



ANNUAL REPORT 2019





I've been thinking about art a lot lately.

Specifically, I've been thinking about the skills that art brings out of all of us: the ability to compose, to synthesize disparate ideas, to tell a story, to create meaning.

These same skills are what experts say are essential for success in the future for all of us—young and old. In his book, *A Whole New Mind*, Daniel Pink explains: "We are moving from an economy and a society built on the logical, linear, computer-like capabilities of the Information Age to an economy and a society built on the inventive, empathic, big-picture capabilities of what's rising in its place, the Conceptual Age."

In addition to the many ways in which InsideOut's programming directly impacts students' lives—boosting writing and critical thinking skills, building confidence, supporting social and emotional well-being—it is heartening to know that we are also helping our young people master the skills they will need to be successful in an ever-changing world.

Daniel Pink adds that the Conceptual Age will require qualities such as inventiveness, empathy, joyfulness, and meaning—qualities that are evident in Aubrielle, the second grader who shared her poem "Marvelous Moon" at our annual *Share the Light* event in August. Her poise rivaled most of the adults I've ever known—in front of an audience of 200 people no less!—and at the same time, her

"joyfulness" was palpable. This ability to express herself will certainly serve her well in the years ahead.

[For more on Aubrielle, see "In the Schools" section.]

Aubrielle is amazing, but she is not alone: I am continually moved by the thousands of young poets InsideOut serves who are willing to explore what happens at the cross-section of invention and meaning. Their originality and imagination inspire me to think broadly and create bravely myself.

As we step into our 25th Anniversary in 2020—and prepare for the next 25 years—I'm excited to see what our creative-thinking young artists will teach us, and how art will lead the way.

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 60,000 students in Detroit-area schools and publishing nearly 500 school literary journals.

Nationally recognized as one of the country's foremost literary education programs, InsideOut's **Writer-in-Residence program** places professional writers 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.

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 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THE SCHOOLS

AROUND THE WORLD WITH WORDS

Every classroom of 2nd and 3rd graders at Gardner and Gompers Elementary Schools (241 students in all!) participated in InsideOut's *Word Travelers* program. The program focused on increasing student engagement with reading and writing, engaged students in a year-long immersive arts residency including: weekly creative writing sessions developed specifically for this grade level, visual art, songwriting, and additional guest author visits. Student "passports" helped mark new language and content acquisition for students throughout the year. An end of year book-release celebration, gallery walk featuring live music, and a poetry reading and performance of their original songs, honored and celebrated the work of students. Pamela Green, 3rd grade teacher at Gompers,

has remarked her incoming 3rd graders were more ready to engage in reading and writing because of their time with InsideOut Literary Arts as second graders last year.



Aubrielle Daniel, InsideOut student poet
Gompers Elementary-Middle School

Photo credit: Doug Coombe

CITYWIDE POETS



THE CITYWIDE POETS SCHOLARSHIP —A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT

With support from an anonymous donor, InsideOut presented its first-ever Citywide Poets Scholarship to Jaylen Graves, a graduate of Detroit School of the Arts. The award covers undergraduate tuition—up to \$25,000 per year for up to four years—for graduates of InsideOut's Citywide Poets. Jaylen, who was a Citywide Poets student for three years, said of receiving the scholarship: "I feel very proud of this moment because I get to see where hard work gets you and how it pays off."

IN THE COMMUNITY

TEEN VOICES ARE LOUDER THAN A BOMB

Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB) is the largest annual convening of young writers in the state of Michigan, dedicated to promoting artistic growth through peer engagement, team competition, and the celebration of youth voice.

For the fourth year in a row, teams of high school-aged poets engaged in a robust schedule of slam poetry competitions, writing craft and performance workshops, open mics, and more. By the end of the two-day festival, participants had pushed their writing to the limits, while deepening relationships with their peers in landmark Detroit institutions, including the Museum of Contemporary Arts Detroit (MoCAD), the Detroit Public Library, and Wayne State University.

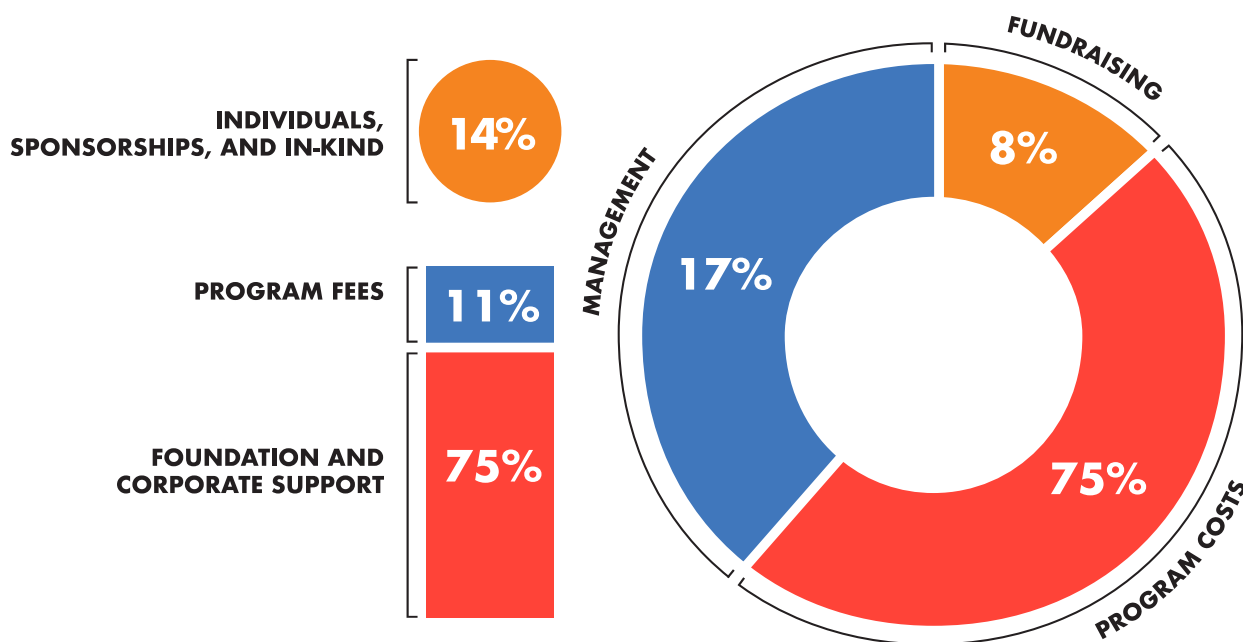


POETRY ON TAP

A partnership with the Science Gallery Detroit's *Depth* exhibit included the poetic voices of 34 InsideOut students in elementary, middle, and high school. Students wrote and recorded poems that reflected on many aspects of water rights from a local and global perspective. These student recordings were part of the *Beyond Streaming: Sound Mural for Detroit* by artist Jan Tichy which featured pipes and faucets spanning the stairs and third floor gallery space at the Michigan Science Center. When each of the 36 faucets was turned on, visitors could listen to individual student poems. The exhibit was free and open to the public over the summer reaching over 10,000 visitors.

FINANCIALS

Oct. 1, 2018—Sept. 30, 2019



INCOME

Program Fees	\$147,155
Individuals, Sponsorships, and In-Kind	\$186,494
Foundation and Corporate Support	\$962,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,296,149*

EXPENSES

Management and Administrative	\$166,050
Fundraising	\$77,879
Program Costs	\$719,510
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$963,439

**This reflects \$225,000 of pass-through funds for our "Writing Across the Rustbelt" project partner, Just Buffalo Literary Center.*

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.

313believe
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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.

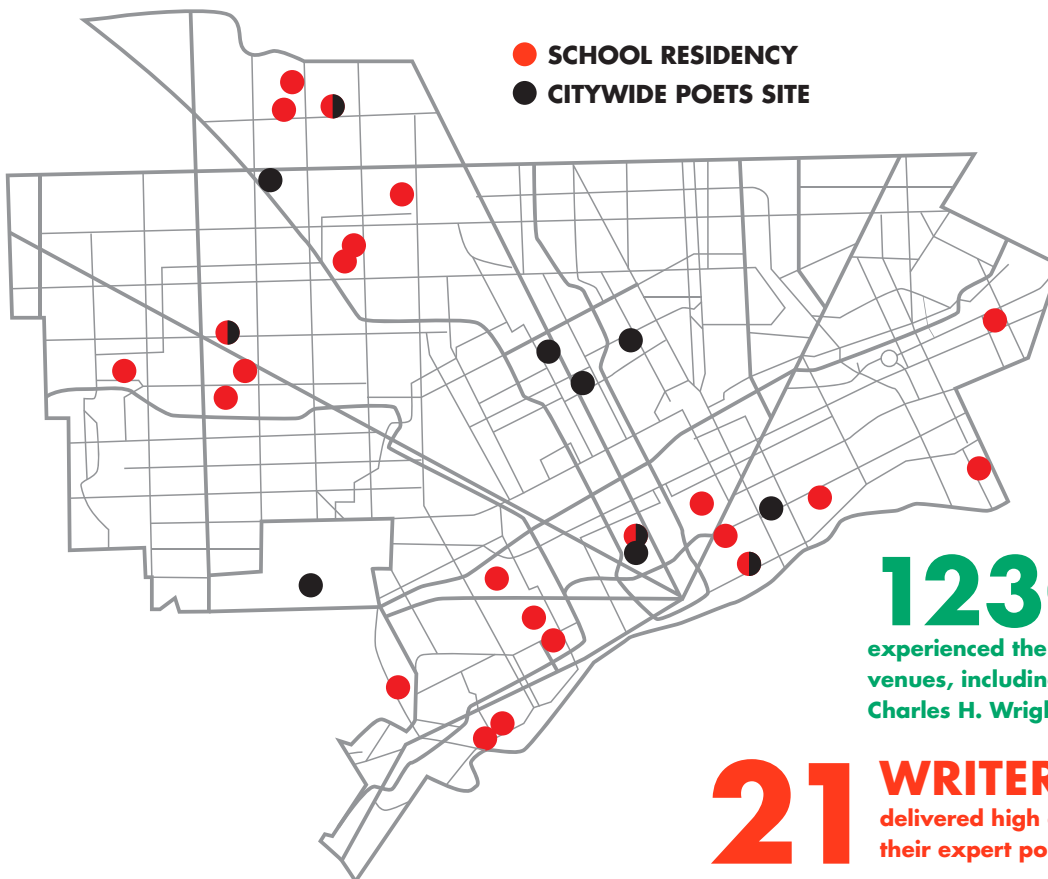
Contact John Randolph at (313) 577-4601
or john@insideoutdetroit.org



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STUDENTS SERVED in grades 2-12

at 27 schools and libraries in Metro Detroit



● SCHOOL RESIDENCY
● CITYWIDE POETS SITE

89%
OF TEACHERS
said the program
increased students'
engagement with writing

3406
LITERARY JOURNALS
printed and distributed to
students, teachers, and families

1230 AUDIENCE MEMBERS
experienced the authentic voice of youth at multiple
venues, including the Detroit Institute of Arts and
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

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

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