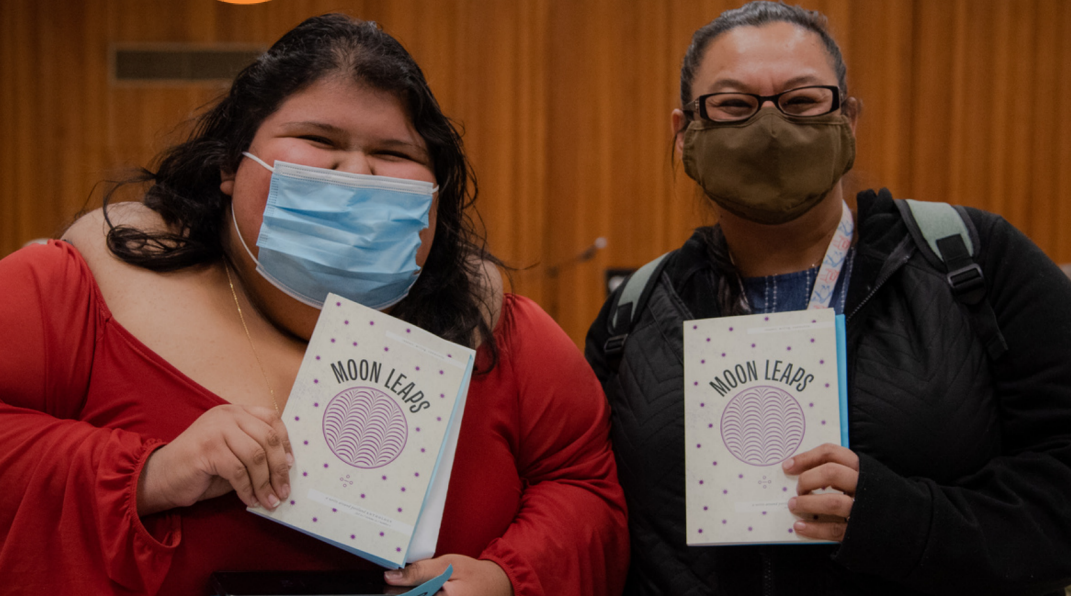




write around®
— PORTLAND —



115 workshops
103 volunteers
5 new staff members
\$378,839 in donations

respect, writing, community
& gratitude



Our 2022 Annual Report



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Portland, OR 97204

503-796-9224
writearound.org

tax ID 841482706



'Numbers person' becomes a writer

Thanks to you!

**Patsy, a military
veteran, now
has plans to
write far into
the future**

485

wrote with us in 2022

255

attended Write Around
readings in 2022

PATSY HAD ALWAYS

considered herself a numbers person – never a creative writer. She accesses Veterans services at Do Good Multnomah, where she was encouraged to try creative writing.

To her surprise, Patsy found she really enjoyed creative writing. She especially appreciated that she didn't

have to worry about spelling and grammar! "There was no room for boredom [in the workshop]," she added. And the workshop quickly became something she looked forward to each week.

After her Write Around experience, Patsy realized that she had many stories she wanted to pass down to her grandchildren. In the past, the

task of organizing her memories and getting started had been intimidating.

But Write Around's workshop was the perfect antidote. She said, "You helped me realize that I can give up the stress of documenting the information. I just need to get my thoughts down and I can organize it later." Patsy now has a plan for her memory book and is gathering supplies. She's now excited instead of intimidated.

Patsy also attended our Fall Reading and Book Launch, where she saw her work published in *Moon Leaps*. She thought she would be "terribly nervous" to read her work to the audience. "I felt so self-conscious, but then when I got up there and looked out, it didn't bother me at all, really. It was a sea of people, but that's OK! I'm a published author now."



It's a New Day

by Patsy Payne

775
copies of anthologies
printed

22
free workshops for
BIPOC writers

IT ALL BEGAN four short years ago, so close to the home stretch. Who would have dreamt such a brutal attack would begin the horror within? Swallowed in his grief, all he could think about was that it was “his fault” that this group of brothers were gruesomely attacked by a handful of teenage bullies who had followed their every move. If only he had held his tongue, the brothers could have escaped... all of them intact. As it was, the eldest of the trio told them to run ahead, not realizing the danger he brought to himself. The bullies were in no mood to listen to reason from this brave brother. Resulting traumatic brain injuries and crushed compression spinal fractures linger on to haunt him to this day.

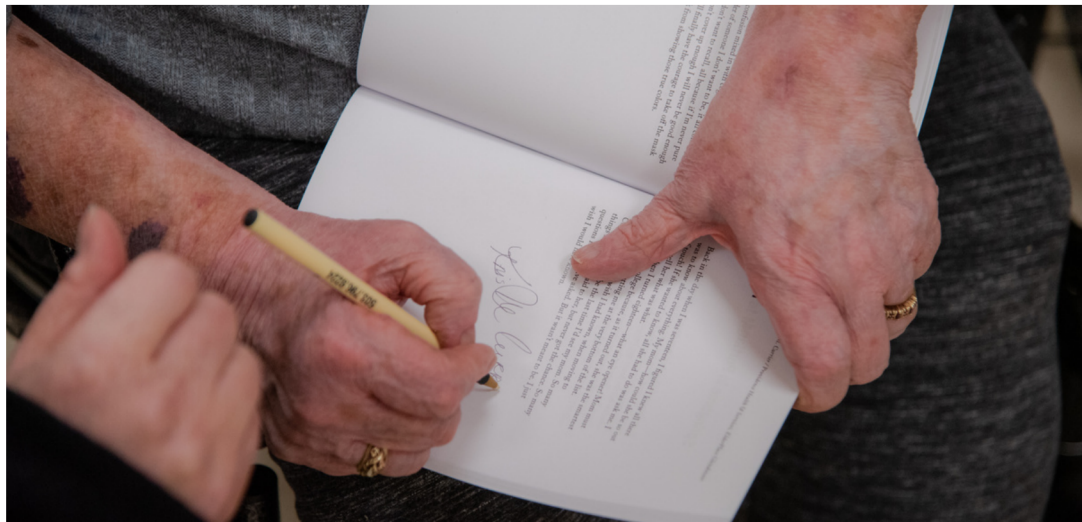
Because of the slip of the tongue, from the

youngest, those days are no longer the same. Or so it seemed over the last four years. He could no longer handle stress of any kind. Things would turn dark in an instant without warning. The torment that coursed through his veins engulfed him with guilt as he could no longer restrain himself. The younger brother could not help but blame himself for the suffering of his dearly loved brother.

Several months now passed and when he once again saw his peers, he knew they worried that they didn’t know what to expect. He boldly smiled and announced, *It’s a new day...a brand new me!* as he threw open his arms. It was time to move forward to bright, happy, encouraging days. The resulting smiles reassured him all will be okay.



**"It's a New Day" was published in our
Fall 2022 anthology, *Moon Leaps***



“I saw people change for the better”

TO ALL THE DONORS who make Write Around possible: thank you for giving me a source of consistent brightness in my life.

I keep coming back to volunteer and facilitate for Write Around because I firmly believe our work is some of the most important work being done in the world. It may sound cheesy or overstated, but there is nothing more incredible than seeing someone who comes brand new to writing go from doubting themselves to developing their own voice and style in just 10 weeks.

The magic is in our impeccable workshop model. It provides just the right amount of structure for writers to feel comfortable in the space, and enough freedom for them to grow as writers and fellow

humans. I myself feel that I become a better person with every session. The participants teach me so much about how to see and interpret the world.

I can't think of many other things that are as fulfilling and make me as happy as being part of the Write Around Portland family. I've seen firsthand the power of building community through writing. At nursing homes and behavioral health centers, I saw people change for the better.

The work you support is healing people in a way that all the money and medicines in the world cannot. Thank you so much, and I hope we can write together one day!

Sincerely,

Tajwar Taher

A Write Around facilitator shares his gratitude for your support



In 2022, Taj facilitated four BIPOC workshop sessions virtually from his home in New Jersey! He has volunteered for Write Around Portland since 2017, and recently relocated for his medical residency.

1,300
volunteer hours in
2022

22
active facilitators in
2022





A note from the Executive Director

2023 Board of Directors

Co-Chair: **Chenoe Philabaum**
City of Portland

Co-Chair: **Kate Rood**
Toptal

Secretary: **Sara Guest**
Multnomah County

Treasurer: **Amanda Gonser**
PagerDuty

Alex Larralde
Betterworks

Michael Montoya
City of Portland

Marisol Tawadros
Nike

Reggie Wideman
Lytics

New chapter, same values

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you so much for your support in 2022. Your donations ensure we can continue to change lives through the power of writing. Our work just would not be possible without you!

Sometimes, when organizations experience large staff transitions, newness can feel worrisome. Questions arise – has Write Around fundamentally changed? Is the magic still alive? Are their values still in alignment with mine?

If I could impart one message, it would be this: I know how important Write Around Portland is to our community. Because I've been a part of it for almost 10 years.

And – great news – our team has been deeply involved in this work for years! Though you may not recognize everyone's faces, almost all of us have been workshop facilitators and gone through Write Around's 27-hour training. In short, our team agrees that we must

protect and support what makes Write Around so wonderful.

And we know you're a fundamental part of that work, too.

So if we haven't met yet, I want to tell you that I deeply care about our organization's values of respect, writing, and community. I know that this organization thrives on volunteer and donor support, and that it has been successful because of the sacrifices and passion of so many folks who I haven't met yet.

In 2023, I hope to build on the successes of this past year, to meet more of you in person, and to learn more about how Write Around Portland has impacted your life. I can't wait to walk into the future with you!

Sincerely,

Chris McDonald



thank
you!

2022 Financial Report		2022	2021
Your Support of Write Around Portland			
Grants		\$220,377	\$291,893
Donations from Individuals		\$147,175	\$134,378
Agency Partner Fees		\$26,283	\$47,950
Donations from Businesses		\$11,287	\$14,282
Registrations & Fees		\$3,709	\$7,192
Interest		\$64	\$67
Total Revenue		\$408,895	\$347,102
Our Support of Writers			
Agency Program		\$87,902	\$78,677
Agency Youth Program		\$29,451	\$27,810
BIPOC Program		\$28,214	\$28,360
Fee-Based Programming		\$37,265	\$33,193
Development		\$131,875	\$109,357
Administrative		\$75,730	\$81,076
Total Expense		\$390,438	\$358,418
Net		\$18,457	-\$11,316

Please refer to our financial statement for presentation in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). This financial report has not yet undergone an outside financial review.

Write Around Portland is recognized as a charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Federal tax ID 84-1482706

meet our team



Lilly Do *Operations Coordinator*

Lilly (she/her) joined the team in May 2022 after volunteering as a facilitator for two years. She brings over seven years of administrative experience and eight years teaching English Composition in higher education. As a novice gardener, you can find Lilly outside deciding whether something is considered a weed or supposed to be there. Lilly earned her MA in English from Eastern New Mexico University.

Elisabeth Geier *Volunteer Coordinator*

Elisabeth (she/her) has been a facilitator since 2015 and joined the staff in April 2022. She brings 10 years of experience in program and development support for Portland-area nonprofit organizations, and a lifetime commitment to creative expression and community. Elisabeth holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Montana and a BFA in Writing, Literature, and Publishing from Emerson College.



Chris McDonald *Executive Director*

Chris (he/him) has worked in nonprofits for 15 years. He holds a BA in English from UC Davis and an MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon State University. He taught English composition and creative writing courses at Oregon State University and Chemeketa Community College, and has volunteered for Write Around Portland since 2013. He writes under the name Chris Yamashita and his work has appeared in *Weave*, *Your Impossible Voice*, and *Compose Journal*.

Leah Middleton *Development & Engagement Coordinator*

Leah (she/they) earned a BA in English Literature and Writing at Marylhurst University, and was an intern and workshop facilitator for Write Around before joining the staff. Her own writing circles themes of family, mental health, the body, and queerness. Leah, pronounced LAY-uh, enjoys thrift shopping, summer days by the river, game nights, making people laugh, and pondering how to use their Scorpio superpowers for good.



Will Preston *Development Manager*

Will Preston (he/him) joined the staff in February 2022 and has worked in development and communications since 2014. A resident of the Pacific Northwest for nearly 15 years, Will holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and has written for *Full Stop*, *The Common*, and *Smithsonian Folkways*. He enjoys exploring the Portland food scene, buying more books than he can possibly read, and cuddling with his cat, Captain.

Sarah Weller *Program Director*

Sarah (she/her) joined the staff in March 2015 after seven years as an agency partner and donor. Sarah earned her BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona and went on to serve as a Jesuit Volunteer for 2 years. She finds joy in poems, walks with her pup, parenting a young person and noticing the beauty in the everyday.

