dear friends,

For 20 years, Write Around Portland has been shifting societal notions of what it means to be a writer, how people can write and who can have access to the cultural machinery of publishing. By doing this work, we continue to amplify and elevate underrepresented voices, build respectful writing communities and bring people together across difference.

In 2018, Write Around Portland continued work on our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. We
• convened a marketing committee and planned activities for our 20th anniversary in 2019;
• completed an assessment of our development program and identified next steps to strengthen it;
• completed a plan to replace 10-year-old staff computers;
• participated in trainings to increase cultural awareness, skills in marketing and professional development;
• and completed a racial equity assessment and plan as part of our shared commitment to understanding and changing historical legacies of inequity and patterns of oppression, especially as applied to communities of color.

In addition to these investments in our essential supports, we also continued offering our acclaimed programming. We
• held our writing workshops throughout the Portland Metro in the places where people live, go to school and receive services;
• published the stories and voices of workshop participants in professionally-designed anthologies;
• and held community readings to connect writers and readers.

I’m looking forward to building on these successes in 2019, especially as we celebrate our 20th anniversary!

Partners, workshop participants, donors and volunteers all make our workshops, anthologies and readings possible. Thank you for helping us build a more humane, respectful and inclusive world. This report is the result of our collective efforts.

Together, we continue to change lives through the power of writing.

With much gratitude,

Elizebett (Liz) Eslinger
Executive Director
featured writer

Excerpt from *Tasteey*

The color of blue left a sensational taste inside my mouth. I can’t wait to try the rest of the colors. Green is what I look forward to most because it’s not the favorite color of anyone that I know. It stands alone. […]

David Boston, pictured, participated in our workshop at The Apartments at Bud Clark Commons for adults living in supportive housing in Old Town Portland. David’s piece, *Tasteey*, was published in our spring 2018 anthology, *A Wonder I Can Hold*.

David shared, “We were all coming from different walks of life and we came together for the sake of writing for these couple hours. We all have our problems and issues, but in those two hours we could just focus in on our deep inner creative side. I could forget about the world around us. We never knew how our brains were going to unfold.”

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Each month, we feature a workshop participant on our website including an interview, photo and one of their writing pieces.
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We held 48 free creative writing workshops for 531 adults and youth. Workshops met for up to ten weeks, were held in partnership with the agencies listed below and adapted to meet the needs of the populations served by the agency partner. We also held 12 workshops for returning writers.

We offered fee-based writing workshops to those who wanted to experience our acclaimed generative workshop model and support participants who might not otherwise have access to writing in community: three ten-week *Prompt* workshops at Powell’s City of Books and 20 drop-in workshops hosted by HOTLIPS Pizza, where we also celebrated our 10th anniversary of holding writing workshops at HOTLIPS Pizza. 298 people participated in at least one of these workshops.

We also held writing workshops at Outside In and Portland General Electric for staff team-building and support. We continue to offer workshops in workplaces to meet the needs and goals of employers, including team-building, creative brainstorming, staff self-care and using writing in leadership and management. The fees from these workshops also support our workshops for participants who might not otherwise have access to writing in community.

We held four, free public readings and nine smaller readings with more than 770 people in attendance.

265 volunteers and 7 interns volunteered 5,270 hours. 34 volunteers facilitated writing workshops throughout the Portland Metro and 12 completed our 27-hour workshop facilitator training.

Writing workshops were held in partnership with the following agencies and organizations (below). Bold* indicates a new agency partner or population in 2018.

Albertina Kerr, Hillsboro
Aloha Community Library Association*
Boys & Girls Aid, Safe Place for Youth*
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Chemawa Indian School
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
Community Partners for Affordable Housing, The Barcelona at Beaverton
Friends of the Children, Rockwood*
Harsch Investment Properties,
Rose Schnitzer Tower
Home Forward, Bud Clark Commons
Home Forward, Humboldt Gardens*
Home Forward, Ruth Haefner Plaza
Home Forward, Schrunk Riverview Tower
Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest
Laurelhurst Village
LifeWorks NW, Adolescent Day Treatment Program
MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility
Maybelle Center for Community New Avenues for Youth
NICU Families Northwest
NorthStar Clubhouse
Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center
Pearl
Portland Art Museum
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REACH Community Development,
Ritzdorf Court Apartments
REACH Community Development, The Maples
REACH Community Development, Walnut Park*
ROSE Community Development, Lents Village Apartments
Serendipity Center
Springdale Job Corps Center
SUN School, Ron Russell Middle School
The Alano Club of Portland
Unity Center for Behavioral Health*
Volunteers of America, Men’s Residential Center
Whitewood Gardens Residential Care Facility
Youth Villages Oregon*
ANNUAL EVENT

164 guests raised their pen to the power of writing and contributed $76,193 to support our writing workshops. Ricky, the writer featured at Raise Your Pen, told us “I can’t believe how much my life has changed. I had this voice but I never shared it. And it’s amazing, to be heard.” Ricky reminded us that writing in community really does change lives. You won’t want to miss our special 20th anniversary edition of Raise Your Pen in 2019. Mark your calendars for October 11, 2019 at Vitalidad Movement Arts & Events Center!

INKWELL SUSTAINING DONORS

Through ongoing monthly or quarterly gifts, our 104 Inkwell members contributed $21,000 to support our writing workshops. Many thanks to our Inkwell members who have * by their names on the donor list in this report.

To celebrate our 20th anniversary, we are aiming for 200 Inkwell members by the end of 2020! Show your support of respect, writing and community by joining Inkwell today. Please call 503-796-9224 or visit writearound.org and click “Donate Now.”
funding

Thanks to the individual donors who made our workshops, books and readings possible!

* denotes Inkwell members (monthly or quarterly sustaining donors). Find more information about Inkwell on page 5.

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Elonore Nudelman
Elizabeth Dunham
Ginger Bare
Hollin Bahn
Jenia Wilson
Jenny Chu
Jim and Noel Leary
Jude Lizotte
Kait Skyler
Kate Rood
Kathryn Green
Kellie Ernst
Leah Byrne
Liz Eslinger
Lorraine Ristau
Mara Forsythe-Crane
Marika Emerson
Mark Leary
Martha Lou Brant
Matt Blair
My children and grandchildren
My late Aunt Saraswati
Nancy Young
Rachel Zakrasek’s Birthday
River Neuschwander Mayer
Robert L. Steely
Robert Lumby and Zina K. Booher
Robyn Steely
Sharon Neis
Shoshone Jenny
The Fly By’s
The wonderful people at Write Around Portland!
Write Around Portland continues to be strong programmatically and financially. Contributions from individuals—directly and through our annual fundraising event—continued to be our largest source of revenue. At the end of 2018, Write Around Portland had approximately 6.5 months in operating reserves. Reserves are also available to support “rainy day” (i.e. emergency or unexpected) financial needs, support cash flow throughout the year and invest in initiatives to support organizational growth. We work to maintain an operating reserve of 3-6 months, which is generally recommended for nonprofit organizations.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**12.31.2018**

### ASSETS

**Current Assets**
- Checking/Savings
  - Commerce Bank Accounts: $228,061
  - Petty Cash: $183
  - Total Checking/Savings: $228,244
- Accounts Receivable
  - Accounts Receivable: $2,384
  - Grants Receivable: $19,671
  - Total Accounts Receivable: $22,055
- Other Current Assets
  - Prepaid Lease Deposit: $1,430
  - Grocery Store Gift Cards: $111
  - Bulk Mail: $525
  - Bus Tickets: $8,141
  - Prepaid Insurance: $867
  - Total Other Current Assets: $11,074

**Total Current Assets**: $261,373

**Fixed Assets**
- Furniture & Fixtures
  - Accumulated Depreciation: $(3,247)
  - Computer Server: $3,247
  - Total Fixed Assets: $0

**Total Assets**: $261,373

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

**Current Liabilities**
- Credit Card: $432
- Staff Vacation Accrual: $9,038
- Total Current Liabilities: $9,470

**Net Assets**
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $198,652
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: $53,250
- Total Net Assets: $251,902

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $261,373

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**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$81,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Event (RAISE YOUR PEN)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$76,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$76,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$80,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for Service</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$45,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>$28,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Contributions</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$9,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Sales</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$2,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>$199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mug Sales</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE**: $401,500

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**EXPENSES**

- Volunteer training and support, workshop snacks and journals, workshop and office supplies: $10,419
- Anthology printing and design: $11,459
- Community readings, annual and other events: $33,088
- Bookkeeping, technology and professional services: $16,348
- Office and workshop room, equipment: $21,631
- Internet, postage, printing, telephone: $11,875
- Credit card fees, government filings, insurance, uncollectible bills: $7,292
- Trainings and professional development, public relations, transportation: $7,220
- Staff compensation, health insurance, retirement benefit, payroll taxes, accrued vacation: $268,686

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $388,019
Join us in 2019 as we celebrate 20 years of respect, writing and community!

writearound.org/events

Changing lives through the power of writing.

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Holly MacArthur, Tin House
Julie Mancini, College Possible
Ben Moorad, Write Around Portland Co-founder
Miriam Sontz, former CEO at Powell’s Books

STAFF
Jenny Chu, Community Engagement Manager
Elizbett (Liz) Eslinger, Executive Director
Emily Garcia, Program Assistant
Allison Specter, Development Director
Sarah Weller, Program Manager

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503.796.9224
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Tax ID/EIN: 84-1482706