For two decades we have continued to pursue this mission, reaching more than 58,000 students in schools throughout Metro Detroit and publishing nearly 500 school literary journals. Nationally recognized as one of the country's foremost literary education programs, InsideOut's in-school creative writing program places professional Writers-in-Residence in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Detroit to provide weekly creative writing workshops. Every student is featured in a professionally published literary journal at every school, every single year.

Our after-school program, Citywide Poets, engages teens in intensive artistic mentorship, publication, performance, and leadership opportunities. In this rigorous and supportive literary community, teens learn their words are powerful and embrace creative expression as a tool for self-development and civic engagement. Citywide Poets received the 2009 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award, our nation’s highest honor for after-school and out-of-school-time arts and humanities programs.

I’ve seen this quote attributed to Maya Angelou and to Zora Neale Hurston — either way, I completely agree with the sentiment. I truly believe in the power of telling one’s story. InsideOut has been in the business of helping young people share those untold stories for over two decades. Beginning with last year’s annual report, we have been on a mission to reach new and broader audiences. In the last year, we’ve premiered an organizational video, created a new informational brochure, and launched a beautiful and easy to use website.*

It seems the better we get at telling our story, the more people want to write a new chapter with us. Take Ford Motor Company, for example. The June announcement of Ford’s plans to restore the Michigan Central Depot came with a public celebration that included Bill Ford, Mayor Duggan, and Governor Snyder. My favorite speaker of the day was our very own Detroit Youth Poet Laureate, Imani Nichele, who took the stage to introduce Tracy K. Smith, the Poet Laureate of the United States!  

In Fall of 2018, Fox Sports Detroit asked InsideOut students to create an original spoken word performance that celebrates the city of Detroit, team spirit and perseverance. Our students created an inspiring poem and performance, one that aired during the Pistons’ season opener! To date the video has been viewed more than 7,500 times! I wrote about the success of poetry in unexpected places in my first blog post. [(You can check out this video and more on our new website’s “News and Events” tab.)](#)

Each year InsideOut serves hundreds of young people. I’m thrilled that our new website now includes “Student Stories.” [Under the “Our Impact” tab.] These profiles highlight the young poets who exemplify the courageous act of telling your own story.

It is an honor to follow in their footsteps.

*Many thanks to the Four Friends Foundation for their support of our new video and website.

The Hon. Denise Page Hood  
Chief Judge, Eastern District of Michigan  
United States District Court

Cory Joyich  
Senior Director of Advancement (former)  
Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum

Michelle Krebs  
Director of Administrative Relations  
Case Automotive

Teresa Mc Alpine  
Director of Marketing Operations  
Placo Mores

Kevin Rashid  
Honors College Academic Service Officer  
Wayne State University

Phil Schloop  
UWO: Level 97 (retired)

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YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Our Youth Poet Laureate and Ambassadors program offers Detroit’s creative youth a professional path to develop and hone their skills. InsideOut’s 2017 Detroit Youth Poet Laureate Hajjar Baban was runner up for the first ever United States Youth Poet Laureate, and her full-length poetry book, *Relative to Blood*, was published by Penmanship Books.

Imani Nichele was named Detroit’s 2018 Youth Poet Laureate, alongside Ambassadors Eldric LaRon, Julia Hill and Jai’Len Smith. In addition to numerous public performances, Imani developed her professional skills by interning with InsideOut through Grow Detroit’s Young Talent and leading an array of writing workshops for youth around Metro Detroit.

IN THE COMMUNITY

EXCITING PARTNERSHIPS

A partnership with the Detroit Institute of Arts’ D-Cyphered exhibit brought a series of youth rap battles and all-ages writing workshops to the museum. Hosted by InsideOut writers and students, the events were well-attended, drawing diverse participation by adults, families, and young people.

A new partnership with The Detroit Zoological Society allowed students behind-the-scenes access at the Zoo and Belle Isle to explore animal habitats, learn about conservation efforts, and reflect and write on environmental efforts and needs in their communities.

BOOKUP BROADENS HORIZONS

InsideOut’s BookUp program, in partnership with the National Book Foundation, provides weekly book club reading and discussion groups for middle and high-school students designed to improve literacy skills. This year, the program ran at two Detroit schools, Marcus Garvey Academy and Caravens Academy, and at Ruth’s House, a residential program for LGBTQ teens. In addition to discussions and writing activities that deepen connections to award-winning YA novels, students have the opportunity to connect directly with the local literary community through field trips and author visits, including acclaimed YA author Tomi Adeyemi. Students are also given a stipend to purchase books at Bookstock’s Annual Book Sale and local bookstores, and add 15-20 new books to their personal libraries.

CITYWIDE POETS

EXPLORING IDENTITY

Teens in the Citywide Poets program had multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas, audiences, and communities, while honing their writing and performance skills. Through New Detroit’s Racial Identity and Healing Project, students learned about historical migration, genealogy, the construct of race, how to trace their family’s roots, and their own racial heritage -- all of which culminated in a performance of poems and essays.

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CITYWIDE POETS

IN THE SCHOOLS

EXPLORING IDENTITY

Teens in the Citywide Poets program had multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas, audiences, and communities, while honing their writing and performance skills. Through New Detroit’s Racial Identity and Healing Project, students learned about historical migration, genealogy, the construct of race, how to trace their family’s roots, and their own racial heritage -- all of which culminated in a performance of poems and essays.
## FINANCIALS

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Fees</th>
<th>Management</th>
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<tr>
<td>$146,707</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals, Sponsorships, and In-Kind</th>
<th>Program Costs</th>
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<td>$187,795</td>
<td>$605,610</td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Revenue</th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$720,807</td>
<td>$832,541</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CHARGE IN NET ASSETS ($59,734)**

*This amount reflects the difference between unrestricted dollars ($49,756) and temporarily restricted funds ($109,490) at the end of the fiscal year, and reflects an increase in investment income for fiscal 2018-19. As of September 30, 2018, there was an additional $646,476 in temporarily restricted net assets.

*InsideOut is proud to acknowledge our donors, funders, partners, and friends.*

**THANK YOU!**
2566
STUDENTS SERVED
in grades 2 through 12
at 26 schools in Greater Detroit

94%
TEACHERS
said InsideOut improved
students’ writing and
critical thinking skills

3650
LITERARY JOURNALS
printed and distributed to
students, teachers, and families

7658
AUDIENCE MEMBERS
experienced the authentic voice of youth at multiple venues,
including Detroit Institute of Arts and TEDx Detroit

23
WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE
delivered high quality programming from their
expert point of view as professional artists

SCHOOL RESIDENCY
CITYWIDE POETS SITE

*Not pictured in map: Oak Park Schools | Oak Park Freshman Institute, Oak Park Preparatory Academy, Oak Park High, River Rouge Schools (Ann Visger Elementary, STEM Academy, River Rouge High School, Sabbath Middle School) and Dearborn Citywide Poets site at Fordson High School

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

/insideoutliteraryarts