



iO InsideOut
Literary Arts Project

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wow, what a year!

In the short time that I've had the pleasure and honor of serving InsideOut, I've witnessed some amazing things. I've seen seventh graders at Marcus Garvey Academy introduce themselves by saying, "I'm a football player AND a poet!" I've seen teens from our Citywide Poets program encourage and support one another during a Slam competition, where 35 poets competed for only five slots on the team. I've even seen kindergarten kids compose a poem about the secrets their pockets hold.

One thing rings true in all these experiences: every child has a voice. Every child can be a poet – is a poet. That ability to share what's inside – to "bring the inside out" – is so magical. That's the difference between the shy kid and the charismatic performer, the school hater and the engaged student, the passive bystander and the active citizen. It's the power of the arts at work.

Which brings me to our amazingly talented writers-in-residence. Whether they are in a second grade classroom helping English Language Learner students enjoy the nuances of language, or coaxing high school students to consider words beyond their next text message, they are the true "creators of the spark."

I had the pleasure of seeing this first-hand at a workshop we led at the Detroit Institute of Arts for D-Cyphered, a photography exhibit showcasing Detroit hip-hop artists.

With the gentle but persistent encouragement of our teaching artists Mahogany Jones and Benjamin Turner, I went from "just observing" to "spitting bars" – all in less than half an hour! What a gift it was to feel the power of self-expression – something InsideOut students experience on a regular basis.

Predictably, my public rap debut focused on the incredible InsideOut staff:

*...but there's more behind the scenes
Back at the office is the InsideOut Team
They. Are. Talented. They. Are. Smart.
They understand the power of the literary arts.*

Indeed they do. From our super-dedicated staff, to our crazy-talented teaching artists, to our brave young poets of every age, this is one amazing community. I'm so proud to be a part of it.

Here's to another year of igniting that spark.

Suma Karaman Rosen
Executive Director

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ABOUT INSIDEOUT

InsideOut Literary Arts was founded in 1995 to inspire students to think broadly, create bravely, and share their voices with the wider world.

For two decades we have continued to pursue this mission, reaching more than 50,000 students in over 150 Detroit-area schools and publishing nearly 500 school literary journals.

This award-winning arts education organization was the brainchild of Dr. Terry Blackhawk, a former Detroit Public School teacher who witnessed first-hand the transformative power of creative writing in her own classroom.

InsideOut is nationally recognized as one of the country's foremost literary education programs. Our professional writers-in-residence engage students in the writing process from the expert's point of view, inspiring youth to share their unique voices. Every student in the program becomes a published author in a professionally designed literary journal.

Our after-school program, Citywide Poets, engages teens in intensive, rigorous craft, leadership, and performance opportunities, including regional and national poetry competitions. Citywide Poets received the 2009 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, our nation's highest honor for after-school and out-of-school-time arts

and humanities programs.

In the words of one of our students: "Citywide Poets gave me a safe haven to voice my opinion and there were ears to listen...they really taught me how to express myself."

OUR PROGRAM

- Grows self-confidence and effective self-expression
- Facilitates the writing process and builds critical-thinking skills
- Fosters artistic excellence through mentorship and practice
- Elevates youth voice in Detroit and beyond

io 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THE SCHOOLS

VOICES FROM OUR CITY: YOUTH WRITERS CONFERENCE

In its seventh year, the **Youth Writers Conference** brought together 150 eighth through 12th grade students from 11 InsideOut schools. Students from Detroit, River Rouge and Oak Park participated in writing workshops with professional writers, focusing on topics including social commentary, writing about loss, and performance. This year's conference included a career discussion panel, "Notes from the Field," that featured professional writers Natasha "T" Miller, Michelle Krebs, Aaron Foley, Alicia Nails, Steven Gillis, and Kristin Bartley Lenz. 2017 Pulitzer Prize Winner and Detroit native Tyehimba Jess delivered the keynote address to students. The conference was presented by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services.



2017 Pulitzer Prize Winner Tyehimba Jess

CITYWIDE POETS



2017 Detroit Youth Poetry Slam Team

SLAM SEASON

This year we expanded our Slam Season; during two qualifying rounds, more than 35 students performed their original poems and 12 finalists advanced to the Grand Slam. These talented young poets competed for five spots on the **Detroit Youth Poetry Slam Team** and a chance to represent Detroit at the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival in San Francisco. Our annual Slam Season showcases youth from Citywide Poets, InsideOut's award-winning after-school program for teens.

IN THE COMMUNITY

STATEWIDE TEEN POETRY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES FIFTH YEAR

This year's **Louder Than A Bomb: The Michigan Youth Poetry Festival** expanded to a four-day festival that welcomed 15 teams from more than eight counties in Michigan. Seventy participants attended an array of workshops and competed in bouts at the Grand Slam. The festival also featured a public middle school showcase, an MC olympics, and an open mic hosted by festival youth leaders.



Teen workshop participants



InsideOut founder, Dr. Terry Blackhawk, and Executive Director, Suma Karaman Rosen.

NEW ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

In August we held our first annual fundraiser, **Share the Light**, at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University. The event raised over \$25,000 to help support InsideOut's writer-in-residence program in schools throughout metro Detroit.

The event also honored founder Dr. Terry Blackhawk, and announced the *Dr. Terry Blackhawk Fund for Program Excellence* with a challenge gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor. InsideOut's community matched that amount during an online campaign in September.

YOUTH POET LAUREATE

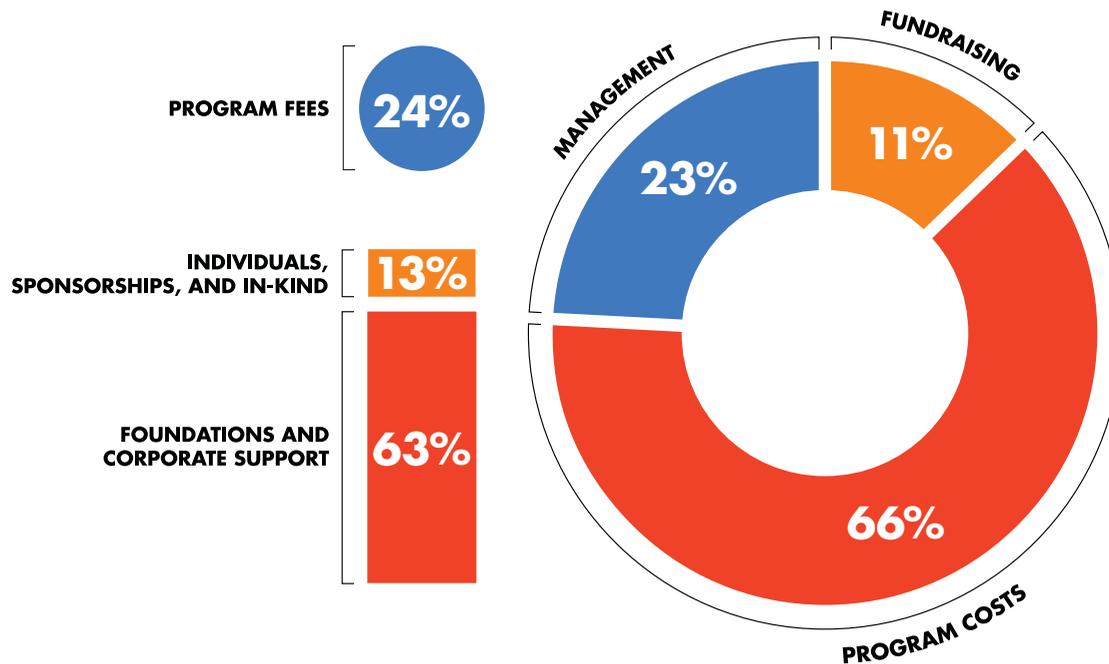
The **Youth Poet Laureate and Ambassadors (YPLA) Program** aims to create a new model for amplifying and acknowledging the contributions of Detroit's young writers and spoken-word artists. Comprised of one Poet Laureate and three Poet Ambassadors each year, YPLA showcases the voices of young people in Detroit's civic and creative communities. By developing new mentorship opportunities, providing professional artistic guidance, and assisting youth in deepening their craft, the program offers the city's emerging young poets a professional path to develop and hone their skills.



2017 Detroit Youth Poet Laureate, Hajjar Baban

FINANCIALS

Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017



INCOME

● Program Fees	\$185,001
● Individuals, Sponsorships, and In-Kind	\$104,982
● Foundation and Corporate Support	\$484,547
TOTAL REVENUE	\$774,530

EXPENSES

● Management	\$176,504
● Fundraising	\$82,903
● Program Costs	\$508,198
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$767,605

THANK YOU!

InsideOut is proud to acknowledge our donors, funders, partners, and friends.* This generous support inspires Detroit's young people to explore and share their unique voices.

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* This list reflects all donations above \$100 between Oct. 1, 2016, and Sept. 30, 2017. For a full list of donations during this time period, please visit our website: insideoutdetroit.org

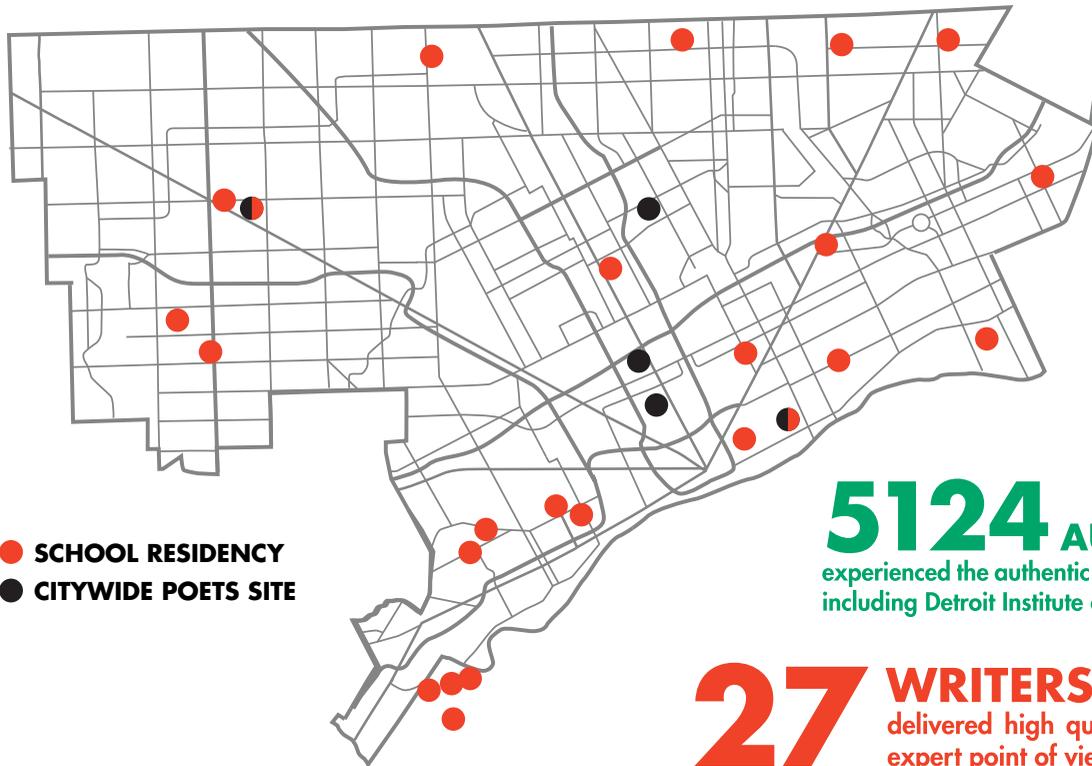
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YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US!
If your name is misspelled, incorrectly listed, or omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and bring the error to our attention so that we may correct our records.

Contact Ashley Calhoun at (313) 577-4601 or Ashley@insideoutdetroit.org



2664
STUDENTS SERVED
in grades K through 12
at 24 schools in Greater Detroit



100%
CWP SENIORS
graduated from high school

3396
LITERARY JOURNALS
printed and distributed to
students, teachers, and families

5124 AUDIENCE MEMBERS
experienced the authentic voice of youth at multiple venues,
including Detroit Institute of Arts and TEDx Detroit

27 WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE
delivered high quality programming from their
expert point of view as professional artists

InsideOut Literary Arts Project • 5143 Cass Ave. #225, Detroit, MI 48202 • insideoutdetroit.org

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