



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



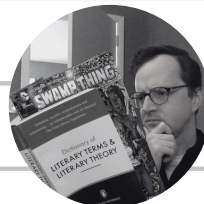
ABBY STAR
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



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

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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.



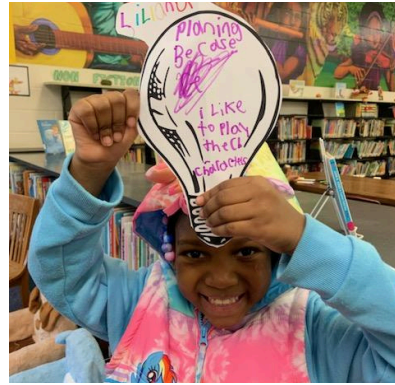
80%

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



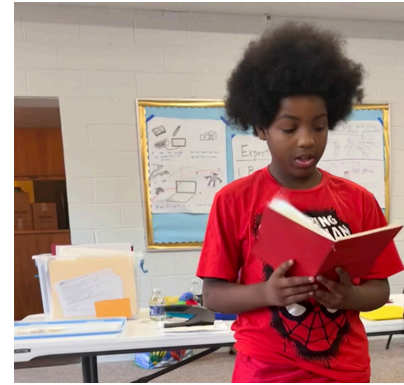
80%

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%

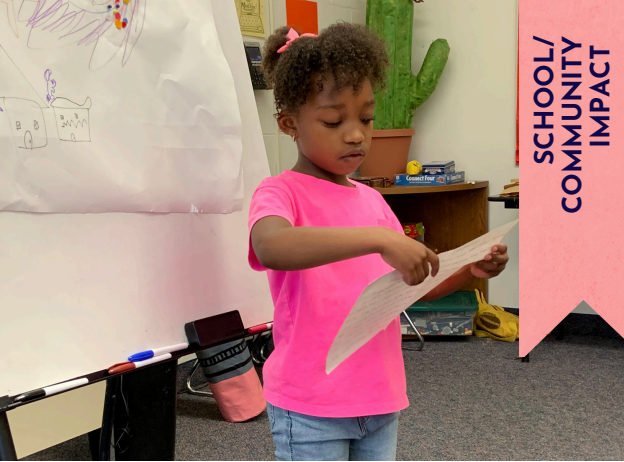
FROM OUTSIDE
THE COUNTY/
UNKNOWN

*"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



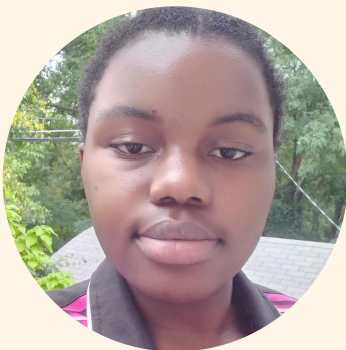
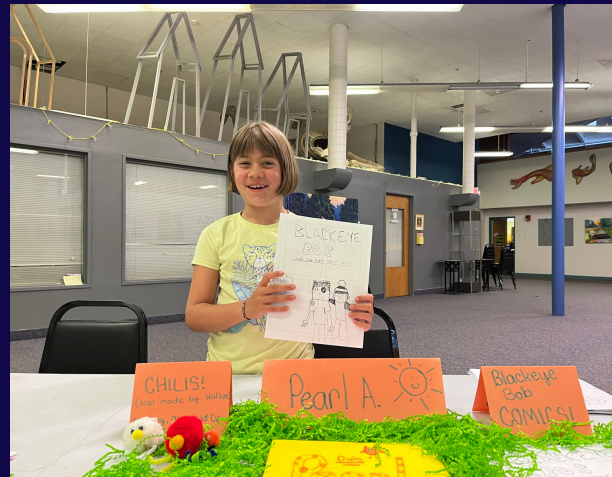
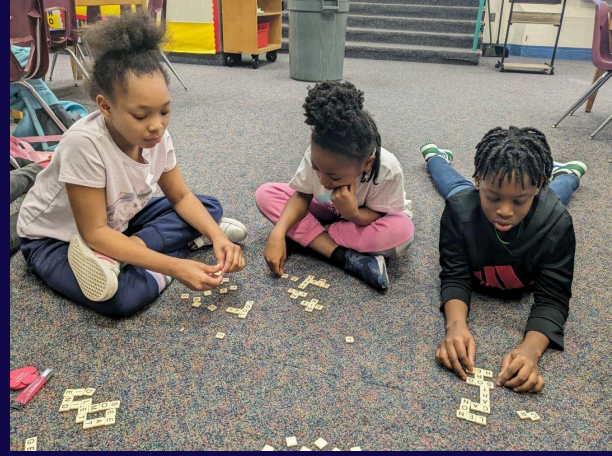
*"I WRITE BECAUSE I FEEL LISTENED TO AND CONSIDERED."
- ANONYMOUS, YOUNG NOVELISTS*

*"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: \$583,826

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



INCOME: \$461,770

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



Deficit covered by reserves.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 SUPPORTERS!

FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- 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
- 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 AND FAMILY FOUNDATION SUPPORT

INKWELL SALON - \$1,000 OR MORE

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SCRIBE - \$250-\$499

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TIMOTHY CONNORS
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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