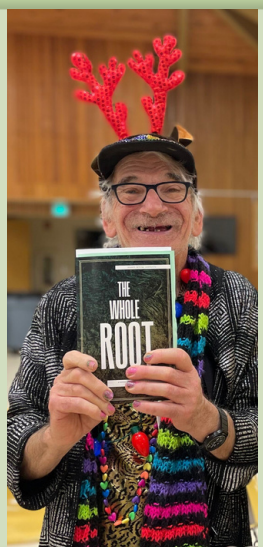




write around®
— PORTLAND —



A NEW CHAPTER

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Write Around Portland
133 SW 2nd Ave. Suite 304
Portland, OR 97204

writearound.org
Tax ID: 84-1482706

2023

AGENCY
WORKSHOPS
BY THE
NUMBERS

22
Workshops

198
Writers

2
Books
Published

301
Reading
Attendees

GETTING IT ALL OUT ON PAPER

Your support helped Jackie process devastating news



Jackie (center) recruited her cousin, Sandra (right) to join our fall workshop in partnership with the Maybelle Center for Community. Jacqueline (left) also wrote in that workshop.

BEFORE JACKIE started writing with us, she'd received some terrible news.

She'd been happily preparing for her husband to be released from prison. But as the date arrived, she was informed that he wouldn't be released on time.

The news weighed heavily on her as she started her our creative writing workshop at the Maybelle Center for Community. Jackie said, **"I felt like the news was bogging me down. And I had to get it out of me in my writing."**

For ten weeks, Jackie wrote about whatever she wanted to. She shared her stories, listened to others', and gave and

received feedback. Her published work, "In My World" (see next page), depicts what she'd wished for at the time – "no worries, sorrows, or stress. Just peacefulness and fun," she said.

Jackie's family is thrilled with her achievement. "It's just amazing for the family to see this. My children are going around telling their friends, 'My mom got a piece published!'"

Jackie remains a strong advocate for Write Around Portland workshops. She concluded, "If you've not tried a Write Around Portland workshop, try it, because it is very much life changing."

IN MY WORLD

By Jackie Smith

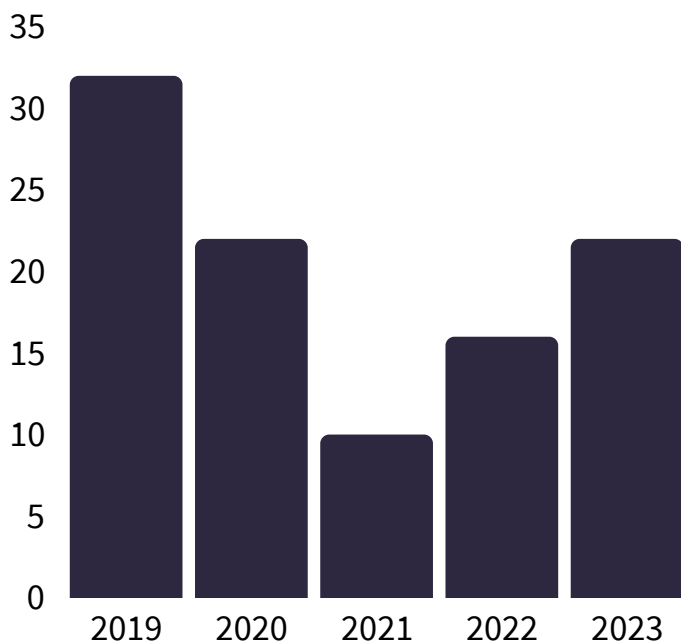
Published in our 2023 fall anthology,
The Whole Root

IN MY WORLD I am the boss and everyone has to do as I say. They cannot back talk or argue with me. If they don't like the rules they get kicked out of my world. I like my world, because every day is a sunny day no rain in sight. Always happiness no sorrow, no time to be sad, or mad or hurt nothing, but joy and happiness and lots of fun things to do. All the people in my world love to be around me, because they know that every day is a fun filled day in my world. There are no wars or talk of killings in my world. The best place to be is in my world, because it is always a picnic in my world so who wants to be a part of my world?



Jackie reads her piece at the 2023 Winter Reading & Book Launch, held in December 2023

Number of Agency Workshops Hosted

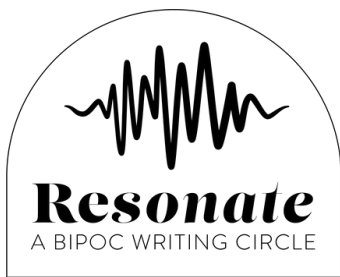


Agency Workshops

BOUNCING BACK

WE'RE THRILLED to be returning to full program capacity in our core work following the COVID pandemic disruption.

In 2024, we anticipate fielding a full slate of 30 workshops in partnership with nonprofit agencies, prisons, hospitals, schools, and other organizations.



2023
RESONATE BY
THE NUMBERS



YOU HELPED EXPAND OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

Resonate celebrated important milestones in 2023

IT'S NOW OUR most popular program, and your support has helped us build it from the ground up!

Resonate: A BIPOC Writing Circle began in 2020 and now, four years later, Resonate attracts writers from all over the country!

And last year, staff celebrated its success by officially naming the program. Program Coordinator Lilly Do said, “When asked about the BIPOC writing workshops, participants continually refer back to how each writer's words resonate with them - whether it's about how the piece connects with their lived experiences or about the emotions that the participants' words evoke. The name Resonate along with its

logo (suggesting a pen stroke, sound wave, or a heart beat) encompasses three main characteristics of the program: writing together, listening to each other, and taking in each other's words.”

With growing attendance, Resonate occupies a central portion of Write Around's strategic plan, with future plans including a Resonate-specific anthology and reading, as well as expanding opportunities for in-person writing.

This expansion was supported by grant awards from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Arts Commission, as well as donations from dozens of individuals and businesses.

2023

OTHER
PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHTS



THEY'RE NEW TO US - THANKS TO YOU

A record-breaking 831 writers participated in our special writing experiences in 2023

In 2023, we made a concerted effort to write with new audiences. We hosted our popular Prompt 8-week workshops online, hosted 21 mini-workshops online (with a newly branded title: Freewrite), hosted workshops at the Portland Book Festival, the Willamette Writers Conference, the American Folklore Society Conference, Cascadia Health's HEART event, and Technology Association of Oregon's Tech in Color Conference. We completed our 3-

year pilot project with Lewis & Clark College using writing to support first-year college students, and we helped grieving pet owners in four workshops for DoveLewis. Finally, we partnered with Bag&Baggage Productions, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at PSU, Project 48, and the Washington State School for the Blind for special writing experiences. Whew!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Our deepest gratitude for the volunteer facilitators who made over 100 workshops possible in 2023!

Linda Apperson	Ed Kline	Susan Russell
Lara Bjork	Gabrielle LaFratta	Allison Specter
Sarah Bourscheid	Ruth Leibowitz	Shari Staten
Stacy Brewster	Eve March	Joy Sullivan
Dominique Brillanceau	Luke Mattheis	Tajwar Taher
Heather Brown	Arabelle May	Armin Tolentino
Sophie Castro-Davis	Ian McMurray	Holly Trusiak
Linda Drach	Sandy Naing	Amelie Welden
Pamela Dunham	Omar Ordonez	Jessica Yen
Jackson Gambee	Tashon Phoenix	Carly Rae Zent
Emily Garcia	Chelsea Querner	
Corinne Hughes	Jeremy Resnick	
Holly Hughes	Gina Rose	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

A letter from the Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS,

2023 was an exciting year. Not only did I celebrate my first full year as Executive Director, but we achieved growth in most of our revenue streams, and our programs bounced back to near full capacity following the pandemic.

In February 2023, our Board accomplished important work on a new strategic plan. Our focus areas for the future include:

1. Developing a curriculum specific to the needs of immigrants and refugees;
2. Updating program procedures to maximize efficiency when writing with geographically-distant communities;
3. Seeking additional partnerships with prisons and locked facilities;
4. Building out a curriculum to serve colleges and universities.

I'm buoyed by this amazing community of donors. When we each give a little, we create a sustainable ecosystem that can weather good times and bad.

How can you help this year?

- Consider an Inkwell membership to support sustainable fundraising that lowers costs;
- Write with us! We have amazing opportunities in store. Check our website for details.

- Join us at Raise Your Pen on October 12!

Thanks for helping us honor everyone's story!

Gratefully,



Chris McDonald

Executive Director & Inkwell Member

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Chair	Chenoa Philabaum <i>City of Portland</i>
Co-Chair	Reggie Wideman <i>LiveRamp</i>
Secretary	Sara Guest <i>Multnomah County</i>
Treasurer	Michael Montoya <i>Skeo Solutions</i>
Directors	Kelsey Allen <i>Meals on Wheels People</i>
	Precious Bugarin <i>MercyCorps</i>
	Alex Larralde <i>BetterWorks</i>
	Marisol Tawadros <i>Nike</i>
	Amanda Walsh <i>PagerDuty</i>

STAFF

Lilly Do <i>Program & Administrative Coordinator</i>
Elisabeth Geier <i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>
Chris McDonald <i>Executive Director</i>
Leah Middleton <i>Development & Engagement Coordinator</i>
Sarah Weller <i>Program Director</i>

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

	2023	2022
YOUR SUPPORT OF WRITE AROUND PORTLAND		
Donations from Individuals	\$188,638.30	\$147,174.98
Grants	\$162,149.76	\$220,377.01
Agency Partner Fees	\$28,802.32	\$26,583.01
Donations from Businesses	\$23,121.69	\$11,280.66
Workshop Tickets & Book Sales	\$14,085.02	\$3,708.80
Interest	\$474.62	\$64.27
Total Revenue	\$417,271.71	\$409,188.73
OUR SUPPORT OF WRITERS		
Agency Workshops	\$196,564.01	\$166,049.66
Resonate	\$26,239.64	\$21,537.94
Literary Programs	\$65,599.11	\$53,605.03
Development	\$140,389.89	\$109,934.91
Administrative/Other	\$48,106.01	\$39,310.35
Total Expense	\$476,898.65	\$390,437.89
Net	-\$59,626.94	\$18,750.84

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

2023

FUNDRAISING
BY THE
NUMBERS

589
Donors

1,929
Gifts

114
Inkwell
Members

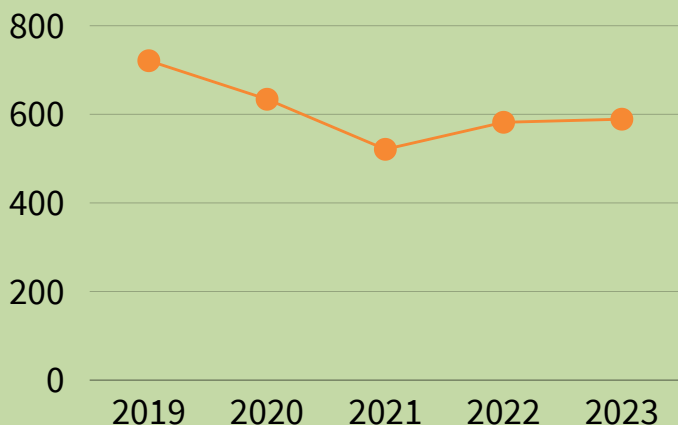
73
Attendees at
Raise Your Pen

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

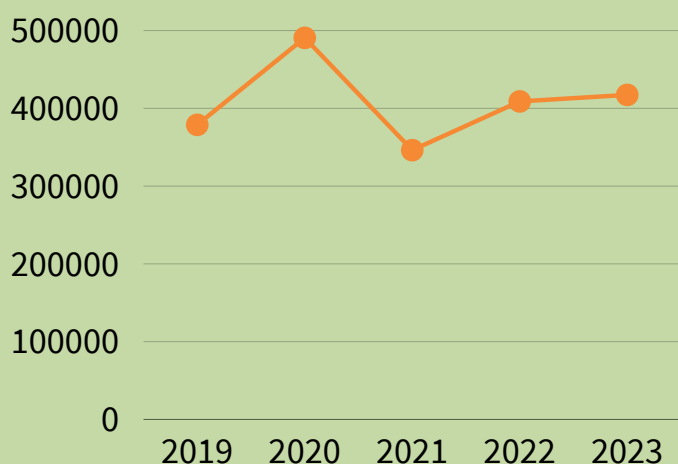
Q: HOW'S WRITE AROUND DOING OVERALL?

ALL SIGNS point to recovery! One encouraging sign is that we are attracting new people to our mission. The graphs below help tell the story. Thank you for being part of our “bounce back”!

Number of donors giving per year



Total revenue per year



Q: WRITE AROUND ENDED THE YEAR IN A DEFICIT. IS THAT BAD?

WE INTENDED to end the year in a deficit, and we made up for it with reserves (AKA our savings.) Inflation has been hard on us.

Q: WHY DID EXPENSES INCREASE IN 2023?

THERE WERE several staff transitions in 2022 with monthslong staff vacancies, so payroll costs were lower. 2023's expenses show a more accurate picture of the costs to run the organization. Because our program is inexpensive to run, most of our expenses are for staff compensation.

Q: WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH GRANTS?

2023 WAS a particularly difficult year for many area nonprofits to secure grants. Many foundations in Portland took a year off from funding, which caused the remaining foundations to be inundated with applications.

We recognize that sustainable revenue comes from small donations and monthly gifts, so in the coming years, we hope to reduce the amount of foundation funding we need to operate our programs.