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SPOTLIGHT

Downtown tour will visit eateries

Preservation Wayne will host a Downtown Restaurants and Bars walking tour starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The tour will leave from Campus Martius Park next to Au Bon Pain and will include more than 40 restaurants and bars.

Tour guides will survey dozens of establishments — old, new and coming soon. The tour will go inside a few favorite spots for a closer look.

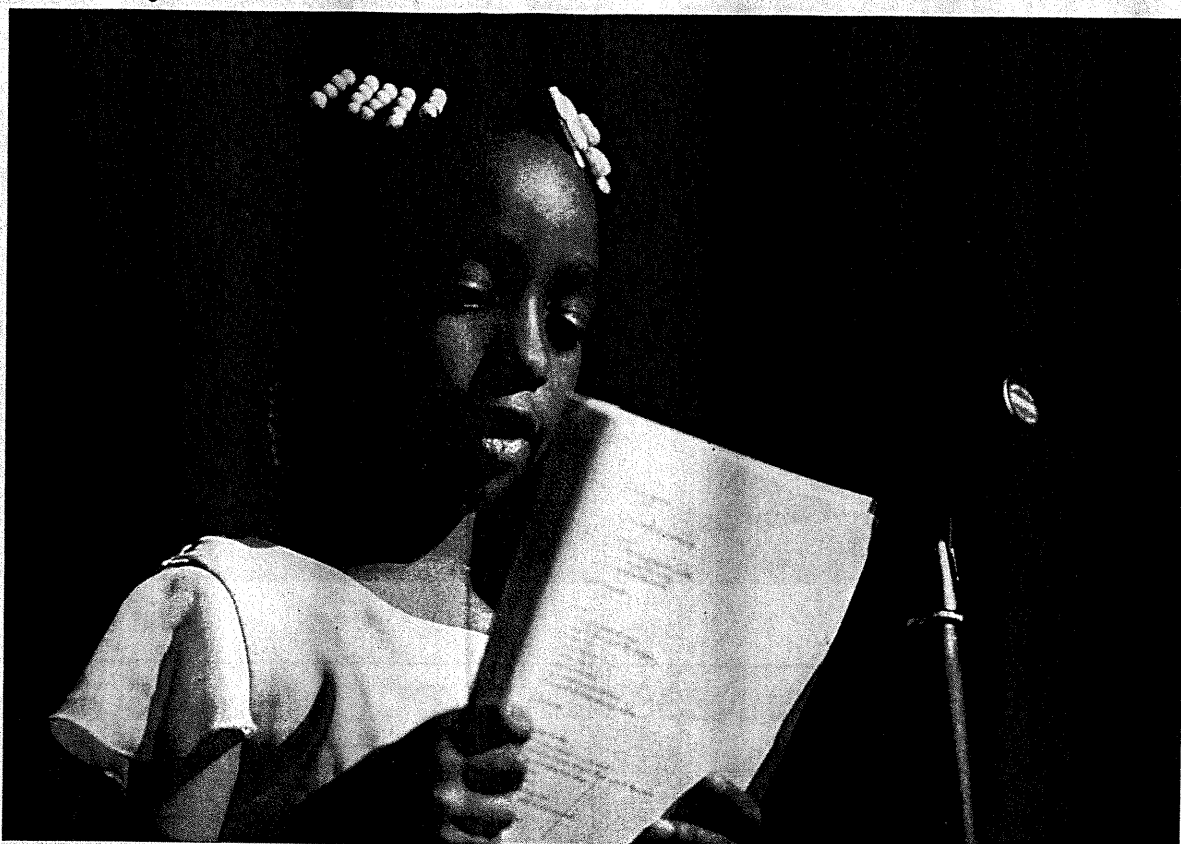
Preservation Wayne is Detroit's architectural preservation organization. Since 1975, it has been working to honor and preserve Detroit's architectural heritage.

Campus Martius is at Woodward between Fort and Michigan. Tickets for the walking tour are \$10 each and can be purchased at Campus Martius. For more information, call 313-577-3559.

By Antionette D. Griffith



'If you ask a kid to dream . . .'



WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Daviona Jones, 7, a first-grader at Stewart Elementary School in Detroit, reads her poem, "Princess of the Shining Flower" during the 13th annual InsideOut spring gala, held May 22 at the Gem Theatre. The program featured readings by Detroit Public Schools students. The InsideOut program encourages students to develop their voices through writing.

Literary arts project guides Detroit students through creative process, boosts writing talent

By ESTHER ALLWEISS INGBER
FREE PRESS SPECIAL WRITER

in "Digging Up," Vol. 7

*I sit thinking
Thinking if I respect myself
If my temple is truly sacred
If I am filled with the strength of my
ancestors*

*If I am a real woman, a woman of old
If I am the voice of my lost sisters
I sit thinking.*

"My Thoughts," by Ardella Williams, Southwestern High School,

Detroiter Ardella Williams' engaging poem and other students' writing are being produced and published at 27 Detroit Public Schools (DPS) through auspices of the InsideOut Literary Arts Project.

The executive director of InsideOut is award-winning poet Terry Blackhawk. The California native moved to Detroit in 1968, after graduating from Antioch College in Ohio.

While teaching writing at two DPS high schools, Blackhawk, who still lives in Detroit, observed how creative expression ignited the self-confidence of young people. She founded InsideOut in 1995 to encourage students to "develop their voices through writing, and develop sensitivity for the nuances of language."

InsideOut places professional writers-in-residence at participating schools. Over 25 weekly sessions, these senior writers guide students through the creative process. Student works appear in each school's literary magazine, and there are other opportunities to perform and be published.

In fall 2008, Candlewick Press in Cambridge, Mass., will publish poems by several InsideOut students in a national anthology.

Cassandra England, curriculum coordinator at Longfellow Middle School, said the cover art for this year's literary magazine was "Eyes on Us." Seventh-grader Doran Wingfield of Detroit portrayed "The Cool Crew," a group of four students wearing sunglasses. Blackhawk noted that while "our primary mission is the passion and power of the written word, we extend that into visual expression."

See WRITERS, 5



Photos by WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Jaylen Brown, 9, a fourth-grader at Chrysler Elementary School, recites his poem "The Red Frog" at the InsideOut gala that featured readings and recitations by student poets and writers.

WRITERS | Literary arts project boosts student talent

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Most of InsideOut's programming takes place in classrooms, during the school day. DeLila Sandlin's 10th-grade English class had poet "Miss Sherry" every Tuesday at the Detroit Academy for Women. It was a confidence booster for Sandlin, 15, of Detroit when her poem on shoe shopping was included in the project's "A Poem a Day" calendar.

Cass Tech High School holds its weekly InsideOut session from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. "Citywide Poets and Literary Magazine Publication Center are the two after-school programs at Cass," said Peter Markus of Trenton, the school's senior writer.

One Citywide Poet is Cass senior Andrew Hawke of Detroit. He received the Lotus Press Prize this year for writing "Heritage," a poem originally published in the Cass literary magazine. He won a Michigan Youth Arts Festival certificate in poetry after InsideOut submitted his poem, "Burning and Dodging."

"I'm thankful InsideOut was there to help me grow as a writer and photographer," said Hawke. "It's helped me in ma-



From Golightly Education Center, Micah Lee, 9, a third-grader, reads her poem, "Hidden In My Heart."

turing."

Cass Tech senior and Detroit resident Joshua Tuck previously won the Lotus Press Prize. His mother, Phillippa Tuck, said that InsideOut "helps our kids and gives them a focus. It lifts them up."

Student writers from the 27 K-12 schools were recognized at InsideOut's annual Gala on May 22 at the Gem Theatre in Detroit. About 450 attended. The evening included student readers, live music and art and literary displays.

InsideOut receives funding from various sources. One supporter is Michael Flora & Associates in Troy. "Because we are an advertising agency, we understand how important writing is," said Kara Hocking, executive vice president.

After being invited by a client to an InsideOut poetry reading, she said, "we were completely astonished at the

way the organization has transformed the kids' lives. We feel strongly that students in the Detroit Public Schools really benefit from this."

As a founding member of the national Writers in the Schools Alliance, "InsideOut is dedicated to fostering this vital work in schools in other districts and other communities around the country, most especially with 'underserved' children and youth," said Blackhawk.

Writer Markus agrees: "Every student in America — not only in Detroit — needs the kind of exposure to poetics that the InsideOut writers bring to the schools we currently serve. The imagination needs to be fed and fostered, or else it'll simply dry up and fade away. If you ask a kid to dream, he'll dream."

For information on the InsideOut Literary Arts Project, call 313-965-5332.