



For Immediate Release

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**Poets House Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary with 25 Programs
That Trace the Full History of Poetry**

From Gilgamesh to contemporary poetry, our anniversary year has something for everyone

New York, NY, September 7, 2011 — For a full year beginning this September, Poets House celebrates its 25th anniversary with an ambitious series of 25 programs that traces the history of poetry from *Gilgamesh* to the myriad poetic voices that are defining the 21st century, and all are invited to join this extraordinary celebration.

Twenty-five years ago, when poet Stanley Kunitz and arts administrator Elizabeth Kray established Poets House as “a place for poetry” in a high school classroom with 600 books, they probably never imagined that their dream would become an 11,000-square-foot home for poetry with a collection exceeding 50,000 volumes of poetry and serving 50,000 people on-site and millions more nationally and online each year.

“Our 25th anniversary celebrates not only the lifespan of Poets House as an institution, but celebrates also the participatory nature of poetry. Each culture throughout history has poetry,” said Poets House Executive Director Lee Briccetti. “From the beginning, language has been critical to human identity and poetry represents the best of language. Poets House stands for an invitation into this deepest part of one’s humanity.”

The 25 anniversary programs planned for this special year will be presented chronologically, from *Gilgamesh* to the Modernists, inviting young and old to explore the widest range of poetry. Programs will feature poets such as **David Ferry** on *Gilgamesh*, **Anne Carson** and **Yopie Prins** on Sappho, **Coleman Barks** on Rumi, **Rosanna Warren** on Latin poetry, **Jerome Rothenberg** on ethnopoetics and the origins of poetry, **Jean and Robert Hollander** on Dante and **Glyn Maxwell** on Chaucer and Christopher Marlowe, among many others. Poets House hopes that anyone who has an interest in poetry will take a step into our home for all who read and write poetry and experience a part of poetry’s history, unrestricted by prior knowledge or experience with the art form.

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In the coming years, as Poets House furthers its reach through technology to provide more access to its books and resources, the institution will be able to offer the public an even more diverse range of poetry from different geographies, ethnicities, histories and perspectives.

“As a public library director, I fully appreciate the role that Poets House has developed as the nation's library for poetry,” said Martín Gómez, who in addition to being President of the Poets House Board of Directors holds the top post of city librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library. “Throughout its history, Poets House has helped libraries across the country develop poetry collections, programs and librarian appreciation for this literary form. And now, as president of Poets House Board of Directors, it is an honor and privilege to join in this important year-long celebration.”

Poets House is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Through its poetry resources and literary events Poets House documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children’s class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit www.poetshouse.org, and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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