ALISON MEYERS

227 Church Street, 3F, New Haven, CT 06510
Mobile 860.202.9143 | **Email** alisonmeyers500@gmail.com

Entrepreneurial, strategic thought leader with 30+ years executive-level experience in the literary arts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

08/2026 – Present Epiphany Magazine New York, NY
Institutional Advancement Consultant

10/2025 – 12/31/2025 Writers & Books Rochester, NY
Fundraising Consultant

05/2019 – 9/29/2025 Writers & Books Rochester, NY
Executive Director
Directed nonprofit literary arts organization with $780,000 operating budget, two brick-and-mortar sites, eight employees (four direct reports), 16-member Board of Directors, and 20-member Artistic Advisory Committee.

Highlights: Capital project: raised funds for and directed six-figure renovation of 24-acre retreat campus in Naples, NY (2021-23); secured endowed scholarship fund to provide adult writers with fee-free residencies and weekly drop-in workshops; doubled number of grants awarded; secured Forgiven Paycheck Protection Loans and Employee Retention Credits totaling $267,494. Implemented hybrid indie bookstore (2019); co-designed theater arts/ vocational fellowship for BIPOC practitioners ages 18-29; developed three-day poetry festival, two reading series, and community-based partnerships with urban library branches, public schools, arts organizations, and area colleges and universities. In 2025, co-directed with NY State Poet Laureate Patricia Spears Jones "Across Generations" project, funded by the Academy of American Poets and delivered at Writers & Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NYC), and Poet Lore (NYC).

2017 – Present
Consultant to Literary Arts Organizations

02/16/2017 – 02/15/2018 Community of Literary Magazines & Presses New York, NY

Director of Development
Directed all aspects of fundraising for nonprofit literary arts service organization with $1.5 operating million budget. Assisted with strategic planning, audience development, and programs analysis; spearheaded 50th-anniversary rebranding campaign; delivered workshops to clients in grants writing, budgeting, finances, and marketing.

09/2006 – 09/30/2016 Cave Canem Foundation New York, New York

Executive Director
Directed all aspects of literary arts non-profit with $2 million operating budget, since 1996 the nation's pre-eminent organization for African American poetry and recipient of the National Book Foundation's 2016 Literarian Award for outstanding service to the American literary community.

Highlights: Raised $4,300,000, including shepherding $175,000 sale of institutional papers to Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Secured 3-year rent subsidy for $57k net savings. Developed nine core programs, including two book competitions; tripled the number of annual events; developed 20-plus organizational partnerships, including NYU, Brooklyn Book Festival, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, City of Asylum Pittsburgh, and AWP Conference. Directed two website upgrades.

02/2000 – 08/2006 Hill-Stead Museum Farmington, CT

Director of Poetry & Marketing
Member of senior management team of nonprofit historic house and art museum, an accredited National Historic Landmark with $2.1 million operating budget. Directed Marketing, Poetry, and Visitor Services departments; supervised two full-time staff and 30 project staff, interns, and volunteers.

Highlights (Poetry): Principal fundraiser for and artistic director of Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, a $145k program comprising six *al fresco* performances, public radio broadcasts, and national adult and regional student competitions. Supervised education-through-the-arts initiatives at three urban high schools and summer-long Fresh Voices mentoring project for competition-winning teens.

Highlights (Marketing): Spearheaded six-year Marketing Initiative, funded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving: managed project budget, raised matching funds, directed organization-wide self-study, oversaw construction of museum's first professional website, inaugurated Marketing & Communications Coordinator position, directed renovation of museum shop, and implemented point-of-sale and attendance tracking software.

06/1995 – 06/1999 Oberlin Consumers Co-op Oberlin, OH

General Manager
Managed daily operations of $2.9 million budget, 20,000-square-foot bookstore serving Oberlin College and Conservatory and surrounding communities. Supervised nine departments with 39 permanent employees and 11 direct reports.

04/1988 – 02/1995 Everyday Books & Cafe Willimantic, CT

Owner & General Manager
Directed daily operations of $100,000-budget bookstore, restaurant, art gallery and forum for performing and literary arts.

CONSULTATION, 2017 – Present

Select Clients: Adirondack Writing Center, Belladonna, Bloomsday Literary, Bright Hill Press, Epiphany Magazine, Geneseo Migrant Center, Hartford (CT) Public Library, Hudson Valley Writing Center, Imani House, In This Moment Chapbooks, Just Buffalo Literary Center, Kundiman, Kweli, LitNYS, Nightboat Books, Tupelo Press, Writers & Books.

Highlight: As LitNYS Mentor, designed and implemented *Fundamentals of Arts Management for Small & Emerging Literary Arts Nonprofits 101 & 102.*

SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer On-call Mentor for literary arts organizations, LitNYS, current

Book tour organizer for Cornelius Eady, author of *Proof: Inaugural Poem Suite* (Tupelo Press, 2026), current

Treasurer of the Board, Kweli, 2017-present

Grants Review Panelist, NY State Council on the Arts, 2025

Board Member, RocArts United, Rochester, NY, 2023-2025

Member, Ad Hoc Planning Committee to establish Rochester Arts Council, 2024-25

LitTap's Facing Pages Planning Committee, NY, 2012-2024

Panelist, CT Poet Laureate selection, 2019 and 2023

Advisor to Native Poetry Group, Santa Fe, NM (Lannan Foundation Convening), 2015

Judge, ArtsWestchester Literary Competition, Westchester County Council for the Arts, 2014

Judge, NEA's Poetry Out Loud National Competition Finals, Washington DC, 2013

Treasurer of the Board, Bowery Arts + Science, NY, NY, 2008-2012

Grants Review Panelist, Bronx Council on the Arts, NY 2009

Board Member, Soul Mountain Retreat, CT, 2005-2008

Grants Review Panelist, CT Commission on Culture & Tourism, 2006 and 2007

Judge, NEA's Poetry Out Loud Connecticut Competition Finals, 2006

Judge, CT Book Award for Poetry, CT Center for the Book, 2002 and 2003

Member, Steering Committee, Arts in Oberlin, OH, 1997-1999

Board Member, Summer in the City, Oberlin, OH, 1996-1999

Founding Member, Community Arts Alive, Willimantic, CT, 1993-1995

Finance Committee/Treasurer, Willimantic Food Cooperative, CT, 1983-1995

PUBLICATIONS

Author

Chapbooks: *Red Angel's Orphan & Other Poems; Pest Control* (Everyday Books)

Editor/Designer

Cave Canem Anthology XIII: 2010-2011, with Randall Horton (Willow Books, 2015)

Cave Canem Anthology XII: 2008-2009, with Randall Horton (Willow Books, 2012)

Hill-Stead: An Illustrated Guide to the Museum, (Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Blue Cloth, by Suzanne Cleary (Poetry Chapbook, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Short List of Wonders, by Brad Davis (Poetry Chapbook, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

The Battlefield of Your Body, by Bessy Reyna (Poetry Chapbook, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Nowhere but Here, by Richard Blanco (Poetry Chapbook, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Water and Land by Turns, by Pam Nomura (Poetry Chapbook, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Fresh Voices (seven student anthology chapbooks, *2000-2006*, Hill-Stead Museum, CT)

Contributor

Anthology: *Gathered Light: Writers Respond to the Poetry of Joni Mitchell* (Three O'Clock Press, 2013)

Journals: *Caduceus, Common Ground Review, Connecticut Review, Freshwater Review, Mason Street Review, Passager Journal, ragazine.com, Stone Canoe*, and *Uralpool*

SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Engaging the Next Generation Board Member (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Excellence in Financial Management (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Ban the Box (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Leadership Transition (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Crowdfunding 101 (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Women's Leadership Forum (Gerstein Fisher, NY, NY)

Timely, Accurate and Attainable Financial Reporting Practices (Non-profit Coordinating Committee, NY)

Technology Funding Shark Tank (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Round Table Technology (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Cultural Affairs Diversity Discussion (Ford Foundation & NY State Council on the Arts)

Funding Arts & Culture from the Inside Out (Non-profit Coordinating Committee of NY)

Capacity Building for Managers and Their Boards (DeVos Institute, NY)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat; Google Workspace; QuickBooks Online; Impala; Canva; PhotoScape X; PDX; Constant Contact; Social Media; familiarity with CRM databases

EDUCATION: BA in English with Highest Honors, University of Connecticut