



WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS GALA

# The illuminated forest

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Join Writers in the Schools (WITS) for the 10th anniversary gala, *The Illuminated Forest*, held at The Astorian. We will announce Houston's newest Youth Poet Laureate and celebrate powerful student stories. Event proceeds help WITS reach more underserved children, grow new innovative programs, expand the teen poetry movement, and support teachers.



## honoring DRS. MELANIE J. MALINOWSKI AND ANDY D. CUNNINGHAM



Since 2000, Melanie Malinowski has taught with WITS, bringing the gift of story to children in classrooms, after-school programs, and hospitals. Most recently, Melanie has worked with young patients at M.D. Anderson and Texas Children's Hospital in the Renal Dialysis Unit. She holds a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature from the University of Houston, where she was a recipient of a C. Glenn Cambor Fiction Award. She also holds an M.A. in English from the University of New Mexico, where she was awarded a D.H. Lawrence Fellowship. Andy Cunningham holds a Ph.D. in Geology and Geophysics from Rice University, where he was awarded the Leroy Caleb Gibbon Award. Andy is the VP of Unconventional Reservoirs Technology at BP. Melanie and Andy have been long-time advocates of WITS and live in Houston with their daughter, Echo Mariposa.

## about WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Since 1983, Writers in the Schools has brought innovative, specialized creative writing education and dynamic learning environments to school, hospital, and community classrooms throughout Houston. By fostering collaboration between teachers and talented professional writers, WITS cultivates critical thinking, problem solving, and literacy in 52,000 students each year. WITS believes in the power of young voices, creating opportunities such as interactive performance poetry slams, digital writing, and the Houston Youth Poet Laureate program. Through WITS, students see themselves as writers and are more confident and enthusiastic about telling their stories.

### celebration chairs

LUCY & SAM CHAMBERS

### honorary chairs

LIZZIE & SCOTT FLETCHER

MARYSCOTT HAGLE & DANIEL KORNBERG

JUNI & CHANLER LANGHAM • BRYN K. LARSEN

RYAN LEACH • MARCIA & MICHAEL NICHOLS

LENORA NOROSKI & FRANK INSELBUCH • F. XAVIER PEÑA

SARA SPEER SELBER • GINYA & CLAYTON TRIER

MITRA & JOSHUA WOODY

WITSHOUSTON.ORG



# tables & tickets

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS GALA

Your support will amplify our continued work to help children tell their stories. Your contribution will go toward:

- High-quality creative literacy workshops for schools, hospitals, and communities
- Free community resources and events
- Support and training for classroom teachers
- Innovative creative writing learning initiatives using digital tools & performance spaces
- Community events celebrating the work of diverse young voices

## live oak \$15,000

- + Speaking Opportunity & Acknowledgment at Event
- + Invitation to Dinner with Guest Writer
- + Poetry Slam Judge Invitation
- + Recognition on Website & Community Events
- + Recognition in Student Anthologies
- + Recognition on Event Signage, Program and Invitation\*
- + VIP Table with Seating for 10

## magnolia \$10,000

- + Acknowledgment at Event
- + Poetry Slam Judge Invitation
- + Recognition on Website & Community Events
- + Recognition in Student Anthologies
- + Recognition on Event Signage, Program and Invitation\*
- + VIP Table with Seating for 10

## cypress \$5,000

- + Poetry Slam Judge Invitation
- + Recognition on Website & Community Events
- + Recognition in Student Anthologies
- + Recognition on Event Signage, Program and Invitation\*
- + VIP Table with Seating for 10

## sycamore \$3,000

- + Recognition on Event Signage, Program and Invitation\*
- + Table with Seating for 10

## cedar \$550

- + Recognition on Program and Invitation\*
- + Event Ticket

## laurel \$350

- + Event Ticket

\*Invitation deadline is September 28th, 2018



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Anonymous

Name (for recognition)

Contact Person (if different)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone

Please check all that apply.

*tables*

*tickets*

- Live Oak - \$15,000
- Magnolia - \$10,000

- Cypress - \$5,000
- Sycamore - \$3,000

- Cedar - \$550
- Laurel - \$350

I am unable to attend, but I would like to support WITS:

- Give 1 child WITS for a Year \$50
- Give 3 children WITS for a year \$150
- Give 10 children WITS for a year \$500
- Other amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

This gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*payment*

Total Gift: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Or give online at [witshouston.org/gala](http://witshouston.org/gala)

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about a matching gift