

# Writers in Residence



Spring 2022

Bowling Green State University Cohort

For the 49,000 youth confined in a juvenile facility in the US.

For the 2,200 youth confined in a juvenile facility in Ohio.

These youth have been separated from family and friends. Many of them don't feel seen, heard, or understood.

Their creative writing in this text rewrites the stereotypes and biases of a juvenile in detention.

This is for them.



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# Mission

## TEACH.

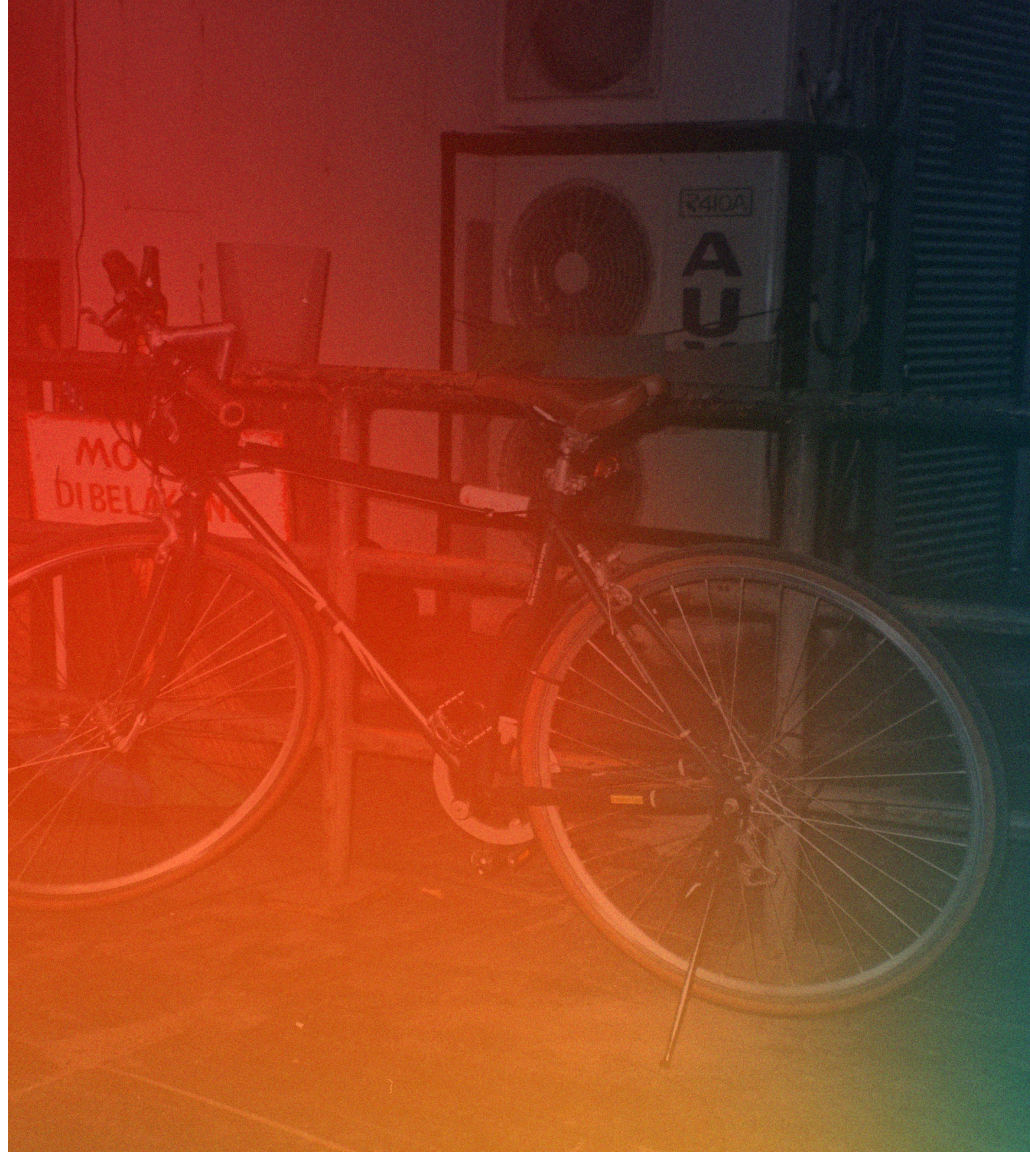
We teach creative writing  
to youth who  
are incarcerated.

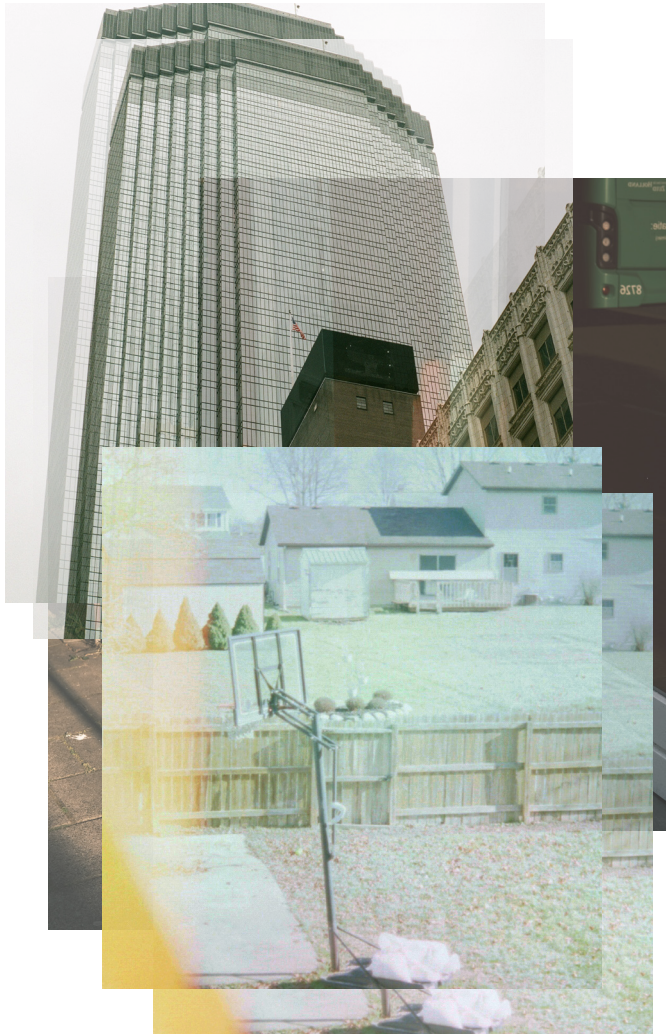
## EMPOWER.

We empower our  
residents' voices.

## ASSIST.

We assist in their  
re-entry.





# 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.

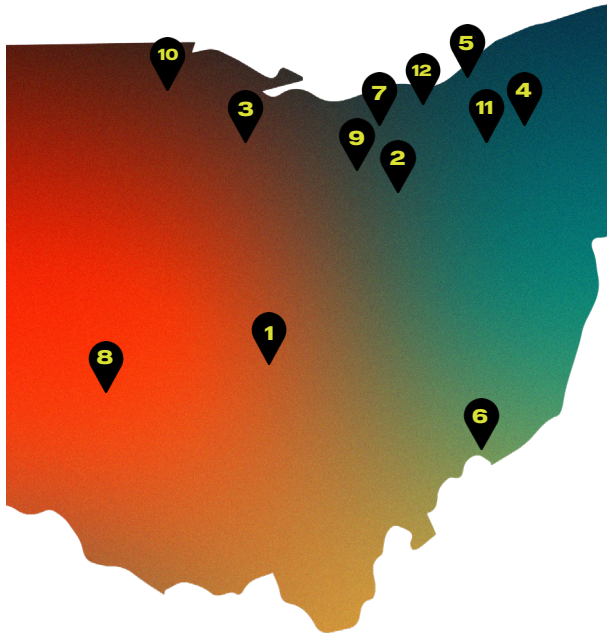
**DIGNITY.** We believe that our residents deserve to discover and recognize their own dignity and self-worth through our creative writing workshops. We also believe that if we respect ourselves, our residents, and our student volunteers then we successfully lead by example.

**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.



# SCHOOLS



- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Capital University      | 7. Oberlin College             |
| 2. College of Wooster      | 8. University of Dayton        |
| 3. Heidelberg University   | 9. Baldwin Wallace University  |
| 4. Hiram College           | 10. Bowling Green State Univ.  |
| 5. John Carroll University | 11. Case Western Reserve Univ. |
| 6. Marietta College        | 12. Cleveland State University |

Circleville JCF  
 Montgomery County CAS  
 Seneca County YC  
 Portage Geauga County JDC  
 Cuyahoga Hills JCF  
 Cuyahoga County JDC  
 Washington County JC  
 Medina County JDC  
 Cuyahoga County JDC  
 Lorain County JDH  
 Indian River JCF  
 Wood County JDC  
 Franklin County JDC

# JUVENILE FACILITIES

# Impact

To understand our impact on our residents, we survey them at every creative writing workshop.

These surveys give us quantitative and qualitative data so we can provide our residents with a high-quality program experience.

Our Creative Writing Workshop occurs in spring and fall seasons for 12-16 weeks. Each session runs for 60-90 minutes either in-person or remotely via Zoom or Teams and consists of 10-15 residents, 5-7 student volunteers, and 1 teaching artist. Then, we publish, showcase, and distribute chapbooks filled with our residents' creative writing inside juvenile facilities, on campuses, and throughout the local communities to raise awareness about the juvenile justice system.

Visit [writersnresidence.org](http://writersnresidence.org) to learn more!

## FY 2022

### Average

78 residents  
5 student volunteers  
56 hours  
\$1,680 valuation

### Total

621 residents  
36 student volunteers  
449 hours  
\$2,242 valuation  
8 cohorts

## Year to Date

### Average

34 residents  
7 student volunteers  
82 hours  
\$2,148 valuation  
5 cohorts

### Total

1,403 residents  
195 student volunteers  
2,356 hours  
\$63,776 valuation  
12 cohorts



# Blue Scrubs, Orange Crocs, Infinite Wisdom

Bowling Green State University



Dear reader,

Even though we spent only four weeks at the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center piloting our Creative Writing Workshop, we were thoroughly impressed with every youth's thoughtfulness, generosity, and eagerness to participate.

The residents always came to our sessions ready to put their best foot forward and give the activity their best effort. We think their writing is excellent regardless, but it's even more impressive knowing that they were able to jump in with both feet and produce this chapbook in what only amounted to a few hours of meeting time! To hear the youth read their work aloud was always a gratifying experience. For example, the first session involved writing six-word memoirs and the residents generated so much detail and wisdom in such brevity. This is the inspiration behind the title of this chapbook, "Blue Scrubs, Orange Crocs, Infinite Wisdom."

We are not only filled with gratitude when we think about our experience but also excitement because the residents demonstrated a willingness to try something new and become vulnerable, which we hope they continue to do outside of our program.

Bowling Green State University  
Cohort

## Questions

What keeps you up at night?  
Oatmeal could be a soup, you tell me.  
Be the best or the richest?  
Why do you wake up every day?  
What drives you through hard times?  
What can you do for yourself?  
What makes you turn at night?  
Did the French invent French Fries?  
What is the best football team?

## Music

Rio Da Yung OG goes hard period.  
Music speaks to me like humans.  
Avenged Sevenfold is the greatest.  
Music makes me feel really free.

## Untitled

Anonymous

She found herself, suddenly behind  
The dark wall

## Untitled

G

I wonder was nobody listening?  
She tried to curtsy. No, I hope they  
Remember...Alice

## Untitled

D

Tired of sitting  
Having nothing  
Feel stupid  
When suddenly  
Very remarkable  
Occurred  
Then hurried to feet  
Burning with curiosity  
Fortunately in time  
Again  
Went straight on  
Falling down a deep well



## Untitled

Anonymous

Funny please- this New Zealand or Australia  
Do you think you could manage  
Miss very like answer

## Untitled

Anonymous

She labeled disappointment  
Alice tumbling fallen somewhere  
That several schoolroom's knowledge  
Practice but got thought

## Untitled

Anonymous

She was dark white lamps long  
Hall roof Alice she again  
On the second time round little  
She small  
Longed to out of that

## Lesson Learned

L

I could shut up, if I only knew how to begin,  
To think, half hoping, a book of rules for  
Shutting people up, remember the simple rules,  
A red-hot poker will burn you, she had  
Never forgotten that

## Untitled

Anonymous

Alice was very tired of sitting by her sister and of having nothing to do.  
She had peeped through the book but it had no pictures.

## Untitled

Anonymous

She fell down  
Then she looked at Alice  
I said aloud several things  
though this was not a very good opportunity  
but thought they were nice grand words to say

## Untitled

Anonymous

Alice jumped up to her feet, she looked  
up it was dark overhead the white  
Rabbit in sight

## MLK

B

It was a good day  
On the court  
The basketball kept going through the net.  
I was breaking them ankles.  
Bang bang bang.  
I thought them ankles were just broken.  
I didn't know why everyone ran  
Till I saw him lying on the floor  
His white shirt stained and colored violets  
Gunshot to the chest

## Blue Collar

L

We are the people who wake up early  
Go out in fields or out to sites

The people who work hard all day  
Come home and work hard all night

We are the people who raise livestock  
And the people who raise houses

We are the people who work like a dog.  
For the people that they love most  
Cause we know you gotta work  
For the things you want and need  
Most in our lives  
But we also know, after a hard day's work  
After we clean our hands and change our  
Dirty clothes  
The best thing for us is to sit by a fire  
And be with friends and family.



## Blue Collar Community

D

For my people who work 40 hours plus every week  
Who don't complain when times get tough,  
The people that do the back breaking labor that  
Nobody else would consider doing,

For the people who come home with grit and dirt under their nails  
Who just can't give up the hard hands-on work,  
The ones who work in the trades by choice,  
Who are told you need a college degree to be successful?  
Even though that's not always true.  
For the people who will retire by the age of 65,  
And the ones who will be able to spend the rest of their lives fulfilled  
To the ones who put in the hard work but can relax  
For the second half of their lives

There's a lot that can be learned from the blue-collar community

## A Choice

Anonymous

Music; like passion in my veins,  
Like fuel for my heart  
An escape from the pain;  
A new place to start

For those who are hurt  
For those who are lost  
Embrace your pain  
Let your light shine bright  
Let your pain guide others  
Through their most cold, dark nights

1, 2, and 3

Who do you wanna be?  
You're more than your past or where you came  
We can all reach the stars  
Now where will you aim?

## Advice

Always think before you say something.  
Helpful, listen, key to success, kind.  
The best is over the worst.  
I lost a lot but when  
I went to state I was  
Happy with the losses.  
It gets worse before it gets better.  
Progress is the key to life.  
Be the best version of you.  
Be someone's safe place forever.  
Îmi, place, să, ajut, pecor, cine /  
I like to help anybody.  
Keep your head up through everything.  
You gotta be comfortable with yourself.  
Îmi place să dau spaturi bune cuiva cand fare gresăli /  
I like to give good advice to someone when he's made a mistake.  
Pushing yourself takes skill and persistence  
Keep my head up all times.

## Life

Hard, easy, fulfilling, real, personality.  
Violence is never the key.  
Winning is not always the key.  
I am bigger mentally than physically  
Îmi, place, să, calotăresc, să, Îmi, fal pret /  
I like to ride horses and...  
You might be small, but mighty.  
Do what you love, have fun.  
Familia pentru mine În seomnă tot momă tată frati bunici /  
Family means everything to me: siblings, parents, uncles, and grand-  
parents.  
Mistakes can be erased, they're not permanent.  
Try my best to stay happy.  
Football because I'm good at running.  
I like to stay up late.

## Love

Healthy, fun, joyful, complicated, respect, hard  
Love never really worked out for real.  
I wanted it to work but life goes on Fam.  
I'm cool where I'm heading fam.  
I wanna girl just ain't trippin' over it.  
Being loved is all we need.  
My heart is a sacred thing.  
Always trying but not succeeding.  
Love yourself, before you love another.  
Îmi iubesc părinti frati bunici - prietenilor care /  
I love my parents, siblings, grandparents, the friends who....  
Îmi dă un drum bun - spre-viitor /  
Love it gives me a path towards the future.  
I was shattered, now I'm healed.

## Food

Good, filling, hunt it, eat, digest.  
I love Lee's chicken and pizza.  
I love chicken bacon ranch everything.  
Grilling lobster on hot summer days.  
Îmi, place, or, ce, fel, de, mancare /  
I like every food!  
Eat what makes you want more.  
Îmi place foarte mult mâncarea gătită /  
I like warm home cooked meals very much.  
Eating tacos while bingeing Stranger Things.  
Pineapple belongs on the best pizzas  
I hate eating ham and turkey.  
Eating cookies while watching Longest Yard.  
People go, but food is forever.



## For My People Who Lost Themselves

G

For my people who lost themselves in loneliness, I  
Assure you you're not alone. It seems not long ago  
That we walked down the same road. In the  
Distance those red and blue grow, you  
Know what it means but you're scared to go home. As  
You're in the cell alone I know you have no hope  
But it doesn't end like this another community  
Grows

## Acknowledgements

**We want to acknowledge the following individuals for their time, energy, and resources devoted to Writers in Residence:**

- Residents and Juvenile Facility Staff
- Student Volunteers and Cohort Advisors
- Staff, Teaching Artists, and Contractors
- Board of Directors, Community Partners, and Donors

**It takes a team to achieve what Writers in Residence does, so thank you to everyone involved!**

# When you donate to Writers in Residence

Your contribution sustains our Creative Writing Workshop with teaching artists, writing materials, snacks, and chapbooks.

Your support assists our residents who are reentering into their communities with limited access to social services including housing, employment, food, health care, and education.

Your generosity educates our local communities and government officials about the juvenile justice system's traumatic effect on our youth.

**Visit [writersnresidence.org](https://writersnresidence.org) to donate  
or scan the code below.**



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