School
 - **The Macabre Librarian**

Many Thanks to Our Grantors & Sponsors!!

In 2025, MWC raised \$37,000 in grants & sponsorships
(25% of total FY2025 operating budget & up 14% over FY2024 total)

MWC 2025 Grantors & Sponsors

- Modern Woodmen of America
- Illinois Arts Council
- Arts Midwest GIG Fund
- Regional Development Authority
- Moline Community Foundation
- Mary Iva Gittens Knouse Trust
- CD Wiman Memorial Trust
- Dr. Nicolas Shammas MD, MS
- Rock Island County Retired Teachers Foundation
- Scott County Regional Authority





PERSONNEL & MEMBERS

- Thanks to our 246 active members in 2025, who contributed over \$17,300 in member donations (nearly \$32,000 in membership dues, memorials, and donations, 21% of FY2025 operating budget, thanks in part to a major contribution from the former New Ground Theatre)
- Welcomed four new Directors to the Board: Kirsten Dillender, Monica Flink, Callahan Herrig, and Stephanie Guerra to the Board; Tara Foltz and Hannah Blaser-Gott left the Board in summer 2025
- Administrative Specialist: Morgan Webb started the position in October
- 24 volunteers contributed over \$20,000 in in-kind hours & service

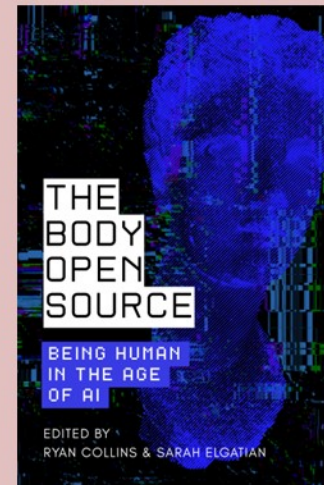
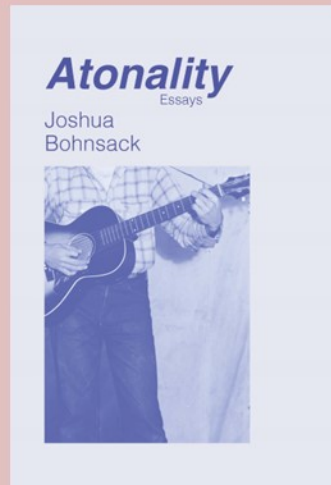
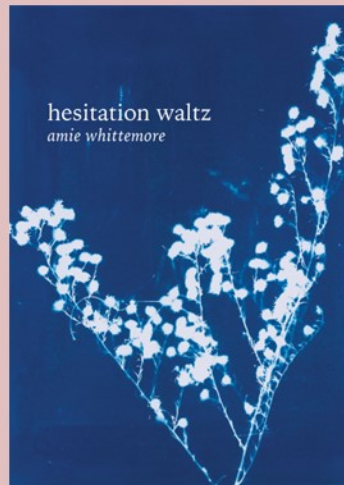
Many thanks to our volunteers!

Hannah Blaser-Gott	Xixuan Collins	Sarah Elgatian	Jenna Isbell	Beth Paul
Angela Campbell	Abigail Culliton	Monica Flink	Janey Locander	Jay Posateri
Ryan Collins	Mary Davidsaver	Tara Foltz	Salvatore Marici	Philip Goldfarb Styrt
Susan Collins	Kristin DeMarr	Stephanie Guerra	Ava Miller	Emily Tobin
	Jacob Duncan	Charly Heber-Spates	Dan Moore	Jonathan Turner

PROGRAMS & PUBLICATIONS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- MWC offered over 400 hours of programming & logged over 10,000 instances of service in 2025
- Celebrated the 20th anniversaries of both the David R. Collins Writers' Conference and the Young Emerging Writers Summer Internship Program
- MWC Press published four new titles: *The Atlas 20*, *Hesitation Waltz* by Amie Whittemore and *Atonality: Essays* by Joshua Bohnsack (both Foster-Stahl Chapbook Series), and *The Body Open Source: Being Human in the Age of AI*, featuring 22 local poets & writers
- Received a grant from Arts Midwest GIG Fund to support the first full season of SPECTRA Reading Series (fall 2024-spring 2025) since the pandemic



PROGRAMS & PUBLICATIONS (cont'd)

Midwest Writing Center's Memory Keepers preserve legacy through the written word



Memory Keepers participants attend a class at the Midwest Writing Center in Rock Island on Thursday, Oct. 30. The course provides participants writing mentors and family moments a place to share writing, organize stories and offer support. Photo: Kristin Smith



MORE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted readings from one poet a day on our YouTube page for National Poetry Month (April) for the second consecutive year
- Partnered with Galvin Fine Arts Center at St. Ambrose University on two public events and the publication of *The Body Open Source* anthology
- Started a new ongoing program, Memory Keepers, which meets monthly and was featured in a *QC Times/Dispatch* year-end feature
- Participated in the Printer's Row Lit Fest in Chicago as part of the Independent Press tent for the second year in a row, in addition to the Mission Creek Book Fair, and the inaugural Boozy Book Fair at Wake Brewing in the spring
- Hosted 9 workshops (including a fiction series in the spring & monthly poetry workshops in the fall), 5 Writer Re-Groups, 9 Memory Keepers meetings, and 13 readings (including 4 SPECTRA events & the annual Banned Books Reading)

