

*I AM A POEM
THAT SPEAKS WITH FISH
ASKING IF MERMAIDS EXIST.*

- YARELI, POET
InsideOut Literary Arts

OUTFRONT

PARKING

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io InsideOut
Literary Arts®

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bookshelves should be for books, not perfunctory strategic plans. Attempting future-focused planning when you can't tell what life will be like tomorrow – basically, life in a global pandemic – feels like just going through the motions.

So, in Fall of 2021, when we were finally ready to embark on a strategic planning process, I knew it had to be beneficial for those actually doing the work. I knew it had to be *staff-led*.

Anyone listening to me talk about InsideOut has heard me rave about our amazing team. In addition to each staff member being fantastic at their own job, as a group we have incredible alignment. It's what allows us to focus on the important things and make consistent improvement. It is also what prepared us to hit the ground running when we returned to classrooms in person.

One of the most significant outcomes of our planning process was naming InsideOut's core values: ***Growth, Creativity, Equity, Community and Youth Voice***. While these principles have always been part of our work, we are now much more intentional in how they guide us.

Take our new program staffing structure, for example. We've launched three new full-time Lead Teaching Artist Fellow positions, AND we've introduced a new block scheduling for Writers-in-Residence that affords them equitable and consistent wages while offering us the ability to get up and running in schools much faster.

Both positions highlight our team's problem-solving abilities [**Creativity**]. They create a structure where we are better able to invest in professional development opportunities, as well as offer increased stability of employment to our teaching artists [**Growth + Equity**], while putting more money directly into the creative economy of Detroit [**Community**]. And most importantly, these innovations will help us better serve our students, nurturing and uplifting their unique, authentic voices [**Youth Voice**].

We went from vision to plan to implementation in 10 months, and I couldn't be more proud to share where aligned values and bold experimentation have taken us!

Suma Karaman Rosen
Executive Director

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ABOUT INSIDEOUT

Through creative writing, InsideOut Literary Arts inspires and equips young people to think critically, create bravely, and share their voices with the world.

Since our founding in 1995 we have continued to pursue this mission, reaching more than 70,000 students in Detroit-area schools and publishing over 600 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 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 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

IN THE SCHOOLS

MUSIC TO OUR PENCILS: SCHULZE STUDENTS ADD POETRY TO CLASSICAL COMPOSITIONS

Middle school students at Schulze Academy of Arts & Technology worked with Senior Writer Peter Markus and guest artist John Rybicki—both acclaimed writers—to develop poetry in response to classical music composed by Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff. Markus and Rybicki showed students how words are music and how our pencils are musical instruments to get to the things that only we might say.

Schulze students, as well as students from around the city, attended the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to see their words projected as accompaniment to the live orchestra performance. Student writers were able to see how their words have the power to shape the way others see the world or, in this case, how they hear the music.



LEAD TEACHING ARTIST FELLOWS ENHANCE PROGRAM QUALITY & COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Building upon the successful 2020 pilot of one full-time Teaching Artist position—and through the generous support from the Four Friends Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan—we have expanded the initiative to support an inaugural cohort of three full-time Lead Teaching Artist Fellows: Reynaldo Hinojosa, Suzanne Honda, and Jassmine Parks. As Fellows for the next two years, these artists will lead creative writing residencies in several partner schools, design and deliver professional development for our team of part-time Writers, and deepen their individual artistry through a customized artistic development plan. The skills and flexibility provided by these positions enhance our program quality and the overall experience for students and school partners—truly a win-win for all!



iO InsideOut
Literary Arts®
Introducing
Lead Teaching Artist
Fellows

CITYWIDE POETS

INSIDEOUT YOUTH POETS WOW CROWDS AT DETROIT AUTO SHOW

InsideOut Youth Performance Troupe delivered an electrifying performance at the 2022 North American International Auto Show in Detroit on the Toyota main stage. The artists centered their work around Toyota's theme of Limitless Possibilities for All. Troupe Member Stella Hughes interviewed ahead of the Auto Show with WDIV Channel 4. Each of the troupe members were presented with new iPads by Toyota to commemorate their season. Students remarked that this was one of the most rewarding performances of their InsideOut experience, which has included weekly coaching, writing and performance mentorship, and public performance opportunities.



IN THE COMMUNITY

POETRY FOR THE PEOPLE REACHES NEW AUDIENCES

2022 was the year of *Poetry for the People*, InsideOut's series of workshops, installations and performances in neighborhoods across the city designed to demystify poetry and engage new audiences in the ways that language can connect to and enrich their lives.

With over 2000 participants and 44 community partners, *Poetry for the People* intersected with new themes, audiences, and locations to create unusual and unforgettable experiences, such as a poetry nature walk with Detroit Audubon or a 10-week workshop on protest poetry with Senior Citizens at Hannan House. *Poetry for the People* also spread youth voice in our community through seven billboards across Metro Detroit during National Poetry Month in April 2022. (See this year's cover photo of the billboard featured in Corktown!)

Poetry for the People concluded in October of 2022; we hope to secure long-term funding to continue to offer barrier-free writing opportunities to the community.



Photo Credit: Sara Faraj



Photo Credit: Kahn Davison

IF THE RIVER COULD SING: A CELEBRATION OF WRITING AND RIVER WITH INSIDEOUT

300

ATTENDEES FROM 20
ZIP CODES REPRESENTED

12

PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS

10

HEADLINING POETS
AND MUSICAL ACTS

In September 2022, *If the River Could Sing: A Celebration of Writing and River with InsideOut* immersed a vibrant audience of nearly 300 in the power of poetry and the beauty of the Detroit riverfront.

The culminating event for *Poetry for the People*, *If the River Could Sing* took place at Valade Park, where participants enjoyed activities such as meeting a sturgeon with the Outdoor Adventure Center, onsite letterpress printing by Signal Return, art experiences with Live Coal, and performances by poets, musicians, and the winners of our river-themed poetry contest. Feedback from performers, participants, and partners was so positive InsideOut plans to host the event again in 2023.

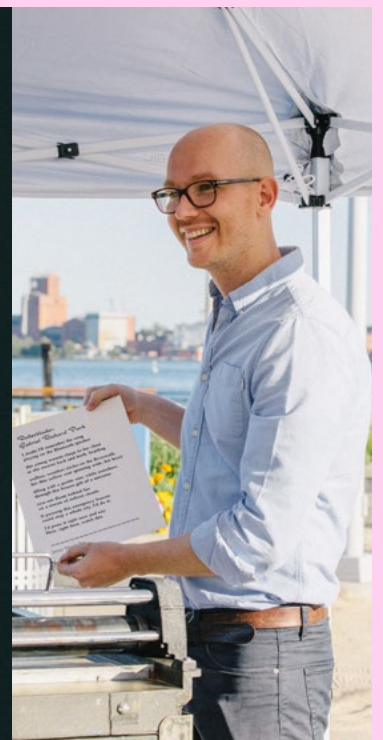
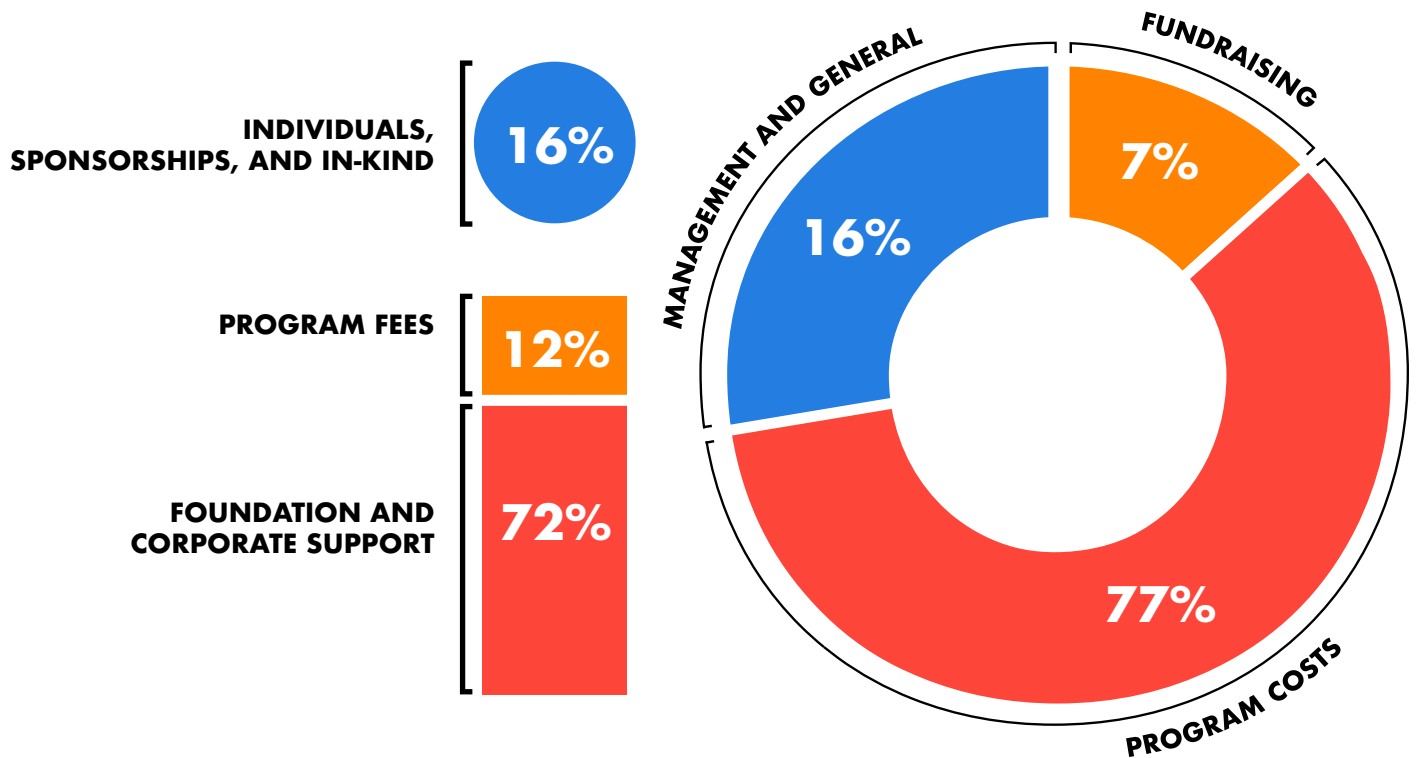


Photo Credits: Sara Faraj

FINANCIALS

Oct. 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2022



INCOME

 Individuals, Sponsorships, and In-Kind	\$258,942
 Program Fees	\$200,564
 Foundation and Corporate Support	\$1,193,196
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,652,702*

EXPENSES

 Management and General	\$198,271
 Fundraising	\$86,470
 Program Costs	\$928,901
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,213,642

*This reflects \$212,500 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. 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 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022.

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

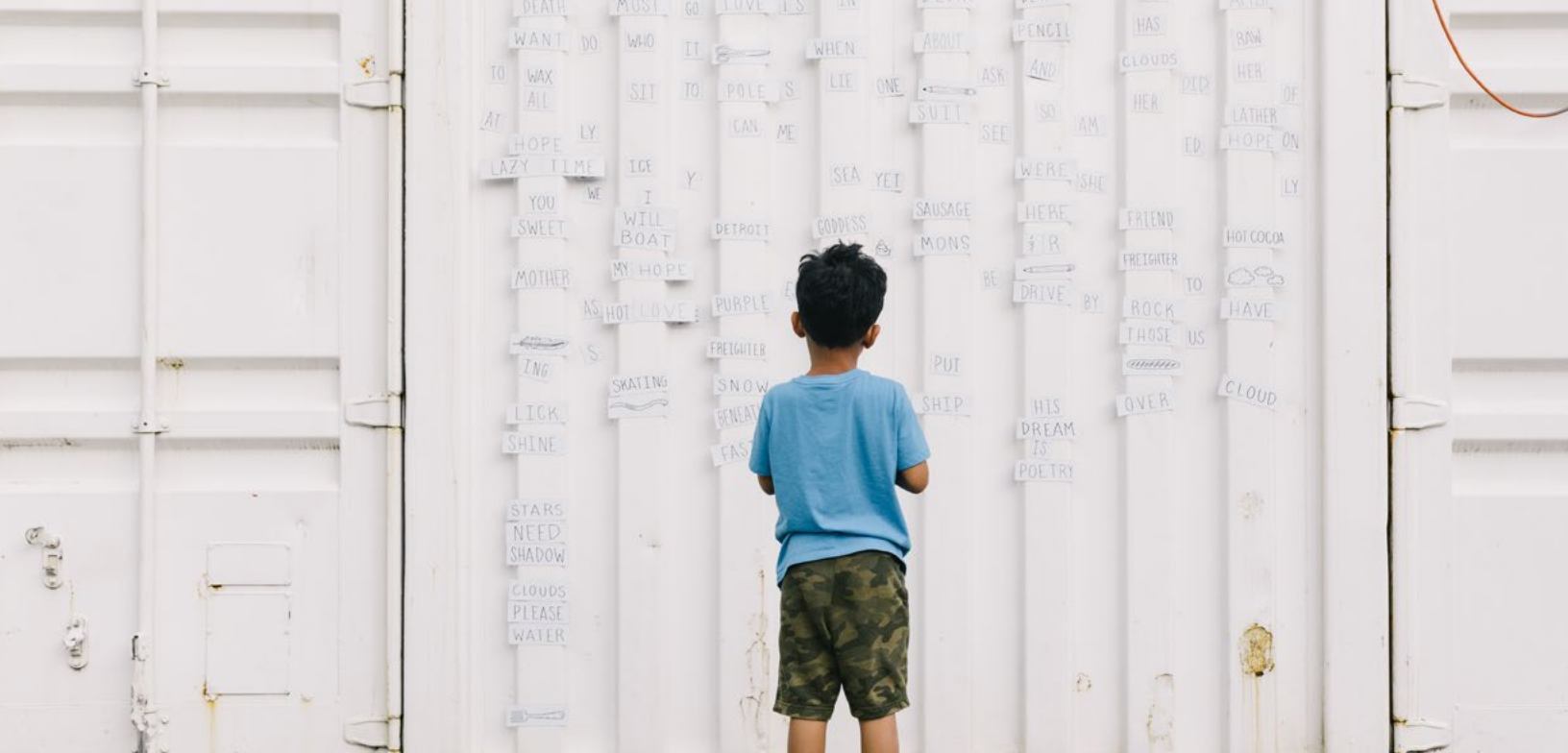
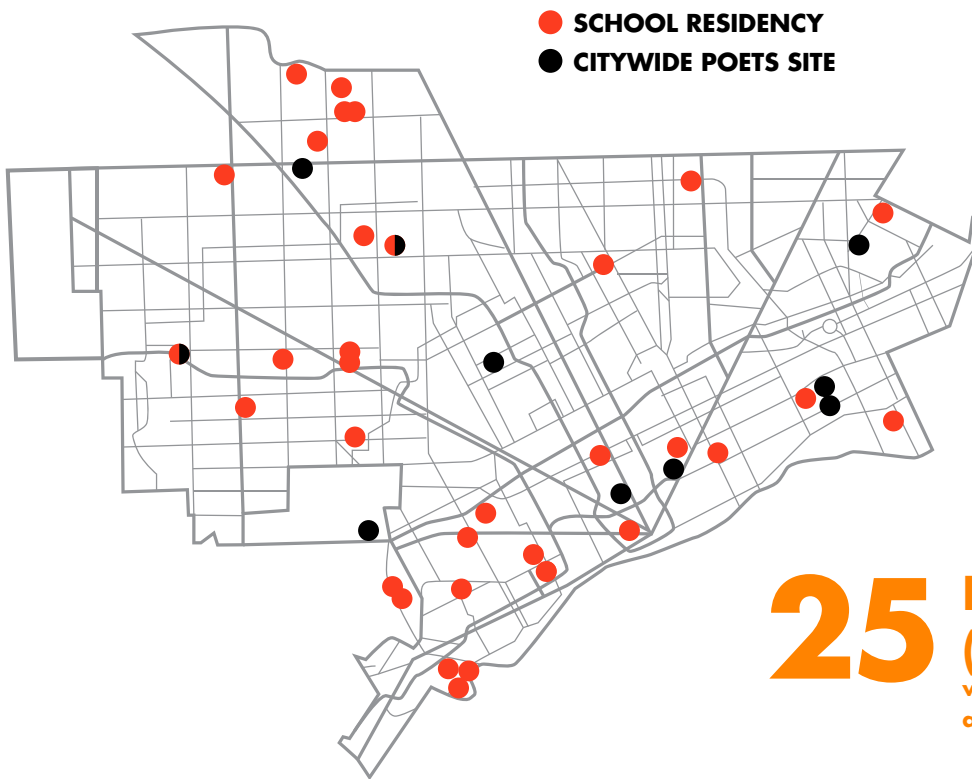


Photo Credit: Sara Faraj



2,667

STUDENTS

were served in grades 2-12 at 30 schools, libraries, and virtual sites in Metro Detroit

100%

OF TEACHERS

surveyed said the program strengthened students' oral communications and their engagement with writing

25

LITERARY JOURNALS (3562 COPIES)

were distributed to students, teachers, and families

45

WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

integrated social-emotional learning (SEL) concepts like self and social awareness and relationship skills into every lesson plan.

In 2021-22, InsideOut served students in Dearborn, Detroit, Highland Park, Oak Park, South Redford, and River Rouge.

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