

LAKE ERIE INK

2022-2023

IMPACT REPORT



Lake Erie Ink
A writing space for youth

CREATING NEW WORLDS

CREATING NEW WORLDS, ONE WORD AT A TIME.

2022-2023 was a dynamic and inspiring year for us, connecting with youth who were more than ready to share and hear stories. We popped up in new locations throughout the community, offering opportunities for folks of all ages to create, and made new friends in school districts and classrooms we hadn't visited before. We added new camps to engage with younger folks, introducing writing through play and the natural world. And, as our partnerships expanded, the words did too. More than 5,000 Cleveland area youth wrote with us this year, everything from puppet shows to poetry, comics to personal narratives. Kids wrote about what a just and equitable world might look like and brainstormed ways to make it happen. They wrote about their favorite foods, recipes for friendship, and what key is needed to unlock barriers in front of them.

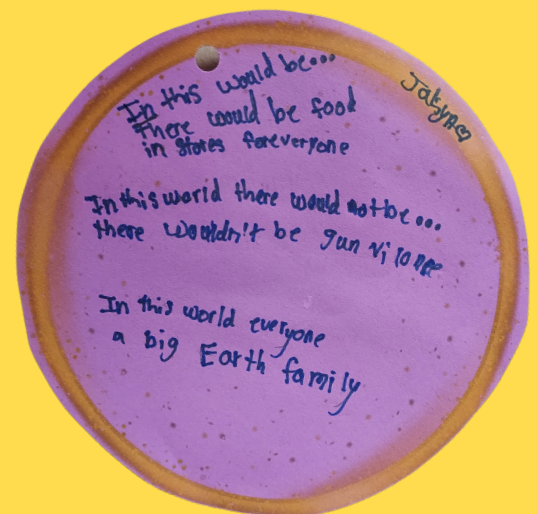
We are humbled by the wisdom and humor that we witness in our after school workshops, summer camps, school residencies and evening sessions. Creating new worlds takes patience, passion and a lot of creativity. The following group piece by our 2023 teen editors group describes it best:

***YOUR LIFE CONSISTED OF DOORS THAT SLAMMED,
SHUT IN YOUR FACE, SO, OF COURSE,
YOU TRAVELED THE WORLD, THE UNIVERSE, THE GALAXY,
LONGING FOR A KEY THAT WOULD OPEN ONE ANYWAY.
BEYOND THE LOCKED DOOR, THERE'S A PLACE YOU DESIRE,
TO SOME IT'S A DREAMLAND, TO YOU- A GUARANTEE.
PERSISTENCY, CONSISTENCY,
WHERE DID YOU FIND THE KEY?***

We find our key with all of you, our supporters, friends and participants who share resources, passion and ideas with us. We are excited to start the next page of our story together.

Amy Rosenbluth

Executive Director
Lake Erie Ink

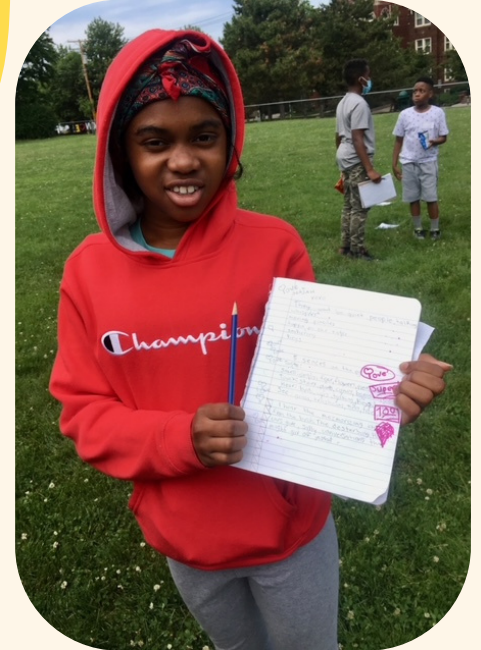


OUR MISSION

LAKE ERIE INK: A WRITING SPACE FOR YOUTH PROVIDES CREATIVE EXPRESSION OPPORTUNITIES AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR YOUTH IN THE GREATER CLEVELAND COMMUNITY.

OUR VISION

WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY WHERE YOUTH DISCOVER THEIR VOICES, SHARE IDEAS AND INSPIRE EACH OTHER AS VALUED PARTICIPANTS.

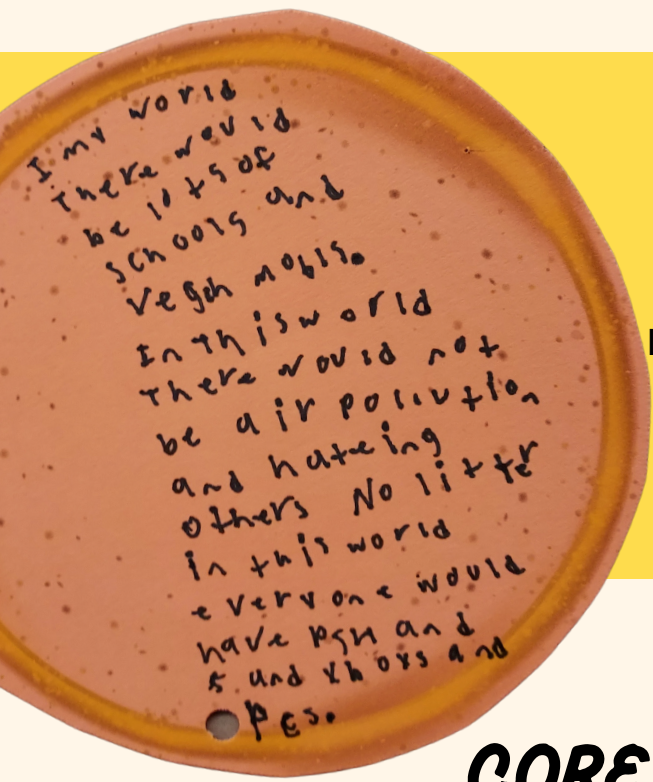


THE BIG NUMBER.

5,619



IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, LAKE ERIE INK SERVED 5,619 STUDENTS- A HUGE RECORD! YOUR SUPPORT MADE THIS POSSIBLE, AND ALLOWED US DO SOME PRETTY AMAZING THINGS THIS YEAR. THANKS FOR BEING A PART OF OUR SUCCESS!



PROGRAMS

Lake Erie Ink runs two distinct types of programming throughout the year. Core programs are fully hosted by LEI and often held at our space at Coventry PEACE Park. Our school and community programs are hosted by our partners at schools and community sites, and led by our teaching artists.

CORE

24

PROGRAMS

11

STYLES OF CREATIVE
EXPRESSION OFFERED,
INCLUDING COMICS,
POETRY, PLAYWRITING
AND MORE!

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

69

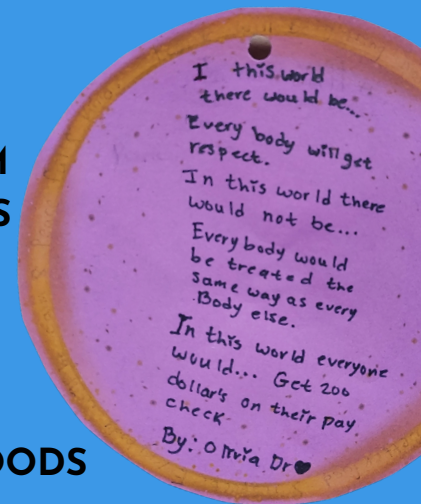
PROGRAMS

37

PROGRAM
PARTNERS

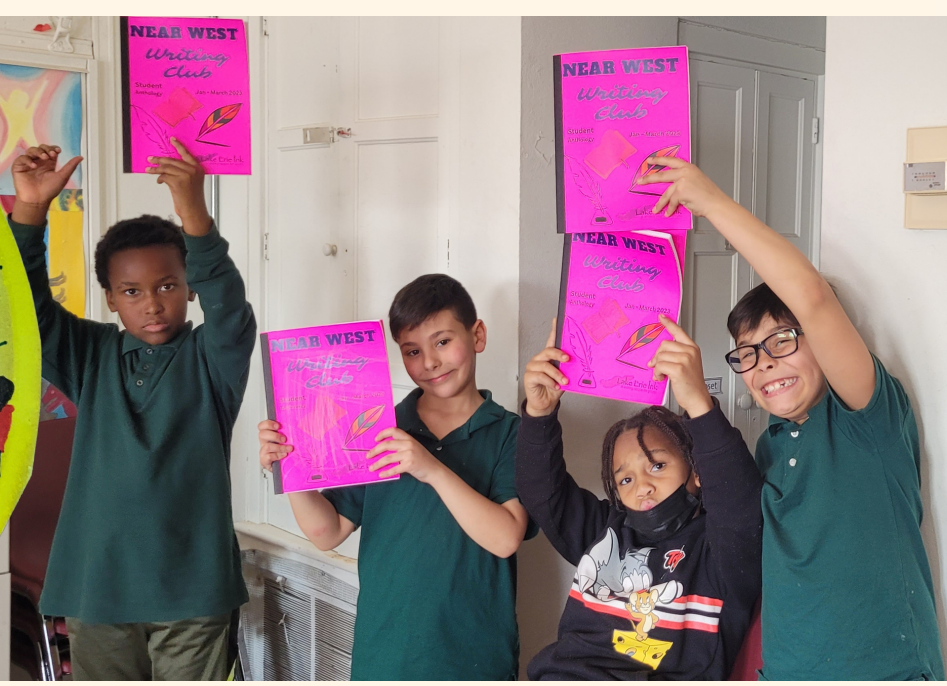
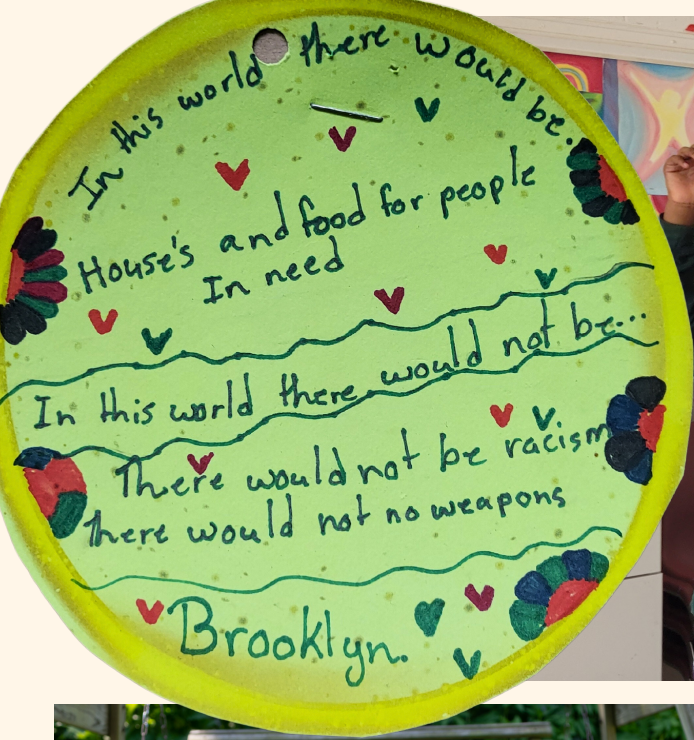
19

NEIGHBORHOODS
& CITIES



"I HAVE TAKEN 2 PROGRAMS AFTER THIS, AND BOTH HAVE BEEN A FUN EXPERIENCE! THESE PROGRAMS ARE A NICE, SAFE PLACE WHERE I CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT WRITING CREATIVELY. I HAVE ALSO GROWN MORE COMFORTABLE IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS BECAUSE I AM IN THESE CLASSES. I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS CLASS TO PEOPLE THAT WANT TO GROW IN CREATIVE SKILLS AND WANT TO DIG DEEPER ON WHAT YOU CAN REALLY DO IN WRITING. MORE THAN THEY'RE USED TO, I MEAN."

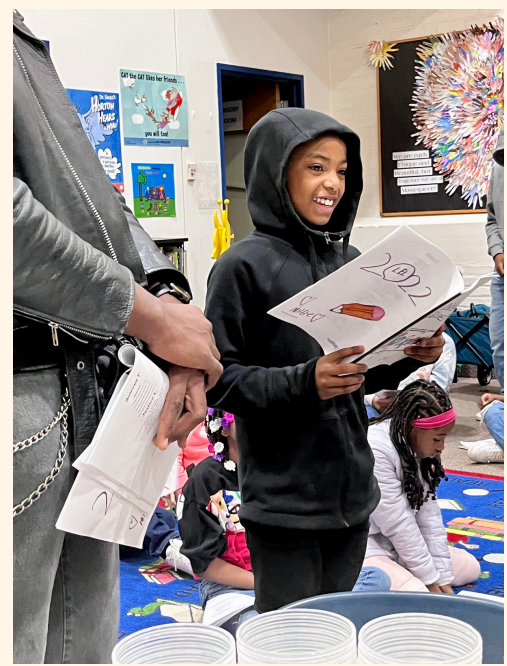
- IZZY, COMIC JOURNALING



84%
 OF STUDENTS
 WOULD COME
 BACK TO
 ANOTHER LAKE
 ERIE INK
 PROGRAM

83%
 OF STUDENTS
 LEARNED
 SOMETHING NEW
 ABOUT WRITING IN
 A LAKE ERIE INK
 PROGRAM

32
 VOLUNTEERS AND
 INTERNS
 CONTRIBUTED
1,676
 HOURS



"I WOULD RECOMMEND LAKE ERIE INK PROGRAMS TO OTHER YOUTH... OVER TIME I FELT THE SPARK OF CREATIVITY THAT I LOST AND I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THE LAKE ERIE INK PROGRAM WILL HELP WITH YOUR CREATIVE MIND."
 - FRED

IMPACT

CORE PROGRAMMING

237

STUDENTS WERE
NEW TO LEI IN
FISCAL YEAR 23



114

STUDENTS
RETURNED TO LEI
IN FISCAL YEAR 23



25%

OF STUDENTS
RECEIVED A
SCHOLARSHIP



72%

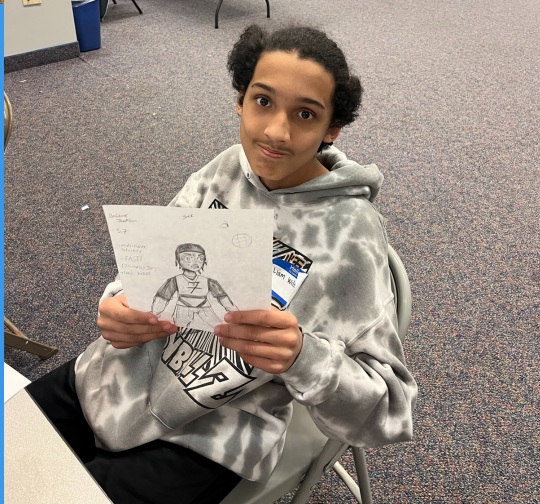
ATTEND
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

14%

ATTEND
PRIVATE
SCHOOLS

4%

ATTEND
HOMESCHOOL



75%

FROM
CLEVELAND
SUBURBS

10%

FROM
CLEVELAND
CITY

15%

FROM OUTSIDE
THE COUNTY/
UNKNOWN

■ personnel ■ contract services ■ facility & equipment ■ program supplies ■ other

EXPENSES

\$569,831



*"I LEARNED HOW TO USE AND EXPRESS MY VOICE."
- MYLES, NORTH OLMSTED POETIC PATHWAYS*

IMPACT

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

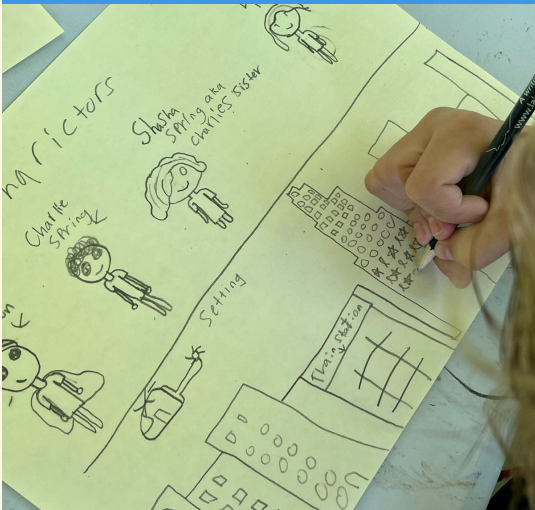
58

SCHOOLS
HOSTED LEI
PROGRAMMING



11

COMMUNITY SITES
HOSTED LEI
PROGRAMMING



100%

OF SCHOOL AND
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS ARE
FREE FOR
PARTICIPANTS



71%

IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



54%

IN
CLEVELAND
CITY

22%

AT
NON-SCHOOL
SITES

35%

IN
CLEVELAND
SUBURBS

8%

IN PRIVATE
SCHOOLS

11%

OUTSIDE OF
CUYAHOGA
COUNTY

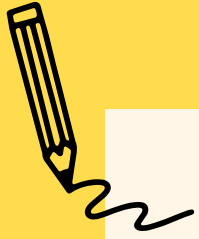
■ foundations ■ program income ■ govt ■ individuals ■ corporate ■ special events ■ misc.

INCOME
\$510,390



"I LEARNED TO NOT HOLD ANYTHING BACK WITH MY WORK AND BE MORE RISKY/OPEN ABOUT IT."

- JOSHUA, CAL ARTWORKS



IN THE DARK AND LIGHT

BY NYLAH F.

In the dark

I see different colors, black and white

I hear loud noises, yelling

I smell fear and scariness

I taste fear and no friendship

I want to be happy and excited

I think about my family and friendship

I believe darkness can show

In the light

I see bright lights and sunshine

I hear quiet sounds, soft noises

I smell happy friendships, no problems

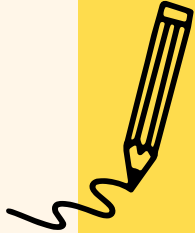
I taste happy/bright days

I want to stay happy and to have good days always

I think about my friends and family

I believe I can do good and not give up

And I wonder if I can make a difference



“I’ve been at Lake Erie Ink since around 3rd or 4th grade. All my friends attended and I wanted to join them. I used to just do Ink Spot, but that slowly evolved into the Comics N’ Zines program, and eventually Story Games. I go to LEI at least once a week!”

“It’s [LEI] impacted me in that I’ve met so many friends. Some of the kids who I’m in certain programs with have ended up becoming some of my closest companions. It’s also really helped my writing style and ability to think up cool and interesting stories!”

-ZORA PETERSON

AGE 16



MEET THE TEAM



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CYNTHIA LARSEN
EDUCATION DIRECTOR



JANAE BRYSON
MARKETING COORDINATOR



CHARISSE BAILEY
DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMS



ABBY STAR
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER



MAYA WATKINS
PROGRAM OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR

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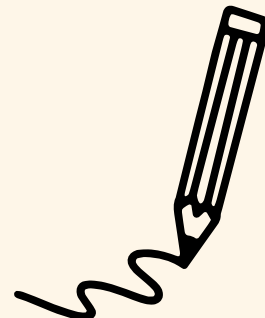
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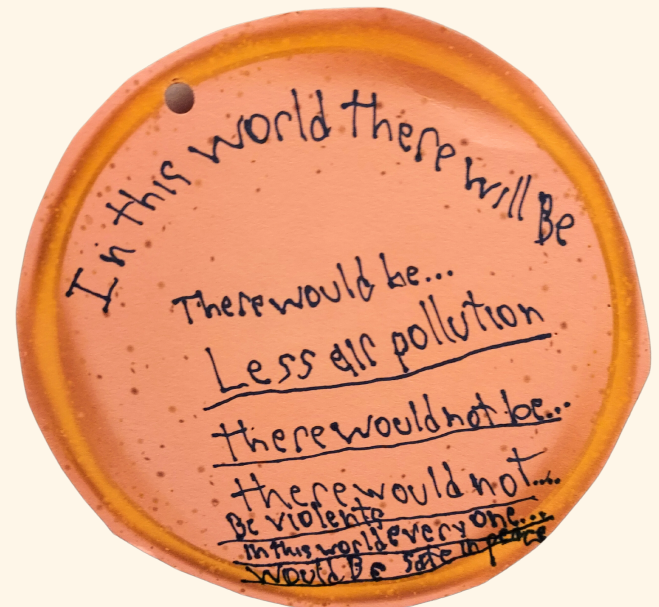
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I WRITE BECAUSE...

"I LOVE TO MAKE STORIES THAT NOT ONLY INSPIRE ME BUT ALSO ONES THAT READ IT."

"I CAN EXPRESS MY FEELINGS WITHOUT PEOPLE TELLING ME I'M WRONG." "I CAN CREATIVELY

RELEASE EMOTIONS." "IT HELPS ME CONNECT WITH MY INNER SELF." "WRITING IS CALMING FOR

MY SPIRIT." "I ASPIRE TO BE GREATER THAN THE GENERATION BEFORE ME." "IT'S FUN SEEING

WHAT I CAN DO (SOMETIMES)." "MY VOICE DESERVES TO BE HEARD." "I AM EXPRESSIVE AND

HAVE AMAZING OPINIONS." "I LIKE MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH." "I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE."

"IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL LONELY EVEN WHEN I AM LONELY."

"I WANT TO SHARE MY STORIES WITH THE WORLD!"



THE HIGHLIGHT REEL FROM OUR YEAR ONLY BEGINS HERE. SEE THE FULL STORY BY VISITING WWW.LAKEERIEINK.ORG

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A writing space for youth