

We have had such a successful and wonderful summer! Thank you so much to everyone who came out to support and participate in our programs. There are some really exciting things coming up! So scroll through, and check out what we have going on!

Read a special message from our Executive Director, Casey Grooten, at the end of this newsletter!



The Edison Neighborhood Association received all \$20,000 towards their match grant goal. Which means, if you donated, your money was doubled! Because of the success of this campaign, there will now be a new pocket park in the Washington Square Area of the Edison Neighborhood. The park will feature, amongst other things, a mural of the KPF All Things Possible Youth Poem!



Check out the Edison Neighborhood Association

The Air Poetry Reading and Open Mic at Kazoo Books was a hit! Even the rain could not stop us! Thank you especially to Markeva Love, Laura Citino, and Jessica Ivey for performing, and Kazoo Books for being an amazing host!











What is Kazoo Books?

There are some really great performance opportunities coming up! Check them out!

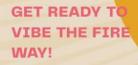


FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC

First Friday lets Vibe Connect and spread some Poetry

Fire Historical Arts
Collaborative

Host: EgypTrinity



September 5th 2025 At fire 1249 Portage St Kalamazoo MI 49001 09/5 2025

6-8pm

open mic list open to all talents

FEA TUR ING ZO
PERFORMING
POETRY!

Thisisfire.org

Learn more about Fire

VIRTUAL POETRY WORKSHOP September 18, 2025 6pm-7:30pm

Mark Your Calendar!



Signup Coming Soon!

Molly Kirschner

Molly Kirschner is a poet, playwright, performer, and educator. Her poems have appeared in journals including The Southern Review, The New Ohio Review, and One Magazine, and four of her poems are forthcoming in Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics. Kirschner was awarded the inaugural poetry residency at The Hundredth Hill: "Resilience: the Poet's Response to These Troubled Times." Her new manuscript was a Finalist for the 2021 Four Way Books Levis Prize in Poetry.

Read more about Molly's workshop

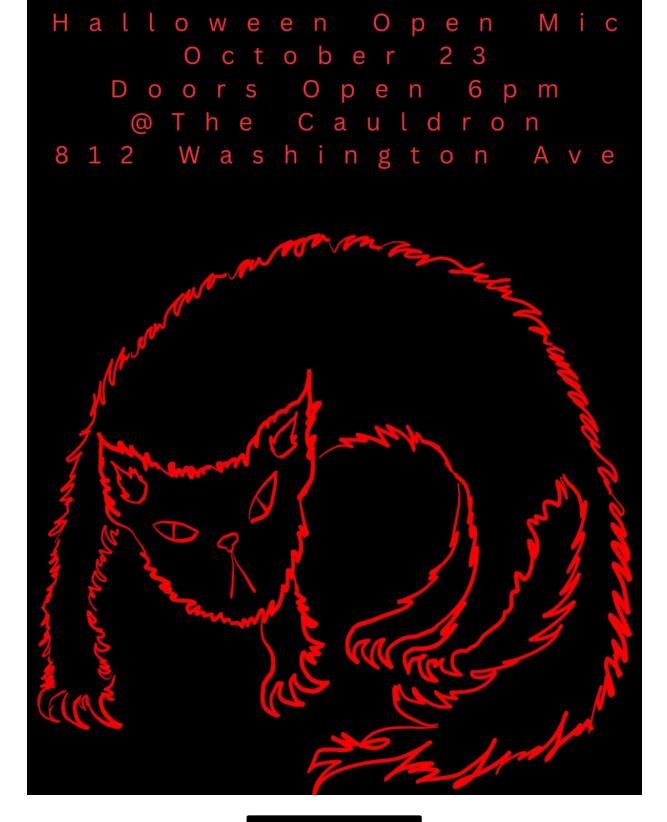


Visit The Institute



Visit the Dormouse Website

Last year, we had a super fun time at the spooky open mic that took place in October. This year we are planning it again, and are excited to invite you into the new Black Magic Media space, The Cauldron! Mark your calendars and get ready for a night of good poetry, music, costumes, and snacks!



Black Magic Media

Dear Kalamazoo Poetry Festival friends,

This year has seen unprecedented cuts to arts funding, and this cut is felt right here in Kalamazoo. KPF has been fortunate for many years to rely upon grants from wonderful local and regional organizations. Although we

still hope to receive funding from several of these sources, we have to be honest. Now is the time that your donations matter most. You are probably hearing it everywhere from orgs like ours, but it is true. If you like what we do and want to see us continue, please help! Your donation doesn't have to be a huge dent in your wallet, there are other ways to support. You can sign up for a \$5 monthly recurring donation! If everyone on this newsletter signed up for a recurring donation like this, KPF could sustain not only its programming, but also GROW. This is why the board of directors hired me, to help fortify our solid base, and then build upon it. If you have ever attended one of our events, performed for us, or supported in another capacity, you know that we work hard to make it a good experience all around. We want to keep KPF events free, and KPF artists paid. Thank you so much for all that you do to support us already. I can speak for everyone here when I say we could not appreciate it more. We love you Kalamazoo!

Still in gratitude, AND resilience,
Casey Grooten
Executive Director, Kalamazoo Poetry Festival



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