

## What Our Partners Are Saying About Write Around Portland

“Write Around Portland has been one of the most successful programs we have had in my all my years here... This experience helps students express themselves in a safe environment. They are proud of the work they do and their self-esteem shoots through the roof.”

- Kris Persson, Principal,  
Helensview High School

“We depend upon community-based organizations to provide much-needed opportunities for our residents. Write Around Portland fits our mission perfectly by providing individuals with the tools they need to tell their own stories. This can be an incredibly powerful experience, promoting stability, self-sufficiency, self-respect and pride.”

- Steve Rudman, CEO  
Housing Authority of Portland

“Write Around Portland provides tangible proof that participants’ writings are honored and valued. It gives us a sense of community, a healthy sense of belonging and a new way to heal.”

- Lori Moiel,  
West Women and Children’s Shelter



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— PORTLAND —

Transforming lives by using the power of writing  
to connect the diverse people of our city

Contact us for additional information  
or to set up a workshop with your agency:

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1.11 Partner Brochure



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Respect.  
Writing.  
Community.





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## PORTLAND

Write Around Portland runs volunteer-facilitated writing workshops for people affected by HIV/AIDS, survivors of domestic violence, people in recovery from drug and alcohol addictions, seniors in foster care, people with physical or mental disabilities, teen parents, low income adults and others who might not have access to the power of writing and community because of income, isolation or other barriers. We organize readings where participants share their writing with the greater community. We also publish anthologies of participants' writings.

### The Power of Writing in Community

Participants of our workshops become stronger writers, increase their sense of community, reduce isolation and gain increased access to and appreciation of the literary arts. While our workshops are not traditional classes, they are educational, helping individuals deepen their writing, reading, listening and communication skills. Although the workshops are not counseling or support groups, participants tell us that the process is therapeutic and often healing. Our program has inspired participants to complete their GEDs, attend college, stick with treatment programs, transition back to our community after incarceration and break cycles of abuse.



### Our Community Partners

We form partnerships with social service agencies, community organizations, public entities and schools to provide writing workshops for these agencies' clients, patients, students and tenants. Since 1999, we have partnered with more than 170 agencies to provide over 450 workshops for more than 3,000 adults and youth in the greater Portland area.

Our Community Partners have included:

- Cascade AIDS Project
- Independent Living Resources
- YWCA Clark County
- Quest Center for Integrative Health
- Helensview High School
- Housing Authority of Portland
- Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN)
- MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility
- Legacy Emanuel Burn Concern

### Writing Workshops

Write Around Portland provides high quality, creative and unique writing workshops, which are participant-centered and are based on experiential learning. The workshop curriculum focuses on generating new writing and the opportunity to further develop that writing. It is also flexible, designed to meet particular needs and interests of a given agency or population.

Workshop participants write stories, memoirs, letters, poetry, and essays while experimenting with imagery, character development, writing from different perspectives, dialogue and poetry. Participants have the opportunity to share their writing and give and receive positive feedback to grow as writers and build self-confidence and respectful community.

Workshops are led by facilitators who write alongside participants through a series of freewrites and writing exercises. These skilled workshop facilitators receive 27 hours of intensive hands-on training and ongoing supervision throughout the workshops.

### Community Readings & Published Anthologies

At the end of each workshop season, we publish participants' writing in professionally-designed anthologies and hold well-attended public readings and smaller events where participants share their stories with the greater community.



### Workshop Resources and Logistics

Our workshops run for 8-10 weeks, 2 hours/week in the spring, summer and fall. We also hold shorter and one-time workshops based on the needs of individual organizations and populations. We provide workshop facilitators, all materials and supplies, writing journals, pens, light snacks, bus tickets, childcare and weekly postcards to each participant, and anthologies for all participants and partners. Partners provide the physical space for the workshop and actively recruit workshop participants from the population they serve.

### Workshop Cost

It costs approximately \$3,200 for Write Around Portland to run each workshop. The readings and anthologies cost an additional \$1,500 per workshop. Workshops are offered free of charge to individual workshop participants.

As a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, our funding comes from a variety of sources, including individual donors, foundations and corporations. *We also ask each agency with whom we partner to help cover workshop costs by paying a fee or making a contribution appropriate to the agency's size and budget, which may be all or part of the workshop cost.*

Diverse partners have helped fund the workshops in different ways:

- Many partner agencies contribute amounts of \$200, \$300, \$500 or \$1,000 from their programming budgets to cover some of the workshop costs;
- Other agencies have contracted with us for multiple workshops and contributed \$3,000 per workshop;
- Other agencies found private donors or foundation grants to underwrite \$700 and \$1,500 toward their workshops.

Contact Devin DiBernardo at Write Around Portland:  
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