

A Room of Her Own

A Room of Her Own (AROHO) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to furthering the vision of Virginia Woolf and bridging the gap between a woman's economic reality and her artistic creation. We bridge this gap by offering generous financial support to women of diverse artistic expression—the written arts (fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and playwriting), as well as the visual arts (painting, sculpture, and photography). We further Woolf's vision by providing moral support and professional guidance to independent creative women who are committed to their art.

Since its beginning in 2000, AROHO has expended more than \$600,000 on behalf of creative women through our \$50,000 Gift of Freedom awards, scholarships, retreats, day conferences, public readings, Book Club, and our customized web-based resource center.

AROHO has hosted over 250 women writers at our unique retreats that feature a world-class faculty, and we have sponsored approximately \$50,000 in scholarships for women writers to attend our retreats as well as other intensive writing programs.

AROHO promotes the interests of our community of women writers by sponsoring and supporting national writing programs and journals, including the AWP National Conference, the American Academy of Poetry, Poets and Writers, Creative Nonfiction, and the National Poetry Slam.

Gift of Freedom Award

The biennial \$50,000 Gift of Freedom award was created according to Virginia Woolf's tenet that a "woman must have a room of her own if she is to write." "Give her just a little bit, and she's right back where she was a year from now," says Darlene Chandler Bassett.

AROHO selects award recipients who not only demonstrate their talent, but also their motivation. These women must have solid creative goals and a specific project to accomplish during the two-year term of the grant. They should be able to show a track record of commitment to their art in addition to substantial efforts to be self-sufficient. In determining a recipient, we also consider the potential impact of the artist's or writer's proposed work on the broader community. We support women with a social, as well as an artistic vision.

Grant winners agree to a "moral" contract requiring them to commit to a specific goal resulting in a finished work. They receive mentorship and support throughout the grant period, and as a result give back to A Room of Her Own Foundation by going on to mentor successive Gift of Freedom recipients.

Writers Retreat

Summer retreats at Ghost Ranch—the legendary high-desert home of artist Georgia O'Keeffe in Abiquiu, New Mexico—are unparalleled. The largest women-only writers' retreat in the country brings writers, teachers, and publishing professionals together within a powerful canyon-scape to write, support each other, and tap into the unity of strength that arises when creative women spend time together beyond the distractions of day-to-day life.