

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# **Write Around Portland**

## **Volunteer Writing Workshop Facilitator Training Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Write Around Portland**

Write Around Portland runs volunteer-facilitated ten week writing workshops for people affected by HIV/AIDS, people in prison, survivors of domestic violence, senior citizens in foster care, individuals recovering from addictions, people with physical and/or mental disabilities, teenagers living on the street, low income adults and those who might otherwise be unable to participate in writing workshops, because of income, isolation or other barriers. Our workshops are based on respect, writing and community and aim to be diverse and inclusive in every way that our larger community is often divided and segregated.

Write Around Portland organizes readings where participants share their writing with each other and with the greater community. We also publish an anthology of participants' stories, reflections and poems, sold at local bookstores and through our website.

### **Our Workshops**

Write Around Portland's high quality, creative and unique writing workshops are participant-centered and based on experiential learning. The workshop curriculum focuses on both generating new writing and developing the writing or revision and supports flexibility to meet the particular needs and interests of a given workshop group.

In our workshops, facilitators write alongside participants through a series of freewrites and positive feedback. Workshop participants write stories, poems, memoirs, letters, essays while experimenting with imagery, character development, writing in different voices, dialogue and poetry/line breaks. Participants have the opportunity to share their writing and give and receive positive feedback to grow as writers and build respectful community.

### **Workshop Facilitators**

Volunteers are "the face of Write Around Portland" to their workshop participants, to our partnering agencies/organizations and to the greater community and are central to our program's success. Write Around Portland provides a 27 hour intensive training to workshop facilitators on our organization's values and philosophies, key concepts of facilitation, including creation of a safe community in which to write and share, and practice in modeling successful, creative workshop facilitation. We provide ongoing support to facilitators throughout the workshop to ensure that the workshop is successful and is a positive experience for both participants and facilitators.

### **Applicants**

The success and quality of our writing workshops, readings and anthologies is made possible by a talented, trained, corps of volunteer workshop facilitators dedicated to building community through writing.

Write Around Portland is looking for applicants reflecting the full diversity of our community and who have the ability and commitment to work respectfully with people who are low income, socially isolated or may otherwise face barriers to writing in community.

Individuals with experience in writing groups or workshops, a history of community involvement and volunteerism and/or group facilitation are encouraged to apply, although these are not requirements. We strongly encourage you to volunteer with Write Around Portland in another capacity before applying for the training. We have many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, which you can learn more about on our website or by giving us a

call ([www.writearound.org/involved/get\\_involved.html](http://www.writearound.org/involved/get_involved.html) or 503-796-9224).

**Please note:** Write Around Portland is grateful for the significant interest in our workshops and the large numbers of individuals who apply to be trained as workshop facilitators. However, we are limited in the number of applicants we are able to accept because of our commitment to provide high quality trainings. We try to make the best possible matches of facilitators and specific workshops, and therefore, our selection process may reflect less upon a specific applicant than the needs of our organization or the participants or our workshops. Ultimately, we genuinely appreciate *every* applicant's interest, and we welcome and encourage you to participate in other volunteer activities in our organization, whether or not you are accepted into the training.

Thank you so much for your interest in Write Around Portland. We look forward to receiving your application.

*--Dawn Thompson, Program Coordinator*

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Are you at least 21 years of age?  Yes  No

Are you willing and able to commit to approximately four months of volunteer work with Write Around Portland - one intensive 27 hour training, then 2 hours per week for a ten-week writing workshop, prep time, two follow-up meetings, attend workshop reading?  Yes  No

Do you have your own transportation or ready access to public transportation?

Yes  No

Do you have written and oral fluency in a language other than English? (Specifically, would your level of fluency allow you to comfortably facilitate a 10 week, 2 hour per week workshop in a language other than English?)

Yes  No If Yes, which language(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Will this volunteer experience be used to fulfill an academic requirement?  Yes  No

How did you hear about Write Around Portland? \_\_\_\_\_

What, if any, is your previous experience with Write Around Portland? [Check all that apply.]

Volunteer  Workshop Participant  Donor  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach your answers to the following questions, rewriting/retyping the question before each answer:**

1. Briefly describe any previous volunteer and/or professional social service experience.
2. Briefly describe the role that writing plays in your life, including a description of your writing practice and of any past or current writing projects.
3. What does the phrase "safe space for writing" mean to you?
4. What experience have you had in writing workshops as a participant?
5. What experience have you had as a facilitator of writing workshops or other sorts of groups?
6. Why are you interested in being a volunteer workshop facilitator for Write Around Portland?

*(continued on next page)*

7. With which of these groups are you most interested in working? (Please note that the groups we work with change each season. The following list does not represent all of the populations with which we have worked or will work.)

- Low-income seniors
- Low-income adults
- Lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer youth/adults
- Adults with disabilities
- Adults in alcohol/drug recovery
- Adults with mental illness
- Adult women in domestic violence situations
- Adults affected by HIV/AIDS
- Men in jail/prison
- Women in jail/prison
- Non-English-speaking adults - must have verbal and written fluency in participants' language
- "At risk" youth
- Adults who are homeless
- Youth who are homeless

8. Of the above groups, which would be your top choice and why?

9. When would you be able to facilitate a 2 hour workshop? [Please check all that apply.]

- Weekday mornings       Weekday afternoons       Weekday evenings       Weekends

10. Please list two references who can speak to your work with volunteerism, social service or any other field you feel is relevant. Please do not use a family member or partner/spouse as a reference.

Name:	Relationship to you:	Phone:
_____	_____	(____)_____
_____	_____	(____)_____

11. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your interest or your experience as part of this application?

12. Include your résumé with this application.

Please send your completed application and resume to Dawn Thompson at: Write Around Portland, 917 SW Oak Street #406, Portland, OR 97205, Fax: 503.295.7767

Feel free to also call us at **503.796.9224** with questions.

*Revised 11.29.06*