



## **Write On Returning Writers: Background**

Since 1999, Write Around Portland has been building community through writing by providing high quality, accessible and transformative writing workshops to the diverse people across the greater Portland area. We also publish anthologies and hold public readings to promote the exchange of stories. To help meet the demand for our workshops, participants are invited to join our Write On: Returning Writers group after they have completed two-three of our traditional workshops. This allows new writers the opportunity to experience our workshops and allows returning writers to take the next steps in their writing and as members of a writing community.

## **Write On: Purpose and Goals**

Write On was designed to address the needs and interests of writers who have participated in at least two Write Around Portland workshops. It was developed to encourage participants to take their writing to "the next level," to use writing as a catalyst for greater personal and civic engagement, creative expression and increased self-sufficiency. It is also an opportunity to increase participants' skills and deepen their connections to the literary arts, community, education and work opportunities. In addition, we hope that those who participate in Write On will become partners in creating an ongoing community of writers for themselves and others.

## **Write On: The Workshop**

The Write On curriculum was developed with the above goals in mind. It was therefore specifically created to build upon skills developed in our traditional workshops and to create opportunities for growth and new ideas. We continue to develop and strengthen curriculum and workshop based on the experience and recommendations of participants. The Write On workshop:

- Is offered twice per year, in the spring and fall, for ten weeks
- Fosters group facilitation skills
- Emphasizes new writing and revision
- Introduces ways to use writing as a form of civic engagement and to build community
- Provides information about publishing opportunities, such as zines and broadsides
- Culminates with a special community reading designed for Write On participants (but does not include publication in the traditional Write Around Portland anthologies or reading at the larger end-of-workshop reading for newer writers)

## **Beyond Write On: Seasoned Writers Community Writing Group**

Writers participate in the Write On workshop one time and are then invited to become part of the Seasoned Writers (SW) Community Writing Group. SW builds on the experience of Write On and is an on-going connection to writing and community where participants take turns facilitating their own writing group in Write Around Portland's new workshop space and writing resource center.

Participants are welcome to return to the SW group whenever it is offered, although priority will be given to anyone who has not yet experienced the group if space becomes limited.