

2025 Snapshot

As the Minnesota Center for the Book, The Friends produces dynamic programming to promote reading and literacy for libraries in all corners of the state. **Because of this work, libraries across Minnesota—regardless of budget size—can connect their communities with local authors and offer high-quality programming that benefits all ages.**

By the Numbers ▼



Programs ▼

The Friends produces a variety of programs designed to connect Minnesota readers and writers of all ages.

Minnesota Book Awards Year-long program celebrating and connecting readers and writers	Fireside Reading Series Intimate author talks in Saint Paul libraries	Moving Words Discussions in libraries with Minnesota Book Award winners and finalists
One Book One Minnesota Virtual, statewide book club	Minnesota Writers on the Map Print and digital resource for noteworthy Minnesota writers	Minnesota Writers Directory Digital directory of current authors in Minnesota available for engagements

What Participants Say



This program created such a warm environment to discuss difficult subjects.

[The program] reminded me that writers don't need to work alone. We can create amazing things together.

Fireside introduces me to books I might not otherwise choose.

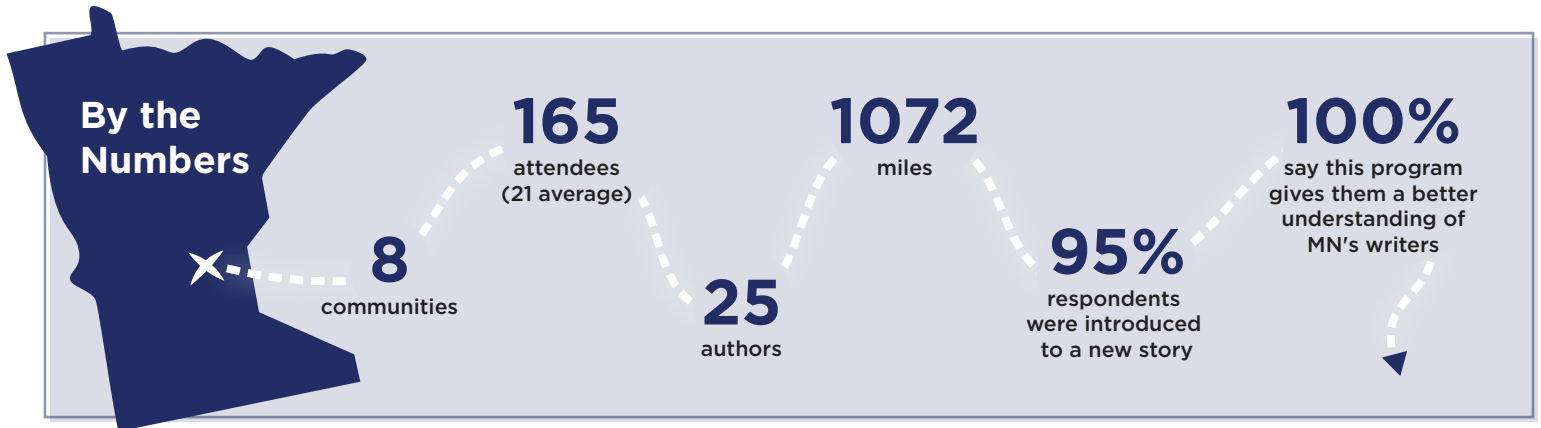


Program Spotlight: Moving Words




Moving Words is a statewide author tour featuring Minnesota Book Award finalists and winners.

The series is an opportunity for writers and readers to explore various themes together: the impact of literature in their lives, their connection as fellow Minnesotans, and the lens through which we read.




Moving Words is:




Part of the Minnesota Book Awards

More than a night of celebration, this yearlong cycle of programming brings writers together in mixed-genre groups, offering a chance to connect and learn from one another.



Responsive

Connections made at a Moving Words event in 2024 made possible the inaugural Unbound Teen Lit Festival in Slayton, Minnesota in 2025. Moving Words has also become the capstone on a year of Friends of the Library work in St. Peter, returning for its third year in 2025.



Necessary

A majority of Moving Words attendees (70%) rely primarily on their libraries for literary programming, in the absence of other venues offering opportunities.

What Participants Say

“ Lively, engaging. [The writers] balanced authenticity with humor, and insight into the writing life.

Everyone was so kind and welcoming. It was such a pleasure to meet other authors.

I turned off my dinner when I remembered the program! I had a great time. ”