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
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.
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.

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.”
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.

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.
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.

- 313elieve
- Anonymous
- Patti Aaron
- Wadad Abed
- Mary Abouljoud
- Ali Abu El Haj
- Adult Learning Institute
- Cecile Aitchison
- Devon and Dharma Akmon
- Alise Aloui
- Marti Alston
- Anan Ameri and Noel Saleh
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Mike and Barb Anderson
- Dennis Archambault
- Douglas Armour and Valerie Paxton
- Carolyn Armour Mason
- Avalon International Breads
- Kathryn Babayan
- Suzanne and David Bailey
- Beaumont Children’s Hospital’s No Bullying Live Empowered (NoBLE) Program
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- William Bowles
- Michael Boylan
- Antinette Brown
- Marsha Bruhn
- Kay Buckner-Seal

*Donors are listed alphabetically and this list reflects gifts over $50 received between Oct 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019.
1930 students served in grades 2–12 at 27 schools and libraries in Metro Detroit

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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