



DEEP
VELLUM

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



DEEP VELLUM
AT 10 YEARS!



10 YEARS OF BRINGING THE WORLD INTO CONVERSATION

This year Deep Vellum turned 10. Here's how we celebrated.

We published 57 new books.

Our author Jon Fosse, published through our imprint Dalkey Archive Press, was awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize for Literature.

We hosted over 100 literary events here in Dallas and beyond, and we held our first-ever poetry festival at Dallas's Klyde Warren Park where children and adults rubbed elbows with the best poets in North Texas.

6 Deep Vellum writers appeared at the Texas Book Festival, and author Andrey Kurkov was invited to the Toronto International Festival of Authors to present with Margaret Atwood.

We published 2 works of Black history in Dallas, to continue the conversation from our city-wide book club Big D Reads last year.

Mircea Cărtărescu's book *Solenoid* won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and visited Dallas for 2 events, including our 10th anniversary celebration.

Author Dave Eggers presented his new novel *The Eyes and the Impossible* at our bookstore.

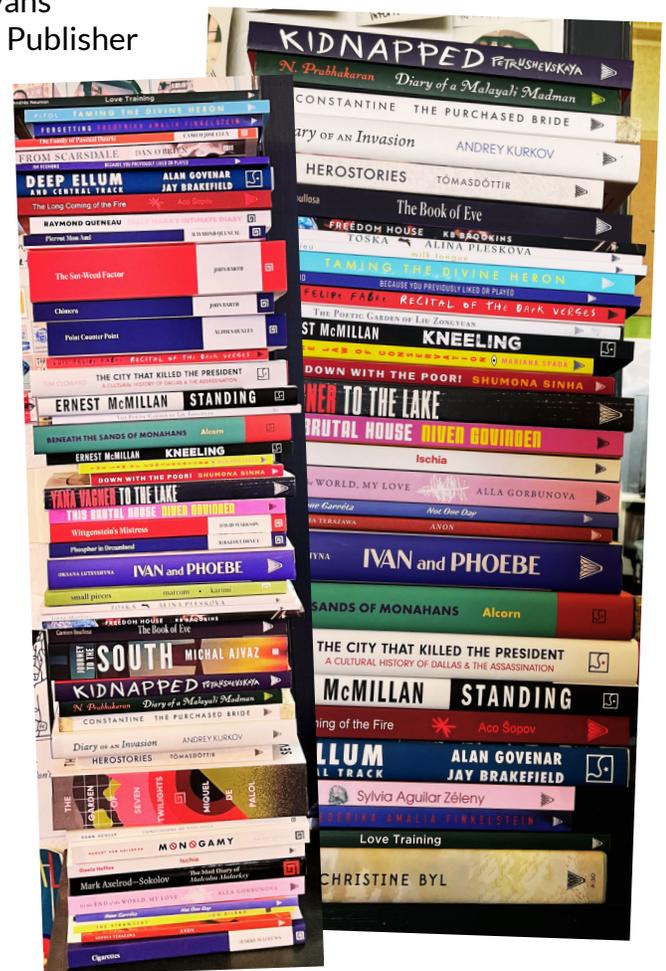
This year we fulfilled our mission to bring the world into conversation in more ways than ever before. For 10 years we have bridged the literary gap between international writers, English-language readers, and our local literary community here in Dallas, Texas. In 2023, as we topped bestseller lists, as our authors were awarded international prizes of the highest order, as our community members gathered to reflect on the history of our city and to use literature to envision a better future, and as we continued to give a

"Sorry, New York." wrote Alicia Maria Meier about Deep Vellum for Texas Monthly in October, "The largest U.S. publisher of literature in translation, plus a thriving global books scene, resides in the Metroplex."

platform to international and local writers alike, we are profoundly grateful to you: our readers, our writers, our donors, our friends.

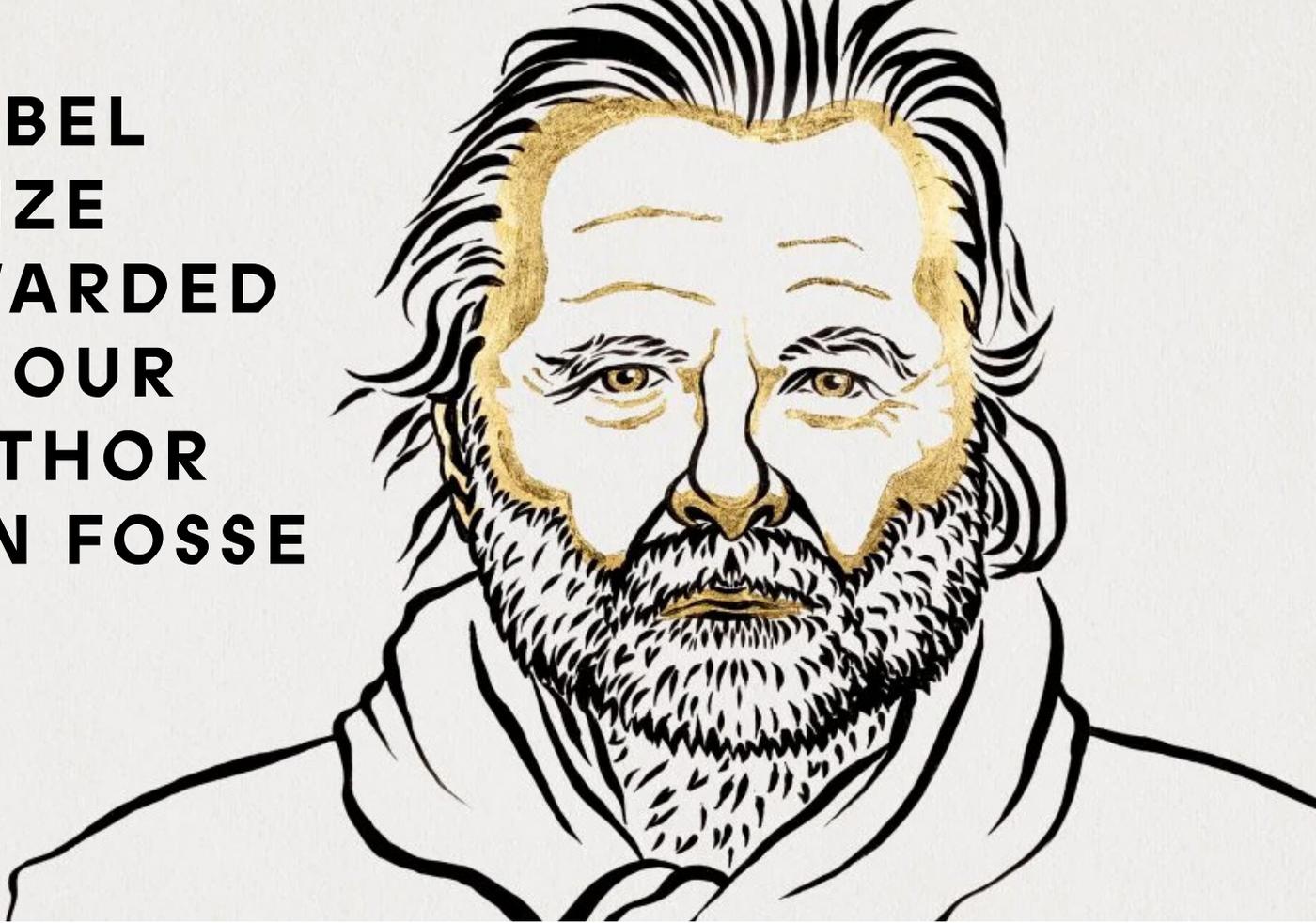
Thank you for joining us for the past 10 years! We'll see you in the bookstore.

With our best wishes,
Will Evans
CEO & Publisher



Our entire stack of newly published books in 2023! It's a haul!

NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED TO OUR AUTHOR JON FOSSE



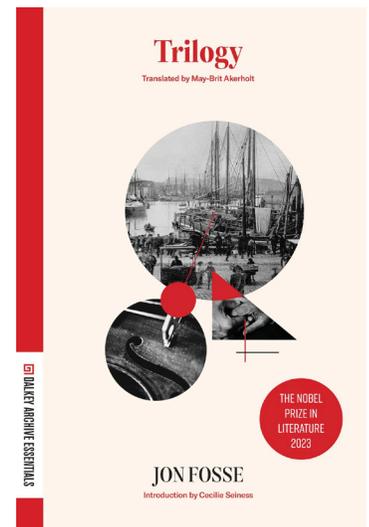
Writer Jon Fosse, a Norwegian novelist and playwright, was awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize for Literature. Fosse, who joined four other Deep Vellum authors on the Nobel Prize list, earned the prize “for his innovative plays and prose which,” according to the Nobel committee, “give voice to the unsayable.”

The committee noted, “[Fosse’s] immense oeuvre written in Norwegian Nynorsk and spanning a variety of genres consists of a wealth of plays, novels, poetry collections, essays, children’s books and translations. While he is today one of the most widely performed playwrights in the world, he has also become increasingly recognised for his prose.”

Through our imprint Dalkey Archive Press, we have published seven works by Jon Fosse in English translation *Trilogy* (translated by May-Brit Akerholt), *Morning and Evening* (translated by Damion Searls), *Aliss at the Fire* (translated by Damion Searls), *Boathouse* (translated by May-Brit Akerholt), and *Melancholy* (translated by Grethe Kvernes and Damion Searls), and *Melancholy II* (translated by Eric Dickens).

According to Dalkey Archive Press editorial director Chad W. Post: “From the first sentence I read of *Melancholy* on submission twenty years ago, I knew that Fosse was a special author. The intricate structure of his books, the sense of humanity pervasive throughout, and the variety of styles he deploys—from the elliptical in *Melancholy* . . . to the Beckett-like quality of *Trilogy*—make it immediately evident that we’re in the presence of a master.”

To view our publications by Fosse, visit dalkeyarchive.com.



Top: Illustration of Jon Fosse. Credit: Ill. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach.



DEEP VELLUM TURNS 10!

We can hardly believe it: we celebrated our tenth birthday this year! To thank our community members, readers, authors, and translators who made this possible, we hosted a birthday bash at Dallas's indie bookstore The Wild Detectives, which was celebrating its own ninth year. Romanian writer Mircea Cărtărescu, whose epic novel *Solenoid* we published in 2022, read from the highly acclaimed novel, alongside his translator, UT Dallas professor Sean Cotter.

10 YEARS OF POETRY

Following the event at The Wild Detectives, we hosted a poetry festival at Klyde Warren Park to mark ten years of reading the world. The afternoon featured live readings, a zine and art market, poetry karaoke, and more in family-friendly style.

SOLENOID RINGS IN THE DECADE

Our first decade was capped off with a tremendous honor. This year *Solenoid* was awarded the *Los Angeles Times* [Book Prize for Fiction](#). The novel was also named a Best Book of the Year in *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and *Words Without Borders*. According to [The New York Times](#), "*Solenoid* is an instant classic of literary body horror. It is divinely, wondrously gross."



Top: Sean Cotter (l) and Mircea Cărtărescu (r) at the tenth anniversary party. Bottom: Attendees browse books at the DV 10 Year Celebration at Klyde Warren Park.

“HOW DALLAS BECAME THE NATIONAL CAPITAL OF INTERNATIONAL BOOKS”

“Sorry, New York. The largest U.S. publisher of literature in translation, plus a thriving global books scene, resides in the Metroplex.” So wrote Alicia Maria Meier for *Texas Monthly* this October. Her argument: Deep Vellum, alongside independent bookstore The Wild Detectives located in the Oak Cliff neighborhood, are the driving catalysts that have successfully transformed Dallas into the United States’ leading center for international literature.

“From the start,” writes Meier of Deep Vellum executive director Will Evans, “the North Carolina transplant, who had come to translation as a student of Russian culture, wanted to create not only a publisher that highlighted stories from around the world, but also a literary community tethered to the press’s home.”

Ten years later and despite the legislative attempts to restrict reading the Lone Star state, Deep Vellum is flourishing, as the nonprofit publisher stands out for continuing to publish experimental,

boundary-pushing literature from around the world to ensure that English-speakers audiences have access to global literature, including the work of the recent Nobel recipient Jon Fosse.

It’s critical work, too. As Evans reminded Meier: “Certain people are afraid of anything complex, which is, I think, the best way to kill a society. . . . It’s very scary, but I think it makes our role more relevant.”

MORE PRESS MENTIONS

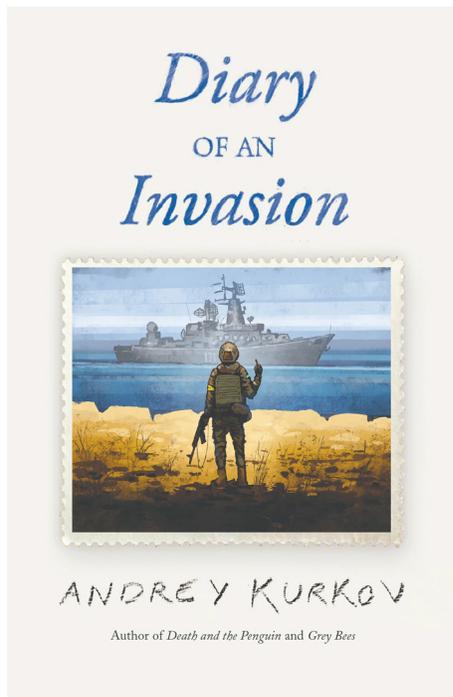
- [How Will Evans Became an Accidental \(and Wildly Successful\) Entrepreneur](#) | *D Magazine* | Mar. 20, 2023
- [The Best Local Bookstores in Dallas](#) | *Paper City* | Jan. 17, 2023
- [150 Reasons to Love Deep Ellum](#) | *Dallas Morning News* | June 15, 2023



BOOKS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

Last year, as part of [Big D Reads](#), the city-wide read we co-organized with the Dallas Public Library and other partners, we gave away over 30,000 copies of our recently republished work on the history of racism in Dallas [The Accommodation](#), thanks to the program sponsors.

On the heels of these donations, we've committed to donating more books in our local community and beyond with two goals in mind. First, we want to expand access to great works of literature where it is currently limited. Second, we hope to encourage conversations around the complex and challenging issues our authors raise in their writing.



This year we donated 25 copies of Andrey Kurkov's [Diary of an Invasion](#) to employees of Friesens, the printing company (based in Altona, Canada) that printed the book. Friesens, which employees many Ukrainian refugees, decided to start a book club to give their employees a space to process and understand the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Friesens, headquartered in Manitoba, Canada, where a large Ukrainian diaspora community resides, employs many Ukrainian refugees—and prints many of our books.

We donated 20 books by Carmen Boullosa (Mexico) and Julia Cimarjjeva (Belarus) to Words Without Borders as part of their 20th anniversary celebrations this fall.

We donated 125 copies of our books to Art Resources Transfer to provide free books of literature, poetry, and nonfiction to public schools, libraries, and prisons throughout New York State.

BIG D READS CONTINUES

In 2022, our Big D Reads program included over 200 events and book discussions exploring the history and persistence of racism in Dallas, using [The Accommodation](#), by journalist Jim Schutze, as a point of departure for conversation.

The city-wide read continued this year through a variety of events and activities.

In October, CEO and publisher Will Evans and Jim Schutze [discussed *The Accommodation* at SMU's Clements Center for Southwestern Studies](#).

This year we also published several works of Black history and the history of Civil Rights in Dallas: a memoir and a book of essays and short stories by Dallas activist Ernest McMillan and two works of history co-authored by Dallas-based writer Alan Govenar. McMillan's memoir *Standing* tells the story of McMillan as young Black boy growing up in a highly segregated environment: the heart of Dallas, Texas. His second work, *Kneeling*, was written while he was imprisoned for his work as a Civil Right activist. Ernst offered over a dozen presentations on his writing and civil rights work in DFW this year!



LiteraTEENS
5.25.23



building in Dallas)

(He showed us his favorite)

Mark Lamster, architecture writer & critic (loves glass brick!)
3.23.23



Ishan, great book club member ("Solenoid changed my life!")
4.27.23

#LITERARYDALLAS IN POLAROIDS

How you visited our bookstore lately? Every week we host events that bring together authors and readers of all ages to celebrate and explore their love of reading. This year we hosted over 100 events, including musical performances, book launches, poetry readings, and recurring book clubs LiteraTEENS for Dallas teenagers and Backlist Book Club. Check out these smiling faces we've captured on our in-house polaroid at some recent events!

We organized over 100 events in Dallas and around the country—here are a few highlights:

In February we gathered for an evening of readings from the poetry collection *Raised by Wolves* by Taiwanese poet-filmmaker Amang and music inspired by the book performed by North Texas guitarist Gregg Prickett.

In May we collaborated with The Wild Detectives Bookstore to celebrate the launch of KB Brookins's first full-length collection of poetry, *Freedom House*, a music-influenced volume of poetry that explores transness, politics of the body, gentrification, sexual violence, climate change, masculinity, and afrofuturism while chronicling the author's transition.

This September acclaimed writer Dave Eggers, who you might know as the founder of the publishing house McSweeney's, stopped by Deep Vellum for a conversation with children and adults about his latest book *The Eyes and the Impossible* with former Deep Vellum board member Joel Garza.



KB Brookins, signing FREEDOM HOUSE 5.4.23



Lauren Embrey of Embrey Foundation & Sean Madson Harwell



Stephanie Salas-Vega of the Dallas Morning News
3.2.2023

GREY BEES CONTINUES TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Our 2022 breakout bestseller *Grey Bees*, by Ukrainian writer Andrey Kurkov, translated by Boris Dralyuk, continued to receive national accolade. This year it was named a Best Book of the Year in *The New Yorker*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Spectator*. This spring was awarded both the National Book Critics' Circle Prize for Translation and Foreword Reviews Editors' Choice for Fiction!

The book, which presents a balanced and illuminating portrait of modern conflict in Ukraine through the eyes of fictional beekeeper Sergey Sergeyich, has climbed our publishing list as readers seek ways to better understand contemporary Ukraine.

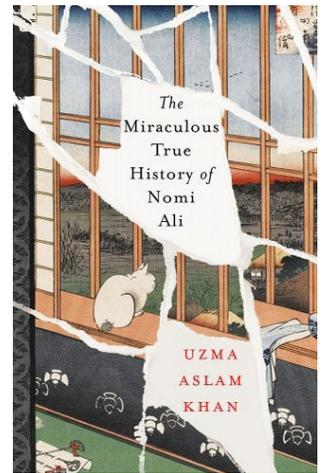
"In spare prose," writes John Thornhill for *Financial Times*, "Ukraine's most famous novelist unsparingly examines the inhuman confusions of our modern times and the longing of the warm-hearted everyman that is Sergeyich for the rationality of the natural world."



PAKISTANI WRITER WINS MAJOR AWARD

Uzma Aslam Khan was awarded the Massachusetts Book Award for Fiction for her work *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali*. Khan, whose novel we published last year, is widely regarded as one of top contemporary Pakistani writers. Her novel, set in the Andaman Islands over the course of oppressive imperial regimes, brings to life a history often forgotten.

This year, Khan is joined by writers Geraldine Brooks and Celeste Ng whose recent novels received Fiction Honors alongside *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali*.



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL: OUR BEST YEAR YET

This November, six Deep Vellum authors appeared at the Texas Book Festival—more authors than have ever appeared before. Deep Vellum representatives included Oksana Lutsyshyna (Ukraine/Austin), KB Brookins (Austin), Sylvia Aguilar-Zéleny (Mexico/El Paso) and her translator JD Pluecker (Houston), Ernest McMillan (Dallas), Christine Byl (Alaska), and Charles Alcorn (Edinburg, TX). In addition, our poetry editor Sebastián H. Páramo read his own work at the festival.

CEO and publisher Will Evans (r) at the Deep Vellum booth at the Texas Book Festival with bookseller Eliana Gala (l).

PUBLISHING HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Anon | Sophia Terazawa | A collection of love poems addressed to an adverb, a meditation on the temporal “at once” between desire and language.

Ivan and Phoebe | Oksana Lutsyshyna | Translated by Nina Murray | A novel that chronicles the lives of several young people involved in the Ukrainian student protests of the 1990s.

Trash | Sylvia Aguilar-Zéleny | Translated by J.D. Pluecker | A story that interweaves the voices of three women with lived connections to the municipal garbage dump of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Kidnapped: A Story in Crimes | Ludmilla Petrushevskaya | Translated by Marian Schwartz | From New York Times bestselling author and Russia’s greatest living absurdist, an elaborate family drama, social satire, and burlesque of twists, coincidences, and hijinks.

Recital of the Dark Verses | Luis Felipe Fabre | Translated by Heather Cleary | A road novel, a coming-of-age tale, and a raunchy slapstick comedy that tells—in careening, charismatic prose—the (true) story of the theft of the body of Saint John of the Cross.

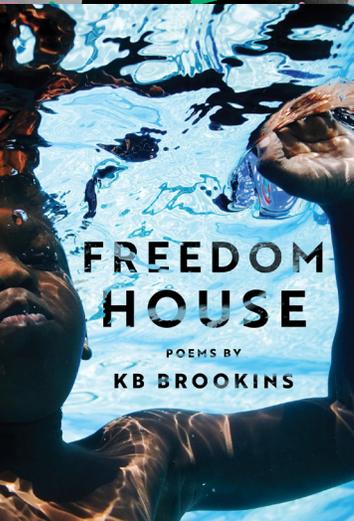
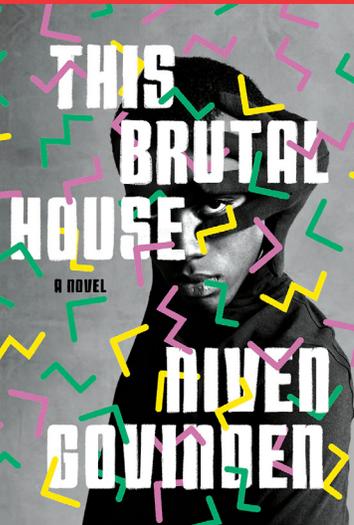
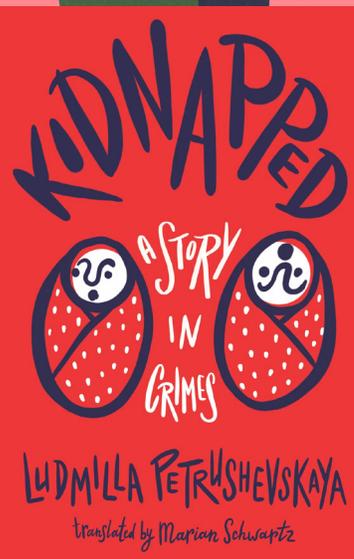
See That My Grave is Kept Clean: The World and Music of Blind Lemon Jefferson | Alan Govenar and Kip Lornell | A new biography of beloved but mysterious Blind Lemon Jefferson, famous Black, Dallas-born blues musician.

Motherfield: Poems and Belarusian Proest Diary | Julia Cimafiejeva | Translated by Valzhyna Mort & Hanif Abdurraqib | A poetry collection where personal is inevitably political and ecological, a poet’s insists on self-determination in authoritarian, patriarchal Belarus.

Freedom House | KB Brookins | A poetry collection that explores internal, interpersonal, and systemic freedom through the author’s experience of transness, politics of the body, gentrification, sexual violence, climate change, masculinity, and afrofuturism.

This Brutal House | Niven Govinden | Set across the arc of an active protest and the lives behind it – a group of silent Mothers, and one of their charges now working for the city, a novel that explores a group’s resilience, trauma, and determination to hold truth to power.

Down with the Poor! | Shumona Sinha | Translated by Teresa Lavender Fagan | While in police custody, a young woman tries to understand the rage that led her to assault a refugee on the Paris metro.



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Brian Bell is the Controller and Director of Finance for Hunt Utility Services. He has 20 years of accounting experience, and he has spent most of his career working in the power utility industry. He attended Texas A&M and received his B.B.A. in accounting and M.S. in management information systems. Brian is a Texas native, and he currently lives in Oak Cliff with his dog, Luna.

Urvi Dalal, MPH, is a personal holistic health coach based in Dallas and New York City. Along with a Masters in Public Health, from the UT School of Public Health, Urvi incorporates her two decades as a compassionate yoga and meditation teacher to guide families to create simple healthy habits to help everyone in the family. Prior to



that, Urvi co-directed a national not-for-profit to expand health education in public schools. After 30 years in New York, Urvi now calls Dallas home, with her husband, two children and dog, Khushi.

Cullen Schaar lives in Dallas with his wife and three daughters. He prefers novels to non-fiction, has 17 years private equity investment experience,

and, along with members of his book club, endows a series of fellowships for international students in The University of Houston's M.F.A. in Creative Writing program.

Alex Sharma is a Boston area native but a long-time resident of the Dallas area. He attended SMU for undergraduate and received his Juris Doctor from UT Austin. He currently works in real estate development and investment, primarily in the Pacific Northwest. Philanthropically, Alex and his wife Gowri are very committed to children's issues. Alex has held the Board Chair position at KIPP DFW, Family Gateway, and the Lamplighter School.

ADDY FOUNDATION AWARDS DV THREE-YEAR GRANT

Following their transformative gift in support of our re-publication of *The Accommodation* in 2021, [The Addy Foundation](#) has pledged to support Deep Vellum in the form of a three-year grant. The grant will fund forthcoming publications, programs and events in Dallas and beyond, and our general operations. The Dallas-based foundation, established by long-time Dallas volunteers and philanthropists William M. Addy and Lydia B. Addy, is known for supporting major causes in North Texas, including cultural organizations, social services, education, and more.

According to The Addy Foundation President Ben Leal, "**Deep Vellum is a vital partner to The Addy Foundation** in providing exposure to the arts, leading to understanding and acceptance of varying ideas, perspectives, and cultures."

Left: Several Deep Vellum board members attend a recent donor appreciation event. From left to right: Cullen Schaar (incoming member), Bemnet Meshesha, Linda Mowl (President), Brian Bell (incoming Vice-President), Alex Sharma.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

Books, of course, but also so much more! 2024 will be a major year for our publishing arm and our community programming. We'll host more bilingual events, publish our second children's book, and expand our footprint in Dallas's Deep Ellum neighborhood. Plus, we're working with the City of Dallas and the Dallas Public Library to appoint the next Poet Laureate of Dallas. Here's what we're most excited about for 2024.

FORTHCOMING

Occupy Whiteness | Joaquín Zihuatanejo | A new book of poetry by the first-ever Dallas Poet Laureate, Joaquín Zihuatanejo

Villain's Dance and ***Kasala Poems*** | Fiston Mwanza Mujila (Democratic Republic of Congo/Austria) | Translated by Roland Glasser | The follow-up novel to his Booker International Prize-shortlisted *Tram 83*, which we published in 2015, and a full-length book of poetry set to be released in late 2024

Uncle Rabbit and the Wax Doll | Sylvestre Pantaleón Esteva (Mexico) | A trilingual children's story in Nahuatl, Spanish, and English by a storyteller-artist duo from a small village in Oaxaca; our second children's book

Little Seed | Wei Tchou | A debut nonfiction hybrid memoir examining a first-generation Chinese-American immigrant family through the author's obsession with ferns by acclaimed *New Yorker* and *Paris Review*-published essayist

Diary of a Hunger Striker | Oleh Sentsov (Ukraine) | Our second book by the renowned writer and filmmaker from Ukraine, who became Europe's most prominent political prisoner after his kidnapping and false imprisonment in a Russian prison camp from 2014-2019

In addition, look out for the debut novel by Dallas journalist Jim Schutze, 3 books translated from indigenous languages of Mexico, our first Thai translation, and more.

NEW PROGRAMMING IN DALLAS AND BEYOND

For ten years we've operated out of a small space in Deep Ellum, where boxes of our recently published books have mingled with our bookstore staff and visiting authors. This year we're finally "upgrading" to take over the full building. We'll have more room for events, more room for book storage, and more room for our staff to give you book recommendations over a coffee!

In April 2024, we'll collaborate with the City of Dallas Office and the Dallas Public Library to announce the second-ever Dallas Poet Laureate. Last year we were thrilled to recognize Joaquín Zihuatanejo as the first Poet Laureate of our city. During his tenure, Zihuatanejo has had a transformative impact on the literary life of Dallas; we can't wait to see who is appointed next year.



We're hosting more bilingual events to bring programming in Spanish and French. For our Spanish events, we'll work with Dallas independent bookstore The Wild Detectives. For French events, we're partnering with the Alliance Française.

Joaquín Zihuatanejo. Credit: Jess Ewald for D Magazine.

SUPPORT US

\$10,000+ | LITERARY CIRCLE

Your support will sponsor author payments, translator payments, and book designer payments for two books.

\$5,000+ | BOOK LOVER'S CIRCLE

Your support will send one author on a US tour and cover promotional costs for one novel.

\$1,000+ | AUTHOR'S CIRCLE

Your support will help us pay our authors for the rights to publish their work.

\$100+ | SPONSOR A LITERARY EVENT

Your support will help us host a literary event in Dallas.

\$25+ | FRIEND OF DEEP VELLUM

Help us pay for our monthly subscriptions to our database and our design software.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Donate online by clicking the button below, or visit [our "support us" page](#) to learn about other ways to give.

Deep Vellum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

DONATE



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