**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Massive Global Movement Gives Voice to Local Issues**

**through Music, Art, Photography, Poetry, Mime and More**

*Over 550 Events Planned in 100 Countries for*

*100 Thousand Poets for Change*

Santa Rosa, Calif. (September 28, 2013) – September 28, 2013 marks the third

annual global event for 100 Thousand Poets for Change, a grassroots organization that brings communities together to call for environmental, social, and political change within the framework of peace and sustainability. An event that began primarily with poet organizers, 100 Thousand Poets for Change has grown into an interdisciplinary coalition with year round events which includes musicians, dancers, mimes, painters and photographers from around the world.

Local issues are still key to this massive global event as communities around the world raise their voices on issues such as homelessness, global warming, education, racism and censorship, through concerts, readings, lectures, workshops, performances and other actions.

But these locally focused events have taken on a more continuous and expansive form through the new disciplines represented this year. More and more organizers and participants of the one day, annual event are making plans to continue their actions after September 28. Many have formed groups in their cities that will continue to work year-round towards the goals their community seeks.

“Peace and sustainability are major concerns worldwide, and the guiding principles for this global event,” said Michael Rothenberg, Co-Founder of 100 Thousand Poets for Change. “We are in a world where it isn't just one issue that needs to be addressed. A common ground is built through this global compilation of local stories, which is how we create a true narrative for discourse to inform the future.”

More than 200 hundred bands will be performing around the world, from Los Angeles, New Orleans and Detroit to Serbia, Nigeria and Italy. The musicians involved in this movement are once again using their songs and performances to try to communicate their concerns to the world. As Ross Altman, singer-songwriter, activist and educator, reminds us: “from Plato, who banned [musicians] from the Republic, to Putin, who had Russian punk band members of Pussy Riot arrested, charged, tried, convicted and sentenced to two years in prison for a song prayer, musicians throughout history have been regarded as a danger and threat to change the social order.”

In addition to the hundreds of musicians expressing themselves through song, numerous Mimes for Change events in Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Kosovo, Panama and Uruguay will take place in addition to the day long poetry festivals in Los Angeles, Guatemala City, Mumbaim India, La Plata, Argentina and Genoa, Italy; thousands of musicians, poets and artists are participating around the world, totaling nearly 550 events globally, including:

• 15 different events in the San Francisco Bay Area, the birthplace of 100 Thousand Poets for Change, including poetry readings by Beat Legend Gary Snyder, former US Poet Laureate Robert Hass and other major poets at the famed Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival

• In Cairo, Egypt, poets, musicians and mime artists, in response to violence in the world and the major changes taking place in the Arab World, will perform in public spaces and theaters and explore new ways to communicate their concerns, and their roles as artists, in influencing the future of their country

• In Mumbai, India, there will be a four-day event at the Kitab Khana bookstore in South Mumbai, curated by Menka Shivdasani. The inaugural event, in partnership with Laadli, an organisation campaigning for the girl child, will have a guest performance by a well-known Indian pop star Suneeta Rao. Other events include poetry readings focusing on women's lives, a Poems for Peace session by city poets, and a programme by educationist Rati Wadia, who is working with school children on the themes of peace and sustainability. This event will also include a Wonders of Nature exhibition and musical performances by Neela Bhagwat Amarendra Dhaneshwar and Mukta Raste.

• In Washington, DC, there will be an immigrant justice event, Immigrants Contribute: America, We Sing Back! Featuring Award-Winning Poet Eduardo C. Corral and local immigrant poets. Together they will discuss the challenges and celebrate the stories of the immigrant experience in DC. A resource fair will be held during the event so attendees can learn more about services available to immigrants.

• This will be the third year of 100TPC poetry readings for peace in the strife-torn cities of Kabul and Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

• New York City: The Unbearables (“a drinking group with a writing problem”) and The Feminist Poets in Low-Cut Blouses (“we live with the contradictions of feminism”) sound off at the Lower-East-Side literary landmark A Gathering of the Tribes with rants, humor, avant-garde poetry, and more than a little outrageousness the groups will perform work on this year's theme of surveillance: "The Unbearables and The Feminist Poets in Low-Cut Blouses Are Watching You! (Being Watched!)".

•In Serbia, will hold a concert of 5 bands in Belgrade, URMUS's (Association of Rock musicians Serbia) and Hollywood, California another 5 band concert will be held for 100 Thousand Musicians for Change

• In Mexico there are over 25 events, 100 Mil Poetas Por El Cambio, celebrating peace and drawing issues towards concern about violence in the streets. Events involve slam poetry readings, workshops, movie screenings, street performances and flash mobs.

• A gathering of over 500 poets and writers are expected at a national gathering of the World Bangla Literature Council in Siranji, Bangladesh.

• A Round-up of Texans, Permian Basin and Beyond, in Gardendale, TX, includes, West Texas and Cowboy Poetry, slam contests, including a Grand Slam, Haiku Contest, Open Mic for all talent, Spoken Word Artists, music of all genres, plus a gathering of artisans.

• In Bolonga, Italy, there will be a 3 day poetry event with a poetry marathon which includes a two hour stretch in which 5 different poetry groups with musicians will be performing *landai*, two line poems developed in Afghanistan, adapted to the situation of violence against women in Italy. There will be poetry segments related to the role of poetry internationally: on the 27 The Militance of Memory dedicated to poetry in Latin America, and on the 29th an evening of poetry dedicated to Syria. There will also be a flashmob of over 50 poets reading their poems simultaneously for half an hour in the main square of the University.

This movement has generated a massive outpouring of creativity manifested largely though the creation of hundreds of event posters from around the world. Two exhibitions of this extraordinary poster art selected from over 500 posters from the last several years will be staged in Denver, Colorado and in Santa Rosa, California.

100 Thousand Poets for Change began in Sonoma County, Calif. The official

Headquarters’ Event will take place at the Arlene Francis Center in downtown Santa Rosa on September 27, 28 and 29 and will feature on Friday night, a 15 Band 100,000 Musicians for Change Festival, on Saturday, the 100 Thousand Performing Artists for Change March for Peace & Sustainability including Aztec Dancers, Brazilian Drummers, Jazz Dancer, community action groups, veterans groups, immigration rights groups, public media advocates, followed by a special dance installation performance ‘(un)tied’ by The Upside Dance Co., and a Dance Party with African Rhythm bands, Reggae and local DJ’s. On Sunday there will be a Poetry Marathon and Barbecue with over 100 poets confirmed, making this the largest poetry reading in the history of Sonoma County. The HQ event will also live-stream other 100 Thousand Poets for Change events worldwide. This 3-day event is sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Arts Council and The Community Foundation Sonoma County.

Organizers and participants are hoping through their actions and events to seize and redirect the political and social dialogue of the day and turn the narrative of civilization towards peace and sustainability. Those that want to get involved can visit www.100tpc.org to find an event near them or sign up to organize one in their area.

Immediately following September 28th, all documentation on the 100TPC.org website, which will include specific event pages with photos, video and other documentation compiled by each city coordinator, will be preserved by Stanford University in California. Stanford recognized 100 Thousand Poets for Change in 2011 as an historical event, the largest poetry reading in history. They will continue to archive the complete contents of 100TPC.org, as part of their digital archiving program LOCKSS.

Co-Founder Michael Rothenberg (walterblue@bigbridge.org) is a widely known poet, editor of the online literary magazine Bigbridge.org and an environmental activist based in Northern California. Terri Carrion is a poet, translator, photographer, and editor and visual designer for BigBridge.org.

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