

Write Around Portland

Volunteer Writing Workshop Facilitator Information

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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, teen parents, 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. We also organize readings where participants share their writing with each other and with the greater community and publish anthologies of participants' writing.

Our Workshops

Write Around Portland's high quality, creative and unique workshops are participant-centered, are based on experiential learning and foster connection and community-building through writing. 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.

Volunteer Workshop Facilitators

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. Volunteers are central to our program's success and act as "the face of Write Around Portland" to workshop participants, to our partnering agencies/organizations and to the greater community. We provide ongoing support to facilitators throughout the workshop to ensure that it is a positive experience for both participants and facilitators.

Facilitator Training/Training Applicants

Write Around Portland provides a 27 hour intensive training (usually six weekday evenings and one Sunday in a four week period) to volunteer 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. 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 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.

--Write Around Portland

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Volunteer Writing Workshop Facilitator Training Application

Name _____ Date _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

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 verbal 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)? _____

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

(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.)

- Adults/seniors living on a low income
- Lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer youth/seniors
- Adults living with disabilities
- Adults in recovery from drug/alcohol addiction
- Adults living 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, including teen parents, youth in the juvenile justice system
- 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 list a family member or partner/spouse.

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. Please include your résumé with this application.

Please send your completed application and resume to: Dawn Thompson c/o Write Around Portland, 917 SW Oak Street #406, Portland, OR 97205-2838, Fax: 503.295.7767, Email: dthompson@writearound.org Feel free to also call us at **503.796.9224** with questions.

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