



**SANDRA CISNEROS**  
wins Lifetime Achievement Award  
from the **TEXAS INSTITUTE of LETTERS**

September 29, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Internationally acclaimed author Sandra Cisneros has been named winner of the Texas Institute of Letters' prestigious Lon Tinkle Award for Lifetime Achievement. This is the highest honor given by the TIL, which was established in 1936 to recognize and celebrate the state's literary artists. The award will be presented to Cisneros at the TIL's annual banquet, set for April 7, 2018 in San Antonio.



© Keith Dannemiller

“Sandra Cisneros has been a guiding force in American literature for over thirty years,” said TIL President Steve Davis. “We are overjoyed at this opportunity to recognize her in Texas, where Sandra has made so many historic and enduring contributions.”

Sandra Cisneros is a poet, short story writer, novelist, essayist, whose work explores the lives of the working-class. Born and raised in Chicago, she moved to San Antonio in the 1980s and made her home in the city for decades. Her first book, *The House on Mango Street*, has sold over six million copies, been translated into over twenty languages, and is required reading in elementary, high school, and universities across the nation. The book continues to inspire generations of readers.

Cisneros' other acclaimed works include *Woman Hollering Creek: Stories*, the novel *Caramelo*, two full-length poetry books, *My Wicked*, *Wicked Ways* and *Loose Woman*, a memoir, *A House of My Own: Stories from My Life*, and two illustrated books: *Hairs = Pelitos* and *Have You Seen Marie?*

Since moving from San Antonio in 2012, Cisneros has become a dual citizen of the United States and Mexico.

"I travel back and forth to Texas now more than I do to any other region in the country," Cisneros said. "I may no longer make my home in Texas, but Texas stories still make their home in me. Thank you, TIL, for this great recognition for my labor."

Her numerous awards include NEA fellowships in both poetry and fiction, the Texas Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, several honorary doctorates and book awards nationally and internationally, including Chicago's Fifth Star Award, the PEN Center USA Literary Award, and the National Medal of the Arts, awarded to her by President Obama in 2016.

In addition to her writing, Cisneros has fostered the careers of many aspiring and emerging writers through the two non-profit organizations she founded: the Macondo Foundation and the Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Foundation. She is also the organizer of Los MacArturos, Latino MacArthur fellows who are community activists. Her literary papers are preserved in Texas at the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University.

For more information on Sandra Cisneros, visit her website at [www.sandracisneros.com](http://www.sandracisneros.com).

The [Texas Institute of Letters](#) is a non-profit honor society founded in 1936 to celebrate Texas literature and recognize distinctive literary achievement. The TIL's elected membership consists of the state's most respected writers, who have earned the acclamation of their peers.

# # #