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Press Release #90

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

November 2021—The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

IACA General Operating Support Grants are offered to established not-for-profit organizations that make a significant local, regional, or statewide impact on the quality of life in Illinois. Grants recognize arts programming of high quality that is appropriate to and reflective of the communities served and that broaden opportunities for the public to participate in the arts. The \$2,500 grant will allow the SLF to revitalize and expand to meet the needs of the speculative literature field in 2022.

The main objective of the SLF is to continue to grow newly established programs while maintaining our previous resources. We launched the Portolan Project in 2020, an online educational resource for writers that offers free, accessible content for people all over the world. Its first iteration includes interviews with authors at various points in their careers, discussing the art and business of craft as well as making connections within the speculative literature community.

In 2021, we began creating modules with discussion questions, writing exercises, and additional readings based off of these interviews, along with our podcast, Mohanraj and Rosenbaum are Humans, which shares facts and stories related to life and business as speculative fiction writers. 2021 also saw the return of our annual anthology and monthly newsletter.

In 2022, we hope to create enough educational content for the Portolan Project to begin building out courses, such as:

speculative ecofiction
queer and feminist writers of the 70s
Black futures: on Earth, and elsewhere in the galaxy
and much more.

We also aim to produce season 2 of MRAH, continue to run our grant programming, and increase our membership.

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.

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.

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