



WITS GALA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017 | THE ASTORIAN



Writers in the Schools nurtures the dreams and imaginations of children, celebrating their stories and voices. Since 1983, WITS has brought innovation, connection, and education to Houston, teaching creative writing in school and community classrooms. As the largest literary arts organization in Texas and leader of international movements for arts education, WITS is a change agent for cultivating creativity in literacy for 38,000 children and teachers.

MANY VOICES | ONE HOUSTON

honorary chair **MARCIA NICHOLS** celebration chair **SARA SPEER SELBER**

“ I can't think of a better organization to change the future of education for our children and the communities where we live, work, play, and create. ”

—SARA SPEER SELBER

Join WITS and Houston's Poet Laureate this November for the WITS Gala at The Astorian. We will introduce Houston's next Youth Poet Laureate, celebrate student stories, hear poetry performances, and enjoy a fun, creative auction. Event proceeds are instrumental in helping WITS reach more underserved children, grow new innovative programs, expand the teen slam poetry movement, and coach teachers. Tickets start at \$350; table sponsorships at \$3,000. Customized sponsorships are available.

HONORING THE LEECH FAMILY

Perryn, Caroline, Jemma, Rory, and Kirsty

We will honor The Leech family with the Many Voices | One Houston award. Perryn Leech serves as Managing Director for the Houston Grand Opera. HGO and WITS are powerful partners, showcasing the voices of Houston through opera, poetry, and innovative forms such as spoken word and game-based learning. Caroline Leech is an author whose young adult debut, *Wait For Me*, was published by Harper Teen earlier this year. Her second novel, *In Another Time*, will be out next spring. The Leech children, Jemma, Kirsty and Rory, are high school students at Lamar HS and HSPVA, and have been WITS students for more than a decade. The oldest, Jemma, has cerebral palsy, and is an award-winning poet and essayist who has garnered national attention. Together, the Leech family passionately promotes creativity, storytelling, and the written word.



“ Poetry fills my soul with delightful hues of life's momentary escapes into bliss, and torment. Language is my paint and my keyboard is my brush. ”

—JEMMA LEECH

WITS reaches the hearts and minds of children of all communities. Sponsors play a critical role in helping more children experience creative learning and academic success. Gifts are unrestricted, impacting underserved children and their teachers throughout the school year.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TABLES

TICKETS

	\$25,000 Laureate	\$15,000 Visionary	\$10,000 Advocate	\$5,000 Underwriter	\$3,000 Benefactor	\$550 Ambassador	\$350 Friend
GALA BENEFITS							
SEATS AT GALA	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10	1 PRIME SEATING	1
Speaking opportunity	●						
Logo projection at auction	●	●					
Featured story in e-news	● LOGO + LINK	● LOGO	●				
Spotlight on social media	● LOGO	● LOGO	● LOGO	●			
Listing on signage + invite	● LOGO	● LOGO	● LOGO	●	●	●	
Recognition in program	● LOGO	● LOGO	● LOGO	●	●	●	●

PROGRAM BENEFITS							
MARKETING IMPRESSIONS		194,815	185,115	169,115	2,515	2,515	315
Personalized poetry video	●						
Onsite "poet-tree" install	● LOGO						
Listing on student t-shirts	● LOGO	●	●				
Community event signage	● LOGO	● LOGO	● LOGO	●			
Listing in student books	● LOGO	● LOGO	●	●			
Listing on website	● LOGO + LINK	● LOGO	● LOGO	●			
Poetry slam judge	●	●	●	●			

***9.16.2017 INVITATION DEADLINE**

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

Bar - \$10,000

Benefactor recognition, plus:

- Signage with logo at bar
- Logo projected at auction
- Logo on bar napkins

Valet - \$4,000

Ambassador recognition, plus:

- Signage at entrance
- Giveaway in each car
- 1 additional seat (2 total)

Lighting - \$4,000

Ambassador recognition, plus:

- Logo projected outside on building
- 1 additional seat (2 total)



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Anonymous

Name (for recognition)	Contact Person (if different)		
Address	City	State	Zip
Email	Phone		

TABLES

- ___ \$25,000 - Laureate
- ___ \$15,000 - Visionary
- ___ \$10,000 - Advocate
- ___ \$5,000 - Underwriter
- ___ \$3,000 - Benefactor

TICKETS

- ___ \$550 - Ambassador
- ___ \$350 - Friend

SUPPORT WITS

- ___ Sponsor a workshop - \$500
- ___ Sponsor a teacher - \$125
- ___ Sponsor a child - \$50

I will host a writer at my table

TABLE CAPTAIN I pledge to recruit friends to fill a table of 10; a half table

I am unable to attend, but would like to enclose a gift \$ _____ in honor of: _____

MATCHING GIFT _____ Estimated Match \$ _____

SILENT AUCTION + IN-KIND _____

_____ Estimated Value \$ _____

TOTAL GIFTS \$ _____

PAYMENT [visit WITSHOUSTON.ORG/GALA to register online]

Check payable to Writers in the Schools (WITS) enclosed Please contact me about payment options

Charge credit card # _____ Expiration _____ CVV _____
Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Date _____

1523 W MAIN, HOUSTON, TX 77006

P: 713.523.3877

F: 866.793.4865

GIVE@WITSHOUSTON.ORG

CHARITABLE TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 76-0338549 | FAIR MARKET VALUE: \$125 PER SEAT

Writers in the Schools (WITS) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. WITS does not place a value on goods and services. This is a privilege and responsibility of the donor. Auction donor(s) agree to release, discharge, and indemnify WITS, its agents, representatives, or employees, from and against all claims, demands, actions, and judgments which may result from damage to or loss of any items the donor(s) has provided solely for displaying purposes during WITS' Celebration of Story. Donor is responsible for transit of donated items. The donor(s) represents that the donor(s) owns the auction item described above without encumbrance, and the donor(s) donates and gives the donation to WITS with the purpose and intent of transferring all right, title and interest in the donation to WITS.





501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CHARITY TAX EXEMPT VERIFICATION
TAX ID: 76-0338549



CINCINNATI OH 45999-0038

In reply refer to: 0248119434
Aug. 07, 2015 LTR 4168C 0
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WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
1523 W MAIN ST
HOUSTON TX 77006-4709



011428

Employer Identification Number: 76-0338549
Person to Contact: Ms. Benson
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 29, 2015, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in July 1991.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Doris Kenwright, Operation Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations 1