



**Contact:** [press@speculativeliterature.org](mailto:press@speculativeliterature.org)

Press Release #89

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of our Kickstarter for the Portolan Project**

**November 2021**—The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of our Kickstarter for the Portolan Project.

The Portolan Project is an open-source creative writing & literature resource. We're creating lessons where we interview masters of the field (including so far George R.R. Martin, Nalo Hopkinson, Kate Elliott, Paolo Bacigalupi, etc.) and editors (such as Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden and Liz Gorinsky), on aspects of craft. These modules include study questions and writing exercises, both for people working on their own, and for teachers to use in the classroom.

At this first stage of the project, we need funds to provide honoraria to teachers who are creating the lessons. We've created 10 modules so far; we'd like to create 90 more in the next six months, so that we have 100 initial; enough to represent a wide range of writers, and also to let us start organizing them into 'courses,' such as:

- speculative ecofiction (hopepunk and otherwise)
- queer & feminist writers of the 70s: remembering our history
- world-building: its challenges and delights
- Black futures: on Earth, and elsewhere in the galaxy
- vampires, fairies, and other supernatural beings (including Shakespeare!)
- the map is not the territory: building realistic histories
- and much more!

While we have no plans to become an accredited MFA, the Portolan Project hopes to offer many of the same benefits of such a program, for free, to anyone in the world. Everyone deserves a chance to read and write these brilliant stories that shape and define our civilization's future. We hope you'll join us in bringing our vision to life! For lots more details, cool rewards, and a video of our Executive Director Mary Anne Mohanraj talking about this (very brief, we promise), please check out our [Kickstarter for Phase 1!](#)

Founded in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the all-volunteer Speculative Literature Foundation is led by Mary Anne Mohanraj and 30 other committed volunteers. The Foundation maintains a comprehensive website offering information for readers,

writers, editors and publishers of speculative fiction, develops book lists and outreach materials for schools and libraries, and raises funds for redistribution to other organizations in the field, as well as five awards made annually to writers. For more information, visit [speculativeliterature.org](http://speculativeliterature.org).

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member for \$2/month, at [speculativeliterature.org/membership](http://speculativeliterature.org/membership).

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