

Writers in Residence



Fall 2021
University of Dayton Cohort

In the US, over 48,000 youth are confined in juvenile or criminal justice facilities. In Ohio, about 2,200 youth are held in juvenile or criminal justice facilities.

They have been separated and isolated from family, friends, and members of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of them feel forgotten, alone, & scared.

This is for them.

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Teach



We teach creative writing to youth who are incarcerated.



We empower our residents' voices.

Empower

We assist in their re-entry



Assist

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.

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.

COMMUNITY. We believe in the power of community. This means that 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.

"One writes
out of
one thing
only

— James A. Baldwin

We strive to reduce
the recidivism rates of our
residents,

and participate
in the transformation of
the juvenile justice system.

g

/ _

one's own
experience."

SCHOOLS



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Capital University | 6. Marietta College |
| 2. College of Wooster | 7. Oberlin College |
| 3. Heidelberg University | 8. University of Dayton |
| 4. Hiram College | 9. Cleveland State University |
| 5. John Carroll University | 10. Case Western Reserve Univ. |

Circleville JCF

Montgomery County CAS

Seneca County YC

Portage Ceauga County JDC

Cuyahoga Hills JCF

Washington County JC

Medina County JDC

Cuyahoga County JDC

Lorain County JDH

Indian River JCF

Franklin County JDC

JUVENILE FACILITIES

OUTPUT + IMPACT

To clarify how we track our outputs, we take attendance at every session because our service population remains to be extremely transient, generating the total number of residents. However, some of the residents participate in our program more than once, so we averaged the total number of residents from every cohort to produce an approximate number that represents how many residents we engage weekly. We replicated the same calculations for our student volunteers too. The Independent Sector values volunteer time at \$27.20/hour; we multiplied this dollar amount by the total number of service hours for every student volunteer.

This information was last updated on 11/29/21 before our creative writing workshops concluded for the fall season.

Read more about our outputs, outcomes, and impact at www.writersnresidence.org/impact

IMPACT

FY19-FY21 AVG. YTD

26

residents

7

student volunteers

87

hours

\$2,242

fiscal valuation

39

artifacts

82

chapter books

FY19-FY21 TOTAL YTD

782

residents

159

student volunteers

1,908

hours

\$50,336

fiscal valuation

826

artifacts

2,096

chapter books

FALL FY21 AVERAGE

27
residents

5
student volunteers

48.3
hours

\$1,378
fiscal valuation

29
artifacts

50
chapter books

FALL FY21 TOTAL

192
residents

20
student volunteers

227
hours

\$6,892
fiscal valuation

116
artifacts

50
chapter books

FALL FY20 AVERAGE

27
residents

9
student volunteers

74
hours

\$1,890
fiscal valuation

39
artifacts

30
chapter books

FALL FY20 TOTAL

109
residents

18
student volunteers

223
hours

\$5,671
fiscal valuation

39
artifacts

90
chapter books



*reconstruction
of the soul*



Dear reader,

This chapbook marks our second program season in a single year engaging the residents of the Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services. Unit by unit, we are facilitating a 90-minute, weekly environment for the youth to creatively express themselves as well as critically reflect on their life's journey – the past, present, and future.

We feel honored and humbled to witness each resident change and grow from the first week with six-word memoirs to the very last week with affirmations. We built connections with the youth and wrote alongside them during every session, which always included moments of laughter, learning, and longing for more time together. We are grateful for the residents allowing us to work with them to empower their voice and feel heard by their peers.

We hope that you read our residents' creative writing with an open mind because they put forth a lot of time and energy into their poetry and prose even when they didn't recognize themselves as storytellers. Hence the title of this chapbook, "Reconstruction of the Soul," each youth wrote to repair something either visible or invisible for you to also heal with them.

University of Dayton Cohort

Untitled

CM

1. I am tax free. I like fast cars
2. Choose the best route for yourself
3. I love the treasures, police don't
4. I will be great without a doubt
5. It's a high speed sports mode, go!!!
6. I keep my circle small 100%
7. Six words six hellcats six million with me
8. Blender action blow the motor tax!
9. Dang 223's really do go through houses
10. Brickfair tax long lived ex bro.

Untitled

HB

1. I am a cool white dude
2. I am a 14-year-old
3. I was about 13 last year
4. I was a quiet person then
5. I need to work in school
6. I used to not play chess
7. This has to be six words
8. Words six be to has this
9. I need to get out now
10. I liked to eat food today

Dooda

VJ

1. I am small but very strong
2. I am lazy but finish things
3. I am short but I got nice hops
4. I was bad but very good
5. I did fail but never quit
6. I did hoop but I stopped

LKE

KR

1. I am a lowkey person
2. I am always hungry when I'm full
3. I am capable of anything
4. I have different vibes in situations
5. I enjoy listening to music
6. I like to workout

Six-word Memoir

MB

1. I am black, intelligent, and smart.
2. Sometimes I was failing to succeed.
3. Setbacks motivate me to go harder.
4. Greatness takes patience, practice makes perfect.
5. I play basketball on a daily basis.
6. Is tomato a fruit or vegetable?
7. I am a very smart person.
8. I'll be winning in the future.
9. Destination doesn't matter, journey does.

Untitled

SB

1. I like playing music and games.
2. I am confident in basketball.
3. I like driving on the highway.
4. I was playing football for the flames.
5. I like when girls act toxic
6. I like going to my auntie's house
7. I like playing spades with my mom

Two Truths and a Lie

MB

I wake up every day, brush my teeth, wash my face, eat breakfast, then call my best friend. We talk about what we get into for the day and what time they tryna link up. When we link up we go get some food, chill, and conversate for a little bit. (true)

Every day I drag race with my friends on side streets and run from the police when they try to stop us from drag racing. (lie)

Two Truths and a Lie

KR

I got tipp

The police can't catch me

I'm gone stop cheating

Big Lung

KR

It's big lung I'ma big boss yah ah
Big bum my clothes cost ah boss
I'm lowkey come in see sum

Untitled

VJ

Stop talking to me

You on some weird s**t

What you on

On my son

Put it on yo hood

No Bicker

MW

Outside, shots fired

If they make moves gotta talk to me

No bicker

Alone again everybody left,

So many people gone it's nobody left

They try to talk to me but all I say

Is no bicker

Life Problems

JG

The knife cuts my throat

I lost my breathe cause the gash

I cause my own death

I can save my last breath

With a better past

Late Night, I Can't Sleep

MB

Waking up outta dreams

Cops chasing me

Tryna focus because of my dreams

Road Runner

SB

I was on the run

Tryna make away for the green

Car hoppin can't do it again

Again, Again

MW

As past blood sheds thin

The wind blows far from present time

We still wake again, again.

Steps to Success

MW

Set goals

Get money

Be the king, not the peasant

I will achieve my goals

I will be a CEO

Do what needs to be done

Be successful

Untitled

HB

Gotta be successful

Gotta get a job

Untitled

SB

I wish somebody told me to do right in school. Stay out of jail, follow your dreams, stay outta the way, get money the legal way, dress right. My goal is to get my own business, apartment, and when I turn 18 get my own car. I want a wife and a son that plays sports and gets good grades.

Unspoken Street Codes

VJ

Hey, you don't have to rob to get what you want

You don't have to kill to get a name

You don't have to be a class clown to get some smiles

You can go to college instead of jail

You can sell clothes, not drugs

You don't have to be black or white to get respect

You don't have to be a savage to fit in

Untitled

MB

Keep doing your best and you are heading for success.

Complete my education by maintaining motivation. Stay out the system and I ain't tryna be the next victim. Ima do good, Ima do right. It ain't over, I'm still in this fight.

Positive Vibes

JG

Get my master's degree

Engineering, full ride for free

I'm gonna catch a bfree

And I got the key for the Mercedes Benz

Untitled

KR

Your locks are nice one
of the real if I say I got you that's
100. Plus, if I consider you my brother
I'll never switch up, you don' have to
be a crazy person. Love yourself, believe
in yourself more than what anybody
else thinks

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Residents
- Community Partners and Juvenile Facilities
- Student Volunteers
- Cohort Advisors and Academic Institutions
- Special Guest Authors and Artists
- Staff and Contractors
- Board of Directors
- Donors and Community Members

We want to thank another integral member of our team, Morgan K., who transcribed almost every resident's handwritten artifact into a digital document so we can publish their poetry and prose.

We also want to express our gratitude for our Graphic Designer, Jordan Mondell, who produced this contemporary, high-quality chapbook that elevates our residents' creative writing.

Finally, we want to recognize the support from the following grantmaking institutions:

- The Cleveland Foundation - Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, Cleveland Black Futures Fund
- The Sisters of Charity Foundation - Ministry Leadership Program
- The Fowler Family Foundation
- The Ohio Arts Council

By donating to Writers in Residence, you allow us to...

Provide writing materials, technology, personal protective equipment (PPE), snacks, chapbooks, and teaching artists for our creative writing workshops.

Support our residents who are re-entering society with very little or zero access to social services and resources to prevent them from recidivating.

Educate our local communities and government officials about the juvenile justice system's traumatic effect on our youth to enact reforms and alternatives.

**To donate, please visit:
writersnresidence.org/donate or scan the code below**



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