The passage of 2023 into 2024 marks our 50th anniversary of the New Year’s Day Marathon at The Poetry Project. As we approach this momentous milestone, we’re reflecting on the enduring audacity of The Project, the rituals we keep running, the many accumulating voices which continue to author our endeavor. The one persistent thread is change, a rangy devotion to the marginal, the uncontainable, the ineffable and new.

“Hands stretch out across time” comes from a line of Assotto Saint, whose collected works (recently published by Nightboat) we are deeply honored to celebrate within the upcoming Fall / Winter 2023 season. We turn to Saint’s line here to illuminate a broader point of attention within our season of programming, and within our proximity to this particular anniversary — a sense of intergenerational gesture and contact. Not a false idea of unity, so much as a reckoning with our adherences and oppositions, surprises and collaborations, the many contours of generosity and sacrifice which comprise the ongoing commitment of being together.

This season also marks a particular transition. After five thrilling, gratifying, deeply rewarding and humbling years as Executive Director of The Poetry Project, I feel it is an intuitively and practically right time to bring in some new leadership and direction. Our team, our resources, and our work are in a thriving and inspiring momentum. And so I’ll be moving on from my role after this year’s Marathon. A more thorough announcement of our Executive Director search process and timeline will come soon.

It is such an honor to close my time at The Project with a season — beautifully curated by Laura Henriksen, alongside Ethan Philbrick — which focuses on the layering of time, people, and place to create feeling. Generations of feeling. And to crescendo those ideas with our boldest and most polyvocal tradition. There is so much more to say about this time. In time. For now — onward, and with gratitude,

Kyle Dacuyan