This summer we introduced the theme, “Find your Way” and asked our community of kids and adults, how do you know which way to go? What do you bring with you on the journey, and how do you know when you’ve arrived?

We received responses in poetry and short fiction, essays, maps and pictures that reflect so many different ways of moving forward. We were inspired, as always, by the depth and passion that youth put out into the world, and by the energy and creativity teachers and other adults bring into their classrooms.

As we moved through year 11, we set a course based on what youth shared was important for them: more time to create together, new ways to create together and a focus on finding joy along the way. We brought with us an amazing crew of dedicated and creative staff and teachers and a living curriculum, one that has grown and deepened each step of the way. And, have we arrived?

Well, we reached the end of a successful and active year, having worked with more than 3,000 youth, in schools and sites across Greater Cleveland. We produced a hybrid Comic Con with 100 attendees, and we published a collection of teen writing and two anthologies of community work. Our staff has grown, our reach has widened, our stories have developed.

Thank you for being on this journey with us, as we continue to find new ways to move forward, offering our youth the space to grow and develop their creative voice.
MISSION
Lake Erie Ink provides creative expression opportunities and academic support to youth in the Greater Cleveland community

PROGRAMS - BY THE NUMBERS
During the 2021–22 fiscal year, Lake Erie Ink engaged 3,684 youth in creative expression programming to help them explore their creativity, build critical literacy skills, expand their community, and generate a positive habit of self-expression.

Core Programs → out-of-school time programs, which include after-school, weekend and summer creative expression opportunities
- 32 youth served at three locations during our Ink Spot After School Programs
- 98 youth engaged in 11 summer camps
- 157 teens participated in our Evening Ink programs, including Dungeons and Dragons Story Building, College Essay Workshops, a Teen Book Project, and NaNoWriMo, as well as weekly writing workshops
- 143 youth participated in 5 Weekend Ink workshops exploring diverse literary genres, including comics, playwriting, poetry, suspense, nature writing and paper arts

School and Community Programs → Programs in partnership with schools and other youth-serving entities.
Of the 54 school programs, 37% took place in the City of Cleveland, 41% in inner ring suburbs, 6% in outer ring suburbs, and 16% outside of Cuyahoga County
3,382 youth were engaged in...
- 868 hours of creative expression enrichment during the school day
- 649 hours of creative enrichment during out-of-school time

"I write because it empowers me to do things I previously could not do. It makes me feel better. It lets me understand myself and others." –Ben, 8th grade
IMPACT - BY THE NUMBERS

86% of youth reported learning new ways to express themselves creatively
83% of youth reported learning something new about writing
83% of youth reported that they made a positive connection with other people in the program
77% of youth would recommend Lake Erie Ink programs to other youth
74% of youth reported feeling more confident expressing their ideas

WHERE WE GO & WHERE STUDENTS COME FROM

INNER RING SUBURBS 53%
OUTER RING SUBURBS 17%
OUTSIDE CUYAHOGA COUNTY 9%
N/A 9%

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

In school writing residency at Collinwood High School
Stop the Hate workshops with Brush High School
LaKE ERIE INK!
Poetry & Printmaking workshop in partnership with Arthouse

"I write because I have so many ideas that I love sharing, and because it really is a way to bring a character, a plot, a setting and an amazing story to life" – Sophie, 7th grade
Voices for Change: We facilitated 6 session workshops in 17 classrooms in 4 Cleveland Metropolitan School District High Schools as part of our Voices for Change program. Topics included Identity, Community, and "Change". Projects focused on students' vision for a world they would like to see, including creating new rules for their community and changing the narrative of stories that the students are currently seeing in their world. Refocusing on the positive helped to remind the students that their voice can make a difference. We were able to bring local Cleveland author, Echo Brown, into one of the classes to discuss her book, Black Girl Unlimited. This was a powerful experience for the students to interact with a professional author and see what a future in writing could look like.

"New World"
by Layla O., East Tech High School

In the new world every black kid would be free
free from all of society
free from being racially profiled
Everybody would be united as one
I mean after all the only thing that's different is the skin tone
Youths in today’s world aren't allowed to be their true self
One (us) will always be in the wrong.
The little kids would have something to live up to
they will be cops, detectives, lawyers,
without the world making them feel like they don't belong.
And they will not be discriminated against.
We will see more black/mixed families making out the hood & Striving.
Our voice will be heard, we will be treated the same.
This is our new world.
Teen Book Project
Members of Lake Erie Ink’s teen editorial board worked together to identify a theme, gather submission of original teen writing, and compile work into a professionally published book. Their 2022 publication - Blur - featured the voices of 55 youth from diverse backgrounds and communities across Greater Cleveland.

College Essay
28 students participated in 11 College Essay workshops where they explored the writing and revision process of a personal narrative.
"I really enjoyed the sensory brainstorm as it gave me a couple different avenues of creative writing approaches to explore." – Teen participant in College Essay workshop

Creators Club
28 students participated in 11 College Essay workshops where they explored the writing and revision process of a personal narrative.
The best part about the program was "making new friends and drawing art!" – Creators Club Participant

Connection through Creativity
207 students in 5 Middle/Elementary schools in the Cleveland Heights University Heights school district participated in creative writing residencies.
"The students... have shown such growth in a short amount of time. They can think of connected ideas and events to write about. Their writing is now including more details and their vocabulary is expanding. They are beginning to be able to paint a visual picture with their writing and be reflective on their personal writing. They have truly grown in their self-confidence as a writer." – 2nd Grade Teacher

2021-2022 Comic Con
100 comic enthusiasts participated in our first hybrid Comic Con this spring, featuring a virtual discussion with Justin Reynolds, author of "Spiderman, No Way Home" and 16 in-person comic artists.

Workshops, Panels & Special Events
2 virtual featured evening speakers: Terri Libensen & Juan Fernandez
2 virtual speakers: Justin Reynolds & Jeff Sorning (Nickelodeon)
1 Virtual Panel & 5 Virtual Workshops
19 in person workshops for youth and teens
1 in-person Teen After Party

Mini Comic-Fest
We hosted a Mini Comic Fest in September featuring workshops and a Q&A with 3 different comic artists. We had 18 students join us for the full day event, centered around the creation of comics.

"I write because it’s fun, and it helps me sort out the tangled power cord mess that is my brain” – Avalon, 9th grade
Why do you write?

- For fun: 31%
- For social-emotional benefit: 19%
- For academic benefit: 6%
- For creative outlet: 4%
- Other: 40%

WHAT DID YOU LEARN WITH LAKE ERIE INK?

"Lake Erie Ink programs open many different doors, and allow youth to express themselves through their creativity, and possible make new friends." - Jailynn

"This program taught me not to be afraid to stand in front of people and do something I may love in the future." - Jayden

"I learned about sharing what I was working on, and I learned how to continue writing consistently, and I learned that I can finish a novel." - Adele

- "If my voice can sing" by Judith C.
  - If my voice can sing, what else can it do?
    - My voice can stand up to bullying
    - My voice can change the world
    - My voice can make a difference
    - My voice can inspire others
    - My voice can make a change
    - My voice can make my mother proud
    - My voice can stop hate
    - My voice can make someone’s day
    - My voice can turn someone’s frown upside down
    - My voice can change the future
    - My voice can do anything

"I write because it helps me be me" - Mirabel

Program Partners
- Advantage Cleveland
- America SCORES (multiple sites)
- Arthouse
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Beth Shalom Temple
- Boys Hope Girls Hope
- Center for Arts Inspired Learning
- City of Cleveland Recreation Centers
- Cleveland Compassion Tours
- Cleveland Heights–University Heights Libraries
- Cleveland Heights–University Heights School District
- Cleveland Institute of Art
- Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Cleveland Public Library
- College Now
- Communion of Saints Catholic School
- Creators Collective – CLE Opera Theater
- CTAG– Closing the Achievement Gap
- Cuyahoga County Public Library
- David’s Challenge
- Dobama Theatre
- East Cleveland City Schools
- Fairview Park City School District
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
- Lakeshore Intergenerational School
- Lutheran East High School
- Maltz Museum
- Mandel JCC
- MOCA
- MyCom Youth Network
- Oberlin College Arts Center
- Open Doors Academy
- Rainey Institute
- Scranton Road Ministries
- Shaker Heights Public Library
- Shaker Heights City Schools
- Urban Community School
- University Circle Incorporated
- University Hospital Health Scholars
This year, 40 volunteers and interns contributed 417 hours of service.
Thank you to the following supporters for believing in the transformative power of creative expression

Foundations & Government Support
AHS Foundation
The Andrews Foundation
Baldwin Wallace’s Jacket Philanthropy Program
Bank of Baldwin Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Callahan Foundation
Cedars Legacy Fund
Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
City of Cleveland Heights, Community Development Block Grant Program
Cleveland Foundation
Community Shares
The Cull Family Foundation
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture
Cyrus Eaton Foundation
Dan and Ellen Zelman Family Foundation
Eaton Charitable Fund
Eva L. and Joseph M. Bruening Foundation
Faye Kaplan Charitable Foundation
Geoffrey Michael-Heller Memorial Fund
Greater Cleveland Community Shares
The Hawkins Project
Joyce M. Stielau and Herbert W. Stielau Foundation
Joseph Mendes & Mollie Mendes Charitable Giving Fund
Lincoln Healthcare Foundation
Lit Youngstown
Livermore Charitable Foundation
Mac’s Backs Books
Lit Youngstown
Loganberry Books
Lit Youngstown
Loganberry Books
Mac’s Backs Books
Made Cleveland
McDonald Partners
McDonnell and Associates LLC
Network for Good
Nordson Corporation
Open Doors Academy
OverDrive
Progressive Insurance
The Sherwin-Williams Company
Sly Flourish
Thompson Hine

Individual Support
Mary Adams
Gay Cull Addicott
Robin Allen Blauety
Manuel Alvarado
Astrid Moise & Javier Alvarez-Tostado
Aaron Babcock

Brandon Baker
Christopher W. Ball & Joyce L. Roper
Bill and Susan Barack
Nick Barich
Ellen Barrett
Elaine Bayless
Andrew Beard
Asher Benedict
Joanie Berger and Robert Nosanchuk
Susan Berger
Rachel Bernstein
Pamela Bertaud
Dan and Maria Blakemore
Carolyn Bowman
Victoria Breit
Deborah Bridwell
Tonya Briggs
Jacqui Brown
Michael Buescher & Karl Elisa
Kari Elisa & Michael Buescher
Keshia Bullard
Louise Butler
Dana Buzzolli
Julie and Robert Carmichael
Emily Cheney
Jeanne Cheney
Lee and Tuni Chilcote
Stacy Miller and Todd Clark
Delaney Clark
Lindsey Clark
Eric Coble
Hilary Colles
Nate Cordwell
Karen Cover
Marjory and Carolyn Craft
Margot Damaser & Mala Lewis
Jacquelyn Daniel
Bethany Dare
Michael and Jan Devereaux
Kevin Devine
Kresy Dietrich-Gallagher
Lara Troyer and Jeffrey Dyck
Barbara Estrada
Ashley Everett
Jonathan and Rosemarie Fairman
Richard J. Fernandez
Donna and Richard Ferris
Jane and James Finley
Toine Foucan at Compass Business Services
Hugh and Deanna Fisher
Susan and Adam Feisler
Ellie Hitzort & Stuart Forman
Ben Forman
Char and Chuck Fowler
Tim Fox
Emily Fox
Bill and Jill Frankel
Barbara and Roger French
Chelsea Frey
Marty Priel
Judith Ryder Frumker
Christopher J. Garson
Karstin Olsson and Jon Goldman
Benjamin Greenberg
Renata Griffen
Tom & Kirsten Hagesfeld
Pat and Bill Hanavan
Zumin Hardman
Doc Harril
Dan Heintz
Frances Heller
Annette Helm
Lizzie Hemmings
Alicia Hemphill
Nance Hikes
Brett and Annette Himes
Charmece Holmes

Emma Hubbard
Jack Hubbard
John Hubbard
Ranellie Huber
Jodi Hutton
Cindy Illig-Lum
Brian Iorio
Gwendolyn Isike
Marc and Karen Jaffe
John and Elizabeth Jarvey
Alana Jochum
Mary-Pat Jolivet
Gilbert Jones
Susan Kaeser
Daniel Kampman
Katie Solender & Willie Katzin
Erick Kaufman & Lucene Wisniewski
Jewel Moulthrop and Evan Komito
Dianne Konishi
Lisa & Jed Koops
Karen Koznets
Kara Krawles
Sarah Kristerle
John Kuder
Noah Lamarre
Patty and Paul Larsen
Cynthia Larsen
Susan Larsen
Diane and Arthur Levin
Rachel Leachfeldt
Robert and Sue Lebby
Sarah Lehmann
Alexander and Emily Leslie
Sherri Leslie
Jessica Leslie
Nancy S Levin
Jill Levin
Laura Lewis
Christie Limburt
Songa Rajki and Michael Lyford
Donna and Tony Marchetti
Dante Marinucci
James and Claire Robinson May
Claire McBroome
Kimberly and Sherwood McBroome
Clara and Joseph McHugh
Eric McKee
Stacey McKinley
Lee McIntrye
Marlyn and Tom McLaughlin
Eve McPherson
Diana Medalei
Barbara Mendes
Joseped Mendes
Anne Miano
Chris Mihos
Joseph Miller
Ann Millette
Shane Millette
Eli Millette
Karl Mirkin
Andy Mirkin
Kenneth Mirkin
Alan and Lori Mirkin
Michelle Moehler
Judy A. Moore
Barb and William Morgan
Tony & Sueeta Mutter
Leslie Myrick
Caroline and Edward Oberndorf
Louisa and the Hon. Solomon Oliver
Jeanne Shatten and Lawrence Oscar
Aphrodite Papadakis
Nancy Pepperl
John and Marri Petrucci
Nicky Philpot
David Pilkey
Shelly Pink

Jessica Pieter
Gloria Pleven
Mimi Pleven-Foust
Paul Porter
Joyce Braverman and Jim Posch
Halle Prentena
Diana Fruler
Quentin Queeran
Sarojini and Sridhar Rao
Kaiser Razvi
C.A. Reed-Mundell
Bill & Jan Resteger
Gretchen Reynolds
Myriam Ribenboim
Becky Rinaldi
Mary Roberts
Martin Roberts
Michael and Jane Roberts
Elisabeth Rohring
Wes Roj
Lydia Margaret Rose
Bair & Bob Rosenbaum
Amy Rosenbluth
Lisa and Todd Rosenthal
Hilary Rossen
Kara and John Schellenberg
Judith Schiller
Krisen Schmidt
Kim Schmitz
Sue and Ken Schneider
Dallas and Bill Schubert
Barbara and John Schubert
Michael Shey
Robin and Jon Siff
Robert J. Slanine
Billy Smith and Marjorie Edger
Lawrence Soltisch and Krista Hawthorne
Joshua Sowers
Joan Spoerl
Linda Springer
Jane Peterson & Phil Star
abbY star
Laurie and Max Stark
Peggy Mendes-Stern & Barry Stern
Elizabeth Stiles
Elizabeth Sullivan
Annette and Mark Sutherland
Anne Sweeney
Jimmy Sweetman
Sony Tork-Arme
Ayelet Travis
Mi. Jo Anne Ullman
Douglas and Vivian Vail
Jack and Blanche Vanaly
Deborah Van Kleef
Robin Van Lear
Christopher Wals
Megan Walsh
summer Watson
David whisper
Matt Weinkam
Larry Weiss
Stephen & Joan Werber
Katie and Dustin Weser
Edna Williams
Jane Wink
Ann Witt
Susan Wolpert
Carol Wronack
Lisa M. Wood
Susan Yao
Anne Zaleski
Gary and Gerri Zaleski
Justin Zell
Julia Zoak
Kal Zucker

216-320-4757  |  info@lakeerieink.org  |  lakeerieink.org