



io InsideOut[®] Literary Arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I know you've heard the phrase: "Teamwork makes the dream work."

I have never experienced it as vividly as I did this year. While usually I use any community-facing platform available to uplift the resilience, bravery, power and inspiration of our young poets, I don't often have the opportunity to publicly sing the praises of the InsideOut Team. This is the perfect time to do so.

In my nearly 30-year professional life, I have never seen such a dedicated team. By this I mean that InsideOut's core staff members are dedicated to our mission, to the youth we serve, and to each other. They have come together to solve ever-evolving problems in the post-COVID landscape, such as: *How do we meet the needs of the youth we serve? How do we best support our partner teachers? How do we measure our overall impact?* – and the list goes on.

I invite you to visit the "Our Team" page on our website to learn a bit more about the folks behind the work. You might be surprised to know that we have four Kresge Artist Fellows in our ranks, as well as two former classroom teachers. Both of our Program Coordinators were once students in the InsideOut programs they now lead. And our Senior Writer has been working with the organization since its inception, back in 1995. Simply put, the wealth of knowledge, expertise and passion on this team is unparalleled.

It goes without saying that coming through this incredibly challenging period has required support from our funding partners and donor community. I'm deeply appreciative of the support we've received. But I can tell you, surviving the last year and a half would have been impossible without the phenomenal staff at InsideOut.

As you peruse the pages of this report, I hope you enjoy the highlights of all we accomplished this year, despite many unforeseen difficulties – and especially given the fact that our core programming was delivered fully virtually during the 2020-21 academic year.

I also hope you'll contemplate the effort behind the scenes that made all of this possible – and will join me in my deep admiration and appreciation of the InsideOut Team.

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 over two decades we have continued to pursue this mission, reaching more than 65,000 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 **in-school Writer-in-Residence program** places professional writers in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Detroit to provide weekly creative writing workshops. Every student has the opportunity to be 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 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THE SCHOOLS

"WE WEAR THE MASK": REFLECTING ON LIFE IN A PANDEMIC

InsideOut Writer-in-Residence and international performance artist Mahogany Jones kicked off the virtual learning year at Detroit School of Arts freshman orientation and launch of their Literary Arts major. Jones, leaning into the new reality of mask mandates and social distancing, invited students to explore Paul Laurence Dunbar's classic poem "We Wear The Mask." Students engaged in conversation around the various masks, both real and symbolic, that we all wear and how your mask should not stop you from sharing bravely with your community and the world. Students ended by sharing poems about their magical masks of protection and enjoyed a few songs and poems performed by Jones.

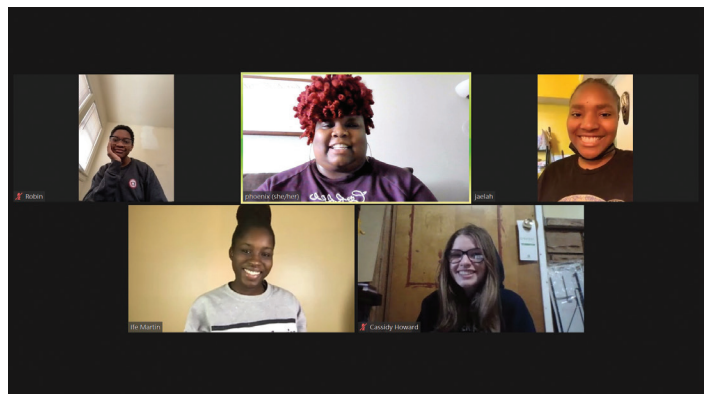
Jones performed and led guest artist workshops at several schools during the virtual year, always inviting students to connect music, community building, social awareness and self-care through the practice of creative writing.



CITYWIDE POETS

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD FINDS NEW WAYS TO THRIVE

InsideOut's Youth Advisory Board found ways to amplify their voices, have meaningful professional development experiences, and influence InsideOut programs even in the virtual year. Led by poet and performance artist La Shaun phoenix Moore, the Youth Advisory Board honed their professional skills by hosting virtual open mics for hundreds of youth and adult viewers as well as holding the first ever Citywide Poets Town Hall meeting. They also shared their unique points of view as InsideOut program participants at a panel entitled "Blackness Does Not Equal Trauma" presented by the Youth Development Resource Center for adult youth program professionals. This year's Youth Advisory Board concluded their year of service with a presentation directly to the InsideOut Board of Directors.



IN THE COMMUNITY

POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE GETS CREATIVE

Through the Poetry for the People initiative, InsideOut engaged new audiences of all ages in the ways that language can connect to and enrich their lives through workshops, performances, and commissioned works, offered in partnership with community organizations both virtually and in person.

Poetry for the People centers on tailoring experiences for unique audiences and events. A partnership with Hannan Center featured a six-week virtual creative writing series for a passionate group of senior citizens. InsideOut launched a virtual creative writing series for caregivers at Henry Ford Cancer Center, and another workshop brought the power of poetry and self-expression to chronically ill young people in partnership with North Star Reach summer camp. As a follow-up, we were invited to present at their annual Care Conference on poetry as a self-care tool for parent caregivers.



Photo Credit: Kahn Davison



Photo Credit: Brittany Greeson

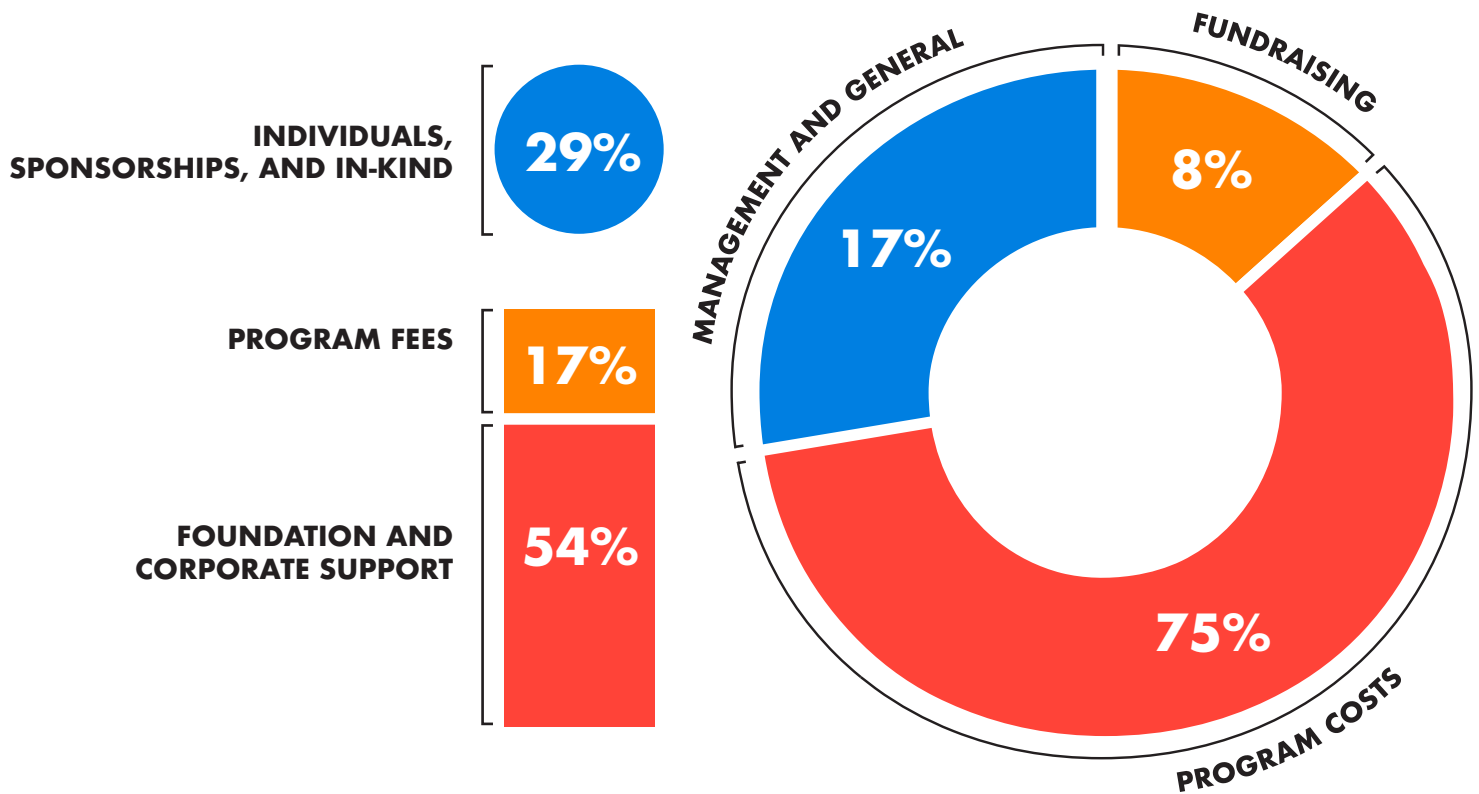


At downtown Detroit's Beacon Park Family Fun Day, InsideOut planned a day of literary activities, including large-scale magnetic poetry, a Langston Hughes poetry postcard prompt, interactive storytelling, and a necklace-making activity that used words as inspiration for wearable art. In partnership with Sidewalk Fest Detroit and summer campers at YouthWorks, InsideOut provided creative writing and stenciling workshops, an open mic, and interactive displays of student poems during a day-long immersive arts festival.

Poetry for the People also elevated youth voice and creativity in important conversations through commissioned videos by InsideOut students. In partnership with Chalkbeat Detroit, InsideOut student poet Ife Martin reflected on the inauguration of Kamala Harris, as well as the realities of online learning for students during the Coronavirus pandemic. Additional videos were created in partnership with: Detroit Future City, The Ready by 21 Conference and Wayne State's Annual MLK celebration.

FINANCIALS

Oct. 1, 2020—Sept. 30, 2021



INCOME

Individuals, Sponsorships, and In-Kind	\$309,327
Program Fees	\$184,758
Foundation and Corporate Support	\$569,725
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,063,810

EXPENSES

Management and General	\$163,673
Fundraising	\$82,260
Program Costs	\$741,245
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$987,178

THANK YOU!

InsideOut is proud to acknowledge our donors, funders, partners, and friends. Because we deeply value our entire community of supporters, we strive to recognize every donation, from \$5 to \$50,000. To facilitate this, we've moved our full donor list online, which can be found at <https://insideoutdetroit.org/annual-report/>. The list reflects all gifts during our fiscal year of 10/1/2020 to 9/30/2021.

Join us in celebrating the generous support of our community, which equips young people to think broadly, create bravely, and share their voices with the world!

5 STORIES FOR 25 YEARS

In 2021, we shared the stories of 5 Detroit students over our 25 year history whose lives were altered because of InsideOut.

We heard from a young woman whose passion for activism was ignited. A nurse who gained essential confidence during a tough time in school. A playwright who won the Pulitzer prize. A young poet who became one of today's leaders at InsideOut. And a recent alum who found true community in our programs.

Here's a small sample of what they shared with us. View their full stories on our website: insideoutdetroit.org/tag/5for25



1995-2000: **Michael R. Jackson**

"Literally every aspect of my writing career came because a teacher encouraged me," says Pulitzer-prize winning playwright and InsideOut alum Michael R. Jackson. "I can tell you the whole narrative of my career over a twenty-year process by the teacher who laid the breadcrumbs out for me."



2015-2000: **Aja Allante**

Aja developed her creative skills through Citywide Poets, but she also learned career skills as a member of the Youth Advisory Board. "Ever since I've been in Citywide Poets I've been learning something new not only about myself but about the world, about the workplace," Aja says. "Hosting events, hosting workshops, hosting meetings with the Youth Advisory Board—all of that has added to my resume. Some people don't get that experience for years, and I got all of that in a span of months."



2000-2005: **Jasmine Dorsey**

"When I first met Mr. Pete [InsideOut Senior Writer Peter Markus], I learned to fully explain what I've always wanted to say in the form of art. This was what it means to belong. This program is the reason I graduated high school."



2544

STUDENTS WERE SERVED VIRTUALLY

in grades 2–12

at 32 schools, libraries, and sites in Metro Detroit

- SCHOOL RESIDENCY
- CITYWIDE POETS SITE



94%

OF TEACHERS

say InsideOut consistently
uses strategies that
strengthen student
engagement with writing

19 LITERARY JOURNALS

(2466 copies) were distributed to students,
teachers, and families

33

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

delivered high-quality programming from their
expert point of view as professional artists

*In 2020-21, InsideOut served students in Dearborn,
Detroit, Highland Park, Oak Park, South Redford,
and River Rouge.*

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/insideoutliteraryarts