Who Are Pen Women?

🖋 We are professional writers, journalists, painters, sculptors, dancers, musicians, choreographers, art teachers, theater and film directors — and many others from all creative fields.

🖋 We are more than 1,600 members across the United States, both at large and in more than 80 branches.

🖋 We are passionate about encouraging and engaging with other creative women, improving our craft, enriching our communities through arts programs and education, and supporting and inspiring future generations of creative women through school programs, scholarships, and mentorships.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Vinnie Ream
Carrie Jacobs Bond
Beverly Lewis
Grandma Moses
Brig. Gen. Clara L. Adams-Elder
Lois Duncan
Erma Bombeck
Fran Carter
Anna Flowers
Eudora Welty
Evelyn Swensson
Georgia O'Keeffe

Pen Arts Building & Art Museum

The Pen Arts Building and Art Museum, home of NLAPW's headquarters since 1951, is a historic mansion in Washington, D.C.'s Dupont Circle, a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building hosts public programs and events, and is available to rent for events and guest stay.

Linking Creative Women Since 1897

National League of American Pen Women, Inc.

1300 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
202.785.1997 | NLAPW1@gmail.com
www.nlapw.org

Our Mission:

to encourage, recognize, and promote the production of creative work of professional standard in art, letters, music, and allied professions, and through outreach activities provide educational, creative, and professional support to members and nonmembers in these disciplines.

Our History

In 1897, female journalists could not join press clubs. Journalist Marian Longfellow O'Donoghue (Henry Longfellow's niece) invited two colleagues to create a "progressive press union" for women. From 17 original members, the National League of American Pen Women grew to include not only writers but also artists, composers, dancers, and, most recently, women from all allied creative professions.

Through our 120-year history, we have inspired, encouraged, and supported more than 55,000 Pen Women as well as contributing to the development of future professionals in all artistic disciplines while enriching our communities across the country.

Today, we remain the oldest women's arts organization in the United States. Our goal is to evolve into a modern organization and spread our reach to new generations of women while continuing to build on our rich history and legacy.