

WRITERS IN RESIDENCE



CREATIVE WRITING FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH

Writers in Residence is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization incorporated in Ohio.

MISSION

We teach creative writing to youth who are incarcerated to empower their voices and assist in their re-entry into society.

VISION

We strive to reduce the recidivism rates of our residents and participate in the transformation of the juvenile justice system.

RATIONALE

48,000 youth are incarcerated in the United States.

2,100 youth are incarcerated in the state of Ohio.

“In 2020, the Urban Institute reported that 55% of youth in a juvenile correctional facility in Ohio are black while the state’s youth population represents only 16%.”*

“The one-year [recidivism] rate for the educated youth dropped to 6.1% for the 2014 release cohort, while the youth without that educational attainment level had a rate over four times higher.”**

IMPACT

2019–2021 YEAR TO DATE

10+ partnerships with colleges/universities and juvenile facilities across Ohio

750+ residents participated in our creative writing workshops

2,225+ pieces of creative writing supported

1,000+ chapbooks published

SUPPORT

VOLUNTEER

Learn how to get involved at writersinresidence.org/get-involved

DONATE

Visit writersinresidence.org/donate for more information.

CONTACT

writersinresidence.org | info@writersinresidence.org | [@writersinresidence](https://twitter.com/writersinresidence)

VALUES

JUSTICE

We believe in creating an environment where justice becomes visible, where restoration from wrong is possible, where people are seen as more than their worst moments, where people can create a future not doomed to repeat the past.

EMPOWERMENT

We believe that our residents can build their self-esteem, resilience, and power through working on their writing, their reflection, their communication, through the creative writing workshop experience.

COMMUNITY

We continually welcome and accept our residents into our communities because they belong to an environment that promotes individuality and empowerment especially upon re-entry. We also believe in the creation of a collaborative atmosphere that amplifies all voices together in a spirit of mutuality and kindness.

RELATIONSHIPS

We believe in fostering genuine, strong, and long-lasting relationships as well as walking with our residents as they navigate the path to re-entry.

DIGNITY

We believe that our residents deserve to discover and recognize their own dignity and self-worth through our creative writing workshops. We also believe that if we respect ourselves, our residents, and our student volunteers then we successfully lead by example.

“[Creative writing] frees me from my pain, [this] institution, and myself. It connects me with people who understand.”

—A Resident from Cuyahoga Hills JCF