# Kay Sexton Honorees Archive
## 1988 - 2025

2026 – **Sun Yung Shin**, author, educator, editor, cultural worker, co-creator of Poetry Asylum

2025 – **Ann Regan**, author, editor, mentor

2024 – **Bao Phi**, author, mentor, organizer, founder of Equilibrium, co-creator of Mirrors and Windows, longtime coordinator at The Loft, administrator at McKnight

2023 – **Stu Abraham**, sales rep, mentor

2022 – **Fiona McCrae**, publisher Graywolf Press

2021 – **Alexs Pate**, author, teacher, mentor, CEO of the Innocent Classroom

2020 – **James Lenfestey**, writer, event organizer, literary advocate, and teacher

2019 – **David Mura**, author, critic, teacher, mentor, and performance artist

2018 – **Kathryn Haddad**, writer, teacher, community organizer, and founder of Mizna

2017 – **Lou Bellamy**, champion of African American literature, professor, and founder of Penumbra Theatre

2016 – **Jim Sitter**, advocate for literary nonprofit organizations and Founding Executive Director of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts

2015 – **Mary François Rockcastle**, Director of The Creative Writing Programs at Hamline University, and Executive Director, *Water~Stone Review*

2014 – **Mark Vinz**, Poet; Author; and Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Creative Writing MFA Program Professor and Tom McGrath Visiting Writers Series Director, retired

2013 – **Robert Hedin**, poet, translator, editor, and founding director of the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

2012 – **Allan Kornblum**, founder and senior editor of Minneapolis-based Coffee House Press

2011 – **Carol Connolly**, mentor, advisor, literary program coordinator, community activist and Saint Paul's first poet laureate

2010 – **Carolyn Holbrook**, founder of SASE: The Write Place, community leader, teacher, advocate, mentor and innovator, former Program Director at The Loft Literary Center

2009 – **Patrick Coleman**, blogger, literary activist and acquisitions librarian, Minnesota Historical Society

2008 – **Don Leeper**, founder and president of BookMobile, a pioneer in Print On Demand. Instrumental in the founding of Minnesota Bookbuilders, a nonprofit association promoting bookmaking and publishing

2007 – **Emilie Buchwald**, publisher, Milkweed Editions and Gryphon Press, former board member and chair of The Loft Literary Center

2006 – **Richard Robbins**, director of the creative writing program at Minnesota State University (MSU), Mankato and the Good Thunder Reading Series

2005 – **Marly Rusoff**, founder of The Loft Literary Center

2004 – **Dr. Julian Plante**, founding director, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library

2003 – **John "Jack" Parker**, curator, James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota

2003 – **Karen Nelson Hoyle**, curator, Children's Literature Research Collections, including the Kerlan Collection and the Hess Collection, at the University of Minnesota

2002 – **Harry Lerner**, publisher, Lerner Publishing Group

2001 – **Jolie Lynne Sasseville & James Drey Alzheimer**, co-founders of Stone House Press and organizers of literary arts programs in Otter Tail County *(presented posthumously)*

2000 – **Jeanne Fischer**, book reviewer, book discussion leader, library volunteer

1999 – **Gail See**, Bookcase bookstore and literary organization boards

1998 – **C.W. "Bill" Truesdale**, publisher, New Rivers Press

1997 – **Gov. Elmer L. Andersen**, book collector and bibliophilanthropist

1996 – **Harold Kittleson**, bibliophile and library benefactor

1995 – **Norton Stillman**, book wholesaler, bookstore owner and publisher

1994 – **Glenda Martin & Mollie Hoben**, founders, Minnesota Women's Press

1993 – **David Unowsky**, owner, Ruminator Bookstore

1992 – **Doris Pagel**, editor, Authors and Illustrators as Program Resources

1991 – **The Charles and Gertie Geck Family**, promoters of children's books and authors

1989 – **Mary Ann Grossmann**, books editor, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

1988 – **Kay Sexton**, book buyer and promoter of books and reading, B. Dalton