About the Map

The Minnesota Center for the Book is proud to present this collection of writers, from historical to modern times, whose contributions to the state’s literary legacy are profound. While this is by no means a comprehensive list, writers were chosen who have had a meaningful impact on the state, its writing life, and in many cases, the world at large. The placement of the writers was chosen to express either the birthplace of the writer, the place with which the writer is associated, or the location where they spent a majority of their writing life in the state. The magnitude of Minnesota’s literary legacy is hard to put down on paper, and this map is only one piece in honoring the historical and contemporary writers who call Minnesota home.

Guidelines for Qualification

Writers were chosen to represent a broad range of geographic locations, heritage/backgrounds, genres, and styles, and include those who:

- Are/were groundbreaking in their literary style, genre, or age;
- Have/had significant national or international acclaim (as represented by garnering national or international literary prizes);
- Have had a strong influence on Minnesota’s literary reputation; and/or
- Have created work which illuminates the meaning of what it is to be from or live in Minnesota.

About the Minnesota Center for the Book

Minnesota Writers on the Map is a project of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book. The Library of Congress designated The Friends as Minnesota’s Center in 2012, and in that role The Friends promotes reading, literacy, libraries, and the scholarly study of books throughout Minnesota.

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library acts as a catalyst for libraries to strengthen and inspire their communities. As an independent nonprofit organization, The Friends invests in libraries through fundraising, advocacy, and programming.

Map illustration and design by Chad Nestor, 2019.

This project is made possible in part by the State of Minnesota through a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education. The Friends does not endorse the words or actions of the writers included on this map. Writers were chosen for the reasons listed above, regardless of personal circumstance and behavior or the social mores of the times in which they lived.