

## About Us

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.

OUR 2023-  
2024 STORY...

THE BIG NUMBER.

3,981

# "Some Thing to Say!"

A phrase that was a clear directive for all of us this past year, and it came from our group of teen editors who thought it would make a good theme for this year's anthology. And, it did that and so much more. It was a call to action. Say Some Thing! Create Some Thing! Learn Some Thing! Share Some Thing! This past year more than 3500 youth in our Greater Cleveland community did all of those things with us in after school programs, classrooms throughout Cleveland, evening and weekend workshops, summer camps and amazing one day events like Kids' Comic Con and Teen Writers' Symposium.

In 2023-2024 we met lots of new kids as first time participants, and welcomed past participants into different programs. This "crossover" participation is so important for us to see because it means that we do what we set out to do: offer the opportunities for kids to explore and engage in creative expression. Someone might start out in a workshop they already know something about like comics or playwriting, and then discover that they also want to write a novel, or create a 'zine, or make a podcast. And, along the way they make a new friend and their community expands.

In addition we partnered with new schools and community organizations to reach new audiences; we crossed the bridge to host a super successful Kids' Comic Con and other workshops at the Pivot Center. And at the heart of all of the work we did, was the simple reminder that as we ask youth to Say Some Thing, we want to be sure and listen.

*Amy Rosenbluth*

## OUR STAFF



**AMY ROSENBLUTH**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**CYNTHIA LARSEN**  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR



**CHARISSE BAILEY**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS



**ABBY STAR**  
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



**JANAË BRYSON**  
MARKETING COORDINATOR



**MAYA WATKINS**  
PROGRAM OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



**JOHN BOUCHER**  
TEACHING ARTIST



**RAJA FREEMAN**  
TEACHING ARTIST



**JAROD "OD" PERRY-RICHARDSON**  
TEACHING ARTIST

6 INTERNS & 27 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 1,158 HOURS

## OUR BOARD

**ALEX LESLIE**  
BOARD CHAIR

**ANNIE ZALESKI**  
VICE CHAIR

**KARI MIRKIN**  
SECRETARY

**ANDY TRARES**  
TREASURER

**MANUEL A. ALVARADO**

**TRACY HILL**

**MICHAEL SHEA**

**BARBARA FRENCH**

**DANTE MARINUCCI**

**KELSEY SMITH**

**BEN FORMAN**

**CLAIRE MCBROOM**

**MARC S. WHITE**

**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.

**84%**

of students learned something new about writing in this program.



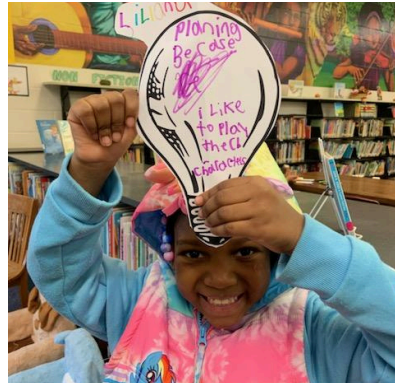
**80%**

of students took a creative risk (ex: tried something new, shared their work).



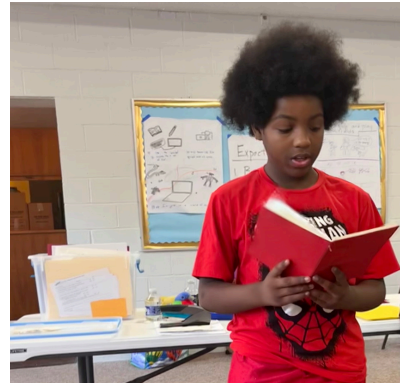
**80%**

of students felt more comfortable expressing their ideas after this program.



**100%**

of teachers agree their students learned new ways to express themselves creatively.



**CORE PROGRAMMING**

**27 PROGRAMS**

**346 PARTICIPANTS**

**SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY**

**35 PROGRAMS**

**3,635 PARTICIPANTS**

**67 SITES IN 20 CITIES/  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

**36 COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

ADVANTAGE CLEVELAND  
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND  
CENTER FOR ARTS INSPIRED LEARNING  
CHUH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CITY OF CLEVELAND  
CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART  
CLEVELAND METROPARKS  
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP CLEVELAND

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DAVID'S CHALLENGE  
DOBAMA THEATER  
EAST CLEVELAND CITY SCHOOLS  
GREATER CLEVELAND COLLEGE NOW  
HEIGHTS LIBRARIES  
LITERARY CLEVELAND  
MALTZ MUSEUM  
MINDS MATTER CLEVELAND  
MOCA  
MYCOM CLEVELAND  
NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

NEOMFA PROGRAM  
OPEN DOORS ACADEMY  
ORANGE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
THE PIVOT CENTER  
RAINEY INSTITUTE  
RESOURCE CLEVELAND  
RICHMOND HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS  
STARTING POINT  
UH HEALTH SCHOLARS  
URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# WHO COMES TO US

*"I LEARNED ABOUT SPEAKING UP AND STANDING UP FOR MYSELF."  
- SERENITY, MOUND STEM SCHOOL*

77%

OF YOUTH  
ATTEND  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

12%

OF YOUTH  
ATTEND  
PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS

7%

OF YOUTH  
WERE  
HOMESCHOOLED

*"I WRITE BECAUSE THEN PEOPLE HEAR MY VOICE."  
- ANONYMOUS, STAGE AND SCREEN*

13%

FROM  
CLEVELAND  
CITY

73%

FROM  
CLEVELAND  
SUBURBS

14%

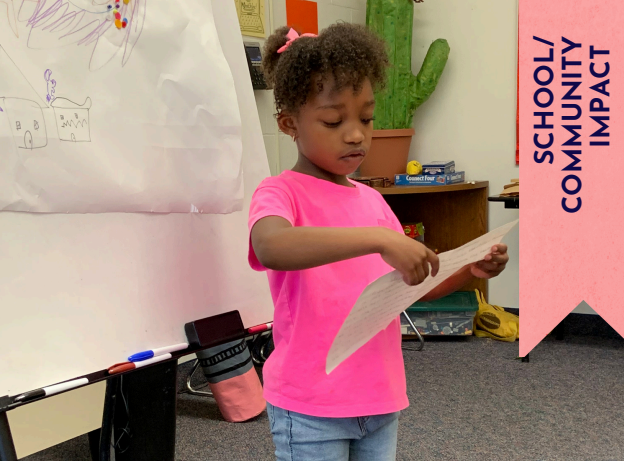
FROM OUTSIDE  
THE COUNTY/  
UNKNOWN

*"I WRITE BECAUSE IT GIVES ME THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING."  
- EMMA, TEEN WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM*

CORE PROGRAM  
IMPACT



*"I LIKED THE IDEA OF MY STUDENTS EXPLORING POETRY AS A MEANS OF GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THEMSELVES. THEY ENJOYED THE WRITING PROCESS AND I PLAN TO GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO WRITE IN VERSE."  
- CORA GERMAN, TEACHER AT EAST TECH HIGH SCHOOL*



## WHERE WE GO

*"I WRITE BECAUSE IT COMFORTS ME BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS AND IDEAS IN A PHYSICAL WAY."  
- ANONYMOUS, COMIC CON*



**61%**

IN PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

**33%**

AT  
YOUTH  
SERVING SITES

**6%**

IN PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS



*"[ONE BENEFIT TO MY TEACHING WAS] LEARNING THE USE OF COMIC WRITING TO ASSIST WITH MY SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS."  
- KRISTINA INZANA, TEACHER AT MARY BETHUNE*

**60%**

IN CLEVELAND  
CITY

**32%**

IN CLEVELAND  
SUBURBS

**9%**

OUTSIDE THE  
COUNTY

**1,913 STUDENTS IN CLEVELAND CITY**



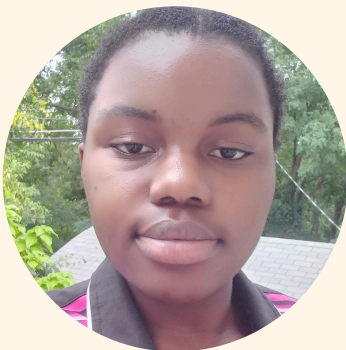
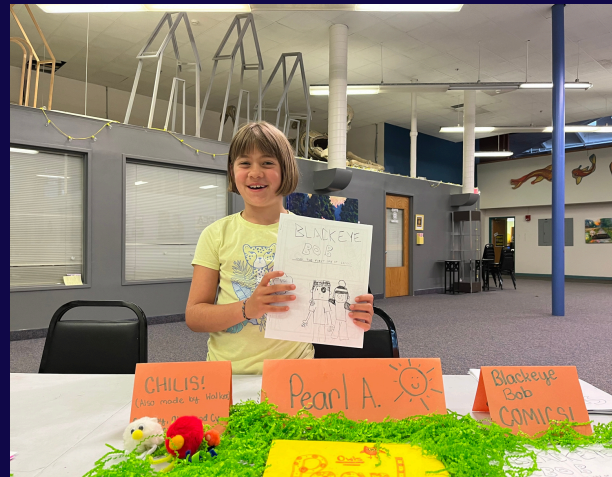
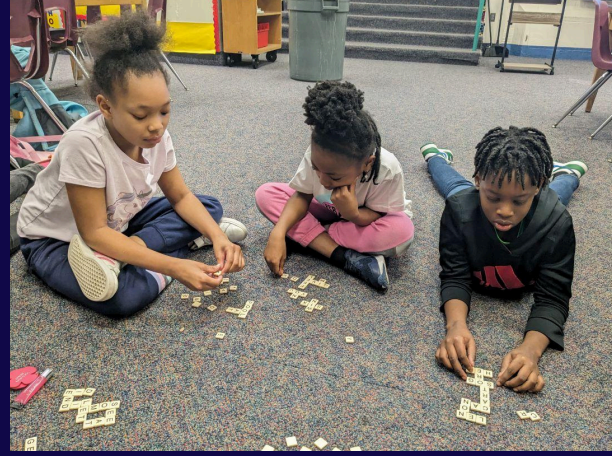
*"I WRITE BECAUSE I FEEL LISTENED TO AND CONSIDERED."  
- ANONYMOUS, YOUNG NOVELISTS*

*"I REALLY THINK SHE GAINED CONFIDENCE TO FOLLOW HER DREAMS ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST AND VALIDATED HER AS AN ARTIST. THE NICKELODEON ZOOM ... GAVE HER A VISION FOR WHAT SHE CAN BECOME IN THE FUTURE AND MAKE A CAREER OUT OF WHAT SHE LOVES DOING."  
- COMIC CON PARENT*

# LIKE THE...

BY GEORDAN AND LATREASE  
OXFORD INK SPOT 2024

Like the frog, we here to jump  
 Like the rainbow, we here to shine  
 Like the tiger, we here to move around  
 Like the river, we here to flow  
 Like the pencil, we here to write  
 Like the soccer ball, we here to make goals  
 Like the electricity, we here to shock  
 Like the race, we here to run  
 Sometimes I might talk too much but I can still be quiet  
 Sometimes I can get a little rowdy but I'm here to fix it  
 And in the end, we are right here  
 To live a life of love, not fear  
 To help each other when it's tough  
 To say together I am enough



My name is Bahati Bertha, I am currently an eighth grader at Mary M Bethune. I've been working with LEI for about 3 years now and I started writing in sixth grade. LEI has changed the way I view writing and how much I realized I wanted to write. It's taught me different writing techniques and how to write a play. I liked getting to go to writing workshops and writing about my personal interests. As well as getting to work in places that made me feel like I was not being made fun of or shunned for the knowledge I had, even if it was little. I would recommend LEI to lots of youths and people who might not want to be writers and just want to write for fun or enjoyment. Even just to people who like writing and making stories. I think that it's an amazing experience and a wonderful opportunity for many youths to express themselves.

**BAHATI**



**EXPENSES: \$461,770**

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



**INCOME: \$583,826**

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



**Deficit covered by reserves.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 SUPPORTERS!**

**FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

- AHS FOUNDATION
- ARTS MIDWEST
- BANKS-BALDWIN FOUNDATION
- CALLAHAN FOUNDATION
- CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY
- BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT
- CLEVELAND FOUNDATION
- CUYAHOGA ARTS & CULTURE
- CYRUS EATON FOUNDATION
- GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION
- HAWKINS PROJECT
- JACKET PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM AT BALDWIN
- WALLACE UNIVERSITY
- MARTHA HOLDEN JENNINGS FOUNDATION
- THE NORD FAMILY FOUNDATION

- OHIO ARTS COUNCIL
- PUFFIN WEST FOUNDATION LTD.
- S.K. WELLMAN FOUNDATION

**CORPORATE SUPPORT**

- ANONYMOUS
- BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP
- CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF ART
- DOMINION ENERGY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
- PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE
- MAC'S BACKS
- TARGET CIRCLE
- THE WINE SPOT
- THOMPSON HINE

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 SUPPORTERS!

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

### INKWELL SALON - \$1,000 OR MORE

BAYLESS-MARR FAMILY  
CEDARS LEGACY FUND  
CHAR AND CHUCK FOWLER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION  
CHRISTOPHER J. GARSON  
CULL FAMILY FOUNDATION  
DALLAS AND BILL SCHUBERT  
DAN AND ELLEN ZELMAN FAMILY  
FOUNDATION  
GEOFFREY MICHAEL HELLER MEMORIAL  
FUND  
HELEN F. STOLIER AND LOUIS STOLIER  
FAMILY FOUNDATION  
JOYCE M. STIELAU AND HERBERT W. STIELAU  
FOUNDATION  
LEON AND GLORIA PLEVIN FAMILY  
FOUNDATION  
LOUISA AND THE HON. SOLOMON OLIVER  
NANCE HIKES  
WILLIAM M WEISS FOUNDATION  
WOLPERT FUND

### PUBLISHER - \$500-\$999

ANNETTE AND MARK SUTHERLAND  
ARMSTRONG FAMILY FOUNDATION  
BARBARA AND ROGER FRENCH  
BEN FORMAN  
JANE AND JAMES FINLEY  
JEANNE R. SHATTEN AND LAWRENCE E.  
OSCAR  
KELSEY SMITH  
MICHAEL SHEA  
PATTY AND PAUL LARSEN  
PODL FAMILY FUND  
ROB AND HOLLEY MARTENS  
THE NIKKI DELAMOTTE FUND  
THE WITT CHARITABLE FUND  
TODD CLARK-STACY MILLER GIVING FUND  
TRACY HILL

### SCRIBE - \$250-\$499

ALAN AND LORI MIRKIN  
ALEXANDER AND EMILY LESLIE  
ANNE ZALESKI  
ANONYMOUS  
BRENT MCGRATH  
CALVIN GRIFFITH  
CLAIRE MCBROOM  
FEY PARRILL  
JAMES GRAHAM  
JOHN AND BARBARA SCHUBERT  
KALER FAMILY GIVING FUND  
LESLIE MYRICK  
PAT AND BILL HANAVAN  
TABOR FAMILY FUND

### UNDERWRITER - \$150-\$249

ANDY TRARES  
ANN AND SANDY ROSENBLUTH  
ANN MILLETTE  
ANNETTE AND BRETT HIMES  
ANONYMOUS  
ASHLEY CATANIA  
BARB AND WILLIAM MORGAN  
CATHY BARBER  
CHAR AND CHUCK FOWLER  
CINDY HILL  
CRAZENIK FUND FOR GREAT GOOD AND  
TERRIBLE EVIL  
DEBBY ROSENTHAL  
ELI MILLETTE  
GAIL BELLAMY  
HAWTHORNE-SOLLISCH FUND

JAMES AND CLAIRE ROBINSON MAY  
JENNY BRYNJARSDOTTIR  
JEWEL MOULTHROP AND EVAN KOMITO  
KARSTIN OLOFSSON  
KATIE SOLENDER & WILLIE KATZIN  
LINDSAY LAUREN SIMS  
LISA AND TODD ROSENTHAL  
MARK PHILLIPS AND LITA GONZALEZ  
MATT WEINKAM  
MEDALIE FAMILY FUND  
PENNYLOAFER  
RYAN SARAZIN  
SUSIE KAESER AND JERRY BLAKE

### SCHOLAR - \$75-149

ABIGAIL MILLAR  
ALBERT AND ALICE STRATTON  
AMY HUGHES  
ANDY MIRKIN  
ANONYMOUS  
AYELET TRAVIS  
BAILEY LANG, THE WRITING DESK, LLC  
BARB AND BOB ROSENBAUM  
BILL AND JAN RESSEGER  
BREE AND ARDEN BROOKS  
CATHARINE BROWN  
CHARLES CUSHWA  
CHARNIECE HOLMES  
CHRISTINE YOUNG  
DONNA AND RICHARD FERRIS  
DONNA AND TONY MARCHETTI  
ELIZABETH HERCHEK  
FAYE KAPLAN CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION  
HANK DOLL  
JANE MORRIS  
JIM AND BETH SZPAK  
JOAN SPOERL  
JOHN AND ELIZABETH JARVEY  
JOSEPH D. PENTASUGLIO AND CARRIE M.  
SCHNIRRING  
JOYCE ROPER  
UDITH RYDER FRUMKER  
JUDY BATEMAN  
KATHARINE BROIDA  
KATIE AND KEVIN CONTRERA  
KIMBERLY AND SHERWOOD MCBROOM  
KRISTEN ANDERSON  
KRISTIN GALLAGHER  
LAKSHMI BALASUBRAMANYAN  
LAURA MARLOTTA  
LEE AND TUNI CHILCOTE  
MARGOT DAMASER & MALIA LEWIS  
NAN JACKSON  
NANCY NEWMAN  
NANCY PEPPLER  
NOAH LAMPRECHT  
PAGET VALENTZAS  
PATRICK AND DEBORAH SHEA  
RACHEL OSCAR  
ROBERT AND SUE LEBBY  
ROBIN KOSLEN  
RONDA CURTIS  
SAROJINI AND SRIDHAR RAO  
SCOTT JACKSON  
SUSAN OELBRACHT  
THE FORADORI FAMILY

### FREE THINKER - UP TO \$74

ALICIA HEMPHILL  
ALISON FROST  
ALISON MEERMANS  
AMY MARQUIT RENWALD  
ANASTASIA PAHULES  
ANDREW MOYER  
ANGELIQUE GATES  
ANN TADDEO

ANNA KISS MAUSER-MARTINEZ  
ANNE SCHLEICHER  
ANONYMOUS  
BARBARA WHERLEY  
BENJAMIN GREENBERG  
BETSY ROSENBLUTH  
BILL AND SUSAN BARACK  
BILYANA SIMONOSKI  
BRENDA GROVER  
BRIAN SMITH  
BRITTANY WIDNER  
CAITLIN O'BRIEN  
CAROLYN CACHO BOWMAN  
CAROLYN COUFALIK  
CHARISSE BAILEY  
CHARLIE REED-MUNDELL  
CHRIS MIHOS AND BRENNAN LISOWSKI  
CHRISTINA WONG  
CLARA AND JOSEPH MCHUGH  
CONNIE GILLEN  
CONNIE MACHAN  
CYNTHIA LARSEN  
DANIEL AND HALLIE GROSS  
DEANNA BREMER FISHER  
DEBORAH BRIDWELL  
DEBORAH VAN KLEEF & JIM MILLER  
DEENA MENDLOWITZ  
D'ELLA HESCHMEYER  
DEVON GHOLAM  
EMILY LESLIE  
ERIC MCKEE  
ERIK MELENDEZ  
EVAN & TIFFANY MCBROOM  
EVE MCPHERSON  
FRANCES SENNETT  
GENE EPSTEIN  
GINA BEIM  
GWEN BRUNNER HENSLEY  
HANNAH SHAEFER  
HEATHER SCHARIO  
HEIDI LESLIE  
HILARY ROSSEN  
JACQUELYN DANIEL  
JANE PETERSON  
JANELLE KEIFER AND JAMES KEIFER II  
JARED DRUMMER  
JEANNE KIDERA  
JENNIE BECKER  
JENNIFER SCHLOSSER  
JENNIFER VILLYARD  
JERI TAYLOR  
JESSICA CLAUGHTON  
JOHN DUTTON  
JOSEPHINE MOORE  
JOSHUA HILL  
JOSHUA SOWERS  
KAELA SWEENEY  
KARA AND JOHN SCHELLENBERG  
KAREN REGO  
KARI MIRKIN  
KATE AND EAGAN SNOW RACKLEY  
KATHERINE CHAPMAN  
KATHERINE STILES  
KATHRYN KLABER  
KATHRYN MAISTROS  
KELSEY TARASE  
KENNETH MIRKIN  
KEVIN KILROY  
KRISTEN SCHMIDT  
LAURIE AND MAX STARK  
LINDA DUDZINSKY  
LINDA LAPP  
LINDA LEE  
LINDA LEE  
LIZZIE HEMMIS  
LOUISE HANAVAN  
LYNETTE CIRYAK  
LYNN MCKNIGHT  
MAGGIE WEISBERG  
MARCIE PHILLIPS

MARILYN MCLAUGHLIN  
MARJORY AND CAROLYN CRAFT  
MARK CROCE  
MARLA DAWN KASSOFF  
MARYANN HUDAK  
MATT HRIBAR  
MELANIE TYLER  
MICHAEL AND ELISE HAGESFELD  
MICHAEL BUESCHER AND KARI ELSILA  
MICHAEL POST  
MICHAEL SEIDMAN AND ANITA PHILLIPS  
MICHEAL AND JAN DEVEREAUX  
MICHELE WOLFBERG  
MICHELLE MALICK  
NICHOLAS MCCAUSLIN  
NICOLE MELI  
NOELLE CELESTE  
PAMELA BERTAUD AND RAYMOND  
GONZALEZ  
PATTI VERDE  
PAUL PORTER  
PETRUCCI FAMILY FUND  
QUENTIN QUEREAU  
RACHEL BERNSTEIN  
ROBERT WIDNER  
ROSS LOPATKOVICH  
RUTH ANNE GOLDBERG  
RYAN COLLINS  
SAMANTHA BESAW  
SCOTT WACHTER  
SHAINA MUNOZ  
SHERRI LESLIE  
STEVE HOPEWELL  
SUMMER WATTERSON  
SUSAN LARSEN  
SUSAN POLATZ  
SUSAN POST  
SUSAN TYLER-DAVIS  
SUSAN YAO  
SUSIE STANTON  
THOMAS MARLOWE  
TIFFINY UNDERHILE  
TIMOTHY CONNORS  
TRENT KAY MAVERICK  
TRINA CHARLES  
ZACHARY THOMAS

*"I WRITE BECAUSE,  
IT'S A WONDERFUL  
FORM OF  
EXPRESSION. I GET  
TO PUT THE IDEAS  
AND CHARACTERS  
IN MY MIND OUT  
INTO THE REAL  
WORD. IT'S VERY  
COOL."*

*-EVA, COMIC CON*