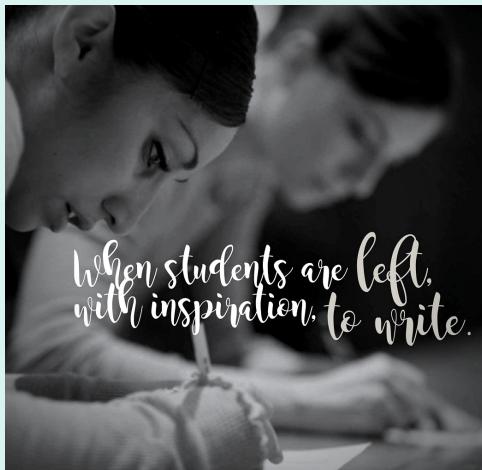




Trial Run: January 2018 - June 2018



LEFT2WRITE INC.

NONPROFIT 501(C)(3)

Our mission is to provide underfunded public schools with a creative writing in-school and extracurricular programming that supports and broadens student access to writing opportunity, literacy, and scholarship. We work with schools with low-literacy rates--and high percentiles of students with IEPs-- to supplement the language and writing skills they are receiving in English classes and to ensure all students are receiving as much support as possible.



//LEFT2WRITEINC

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EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR/FOUNDER//

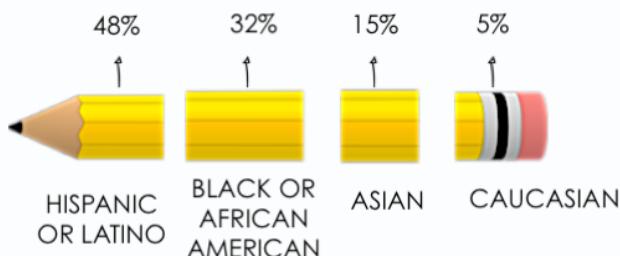
MELISSA BOUGANIM

STUDENT PROGRAMMING

The Writer's Workshop is based in a rigorous curriculum that **meets the students where they are**, provides modern and timely reading material, and challenges students with prompt-based writing. This program **gives students a toolkit for writing and reading**.

Traditionally a six week, twelve session, program, the Writer's Workshop supplies students with a notebook, writing utensils, healthy snacks, and countless opportunities to find inspiration in authors like Margaret Atwood, Langston Hughes, and Anis Mojgani.

PARTNER SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS



OUTREACH

Left2Write's outreach programming is student-centric and focused on community literacy.

During the 2018 Trial Run, we participated in the following outreach opportunities:

- POETRY OUT LOUD with the Poetry Foundation and The National Endowment for the Arts
- RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY DAY
- POEM IN YOUR POCKET DAY with Bryant Park and UrbanWord
- LEFT2WRITE-IN
- POETRY & POTTERY
- SPRING OPEN MIC: SPRING CLEANING
- SUMMER CREATIVE WRITING INTENSIVE
- DIVERSE MINDS

with the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

BY THE NUMBERS

100%

OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE
AND REDUCED LUNCH

86%

OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
STUDENTS WHO CURRENTLY
HAVE AN IEP

43%

OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
STUDENTS SPEAK ENGLISH AS
A SECOND LANGUAGE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- It's Lit: Creative Writing in Every Classroom*

In this PD, we explore how to parlay the expectations of the writer's workshop into all content areas and use prompt-based questions with high-rigor. We use several math and science exemplars, with creative writing stems, to access math and science from a literary angle. In this PD, we also unpack a scientific text creatively (in small groups), just as students can do in the classroom.

This PD culminates in workshopping a creative stem for questions in each teacher's classroom.

- Language: The Words We Use and The Words We Expect*

In this PD, we explore the psychosocial understandings of Erickson, read a short-story by Sandra Ciscernos, and participate in activities that actively work through ways students cope (creatively) in the classroom.

*Both PDs include a syllabus, several activities that can be parlayed straight into the classroom, and a "writer's workshop" opportunity to demo a creative prompt for the classroom.

BY THE NUMBERS

100%

TEACHERS REPORT LEARNING
NEW METHODOLOGIES FOR
TEACHING CREATIVELY

OF TEACHERS REPORT
STUDENTS USED CREATIVE
STRATEGIES TO APPROACH
COMPLEX PROBLEMS

100%

OF TEACHERS REPORT SEEING
GROWTH IN THEIR STUDENTS,
IN THE CLASSROOM



A PAGE OUT OF THE UNITY HS LIT MAG



A PAGE OUT OF THE CLARA BARTON LIT MAG

ULLABY FOR STUFFIES — A PANTOUM

JAI ROMAN

I cuddle you at night,
you're always by my side.
Through every last fight,
I've never seen you cry or I cried.

You're always by my side,
hidden behind closed doors.
I'll never see you cry or I cried,
you made my dreams yours.

Hidden behind closed doors,
my pillow soaked with tears,
I'll never see you cry or I cried,
you took away my fears.

My pillow soaked with tears,
I cuddle you at night,
you're always by my side,
through every last fight.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

MOTHER (verb): Bringing up a child with care and affection.
Mother (noun): A woman in relation to her child or children.

Mother.

An' ain't no mother like the one I've got.

All I want is to forget.

I'll never forget the train to Brosville.

Never forget.

All I want is to know why,
I still want to sleep in your lap,
Mother didn't give up on me,
I want to be a mother.

Love you mom.

October.

Your feelings come before my succulents.

Silence is still something I'm having problems with.

Unconditional love is something you taught me.

Melissa, I hate you for everything.

Mommy, I love you.

Happy Mother's Day.



A PAGE OUT OF THE HARVEY MILK LIT MAG

FEEDBACK

Teachers Say...

"I thought the curriculum was really engaging and thoughtfully constructed. It exposed students to a variety of different writers and writing styles, in a way that enabled them to inspire their own writing." -- Esther Sapan, Clara Barton High School, Brooklyn

"Left2Write is an effective program that took into account our school culture, our students abilities, areas of weakness and customized her curriculum to suit our students' needs." -- Jonathan Lamour, Hudson High School for Learning Technologies, Manhattan

"Melissa had ample patience and because of this a few students who struggle in school excelled in her workshop." -- Robin Dishner, High School of Economics & Finance, Manhattan

...Students Say

"This program helps you express yourself through writing and show a side of yourself people have never seen before."

"I liked how Melissa pushed me to do better and helped me improve my writing."

"I loved the activities that make us realize that we are all good writers."

"After my story was read, I felt a stronger will to live 'cause I didn't feel judged or alone. People loved it and that made me love myself a little bit more."



THE HOURS

Teaching artists and staff spent over **400 HOURS** providing services for students, educators, and the community.

From January-June 2018, we served more than **2,640 students**, educators, and members of the community.

BOTH IN-SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMING IN FIVE SCHOOLS, OVER SIX MONTHS FOR

PROVIDED SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOPS IN A LITERACY AND CREATIVE TOOLKIT, ACROSS ALL SUBJECT AREAS FOR

FOR CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERACY, APPLIED FOR, AND PARTICIPATED IN, BY PARTNER SCHOOL STUDENTS

DIRECTLY BENEFITING THE COMMUNITY BY TAKING POETRY TO THE STREETS, SHARING STORIES IN OPEN MICS AND ENCOURAGING WRITING-FOR-ALL WITH FREE, FORMAL WORKSHOPS

180 students

Partnerships

68 teachers

Professional Development

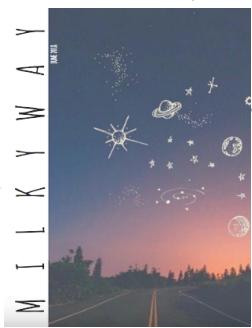
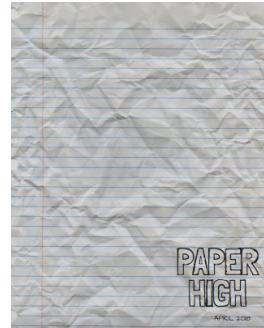
80

Scholarships

2,312

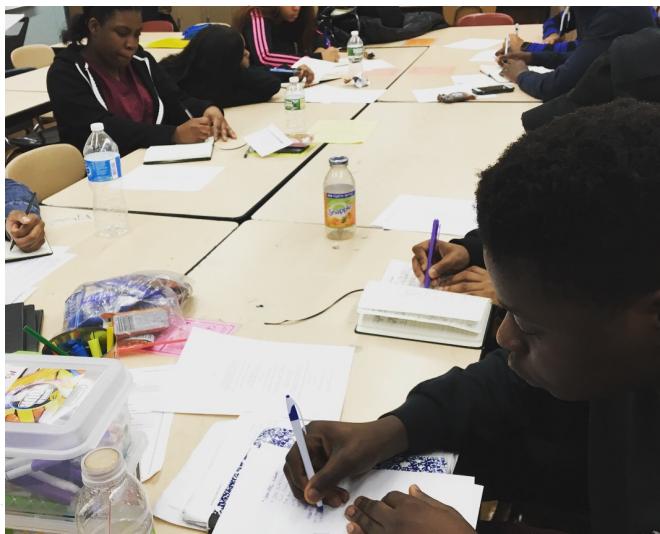
Outreach

INKstinct



SCHOOLS

- High School of Economics and Finance
- Clara Barton High School for Health Professions
- Hudson High School of Learning Technologies
- Unity Center for Urban Technologies
- Harvey Milk High School



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Education Expenses

DIRECT STUDENT & EDUCATOR SERVICES	\$180,000.00
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	\$25,000.00
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT/EVALUATION	\$10,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$200.00
 TOTAL	 \$215,200.00



IN REVIEW...

A year ago today, I was in the midst of one of the most trying years of my life, as a special education teacher in a New York City public school, and packing for the adventure of a lifetime: a "U" around the United States, from New York to Seattle. Somewhere between hysterics, carrying a giant bag of school-supplies and the remains of my desk out into the bustling city streets, and the low hum of the car, I found myself on the Pacific Coast Highway and found the work I'd never known I'd always needed.

Now that program has a name, Left2Write, and has completed its trial semester, I have never been more excited, more proud, to watch something grow. Left2Write Inc. was birthed from a need to bring free creative writing workshops into New York City Public Schools: to celebrate the brilliance that begins when students are left, with inspiration, to write. To support literacy in the most creative way I know: through reading, writing, sharing, and revising (repeat).

Our Writer's Workshop program guides the writer through the journey from prompt to piece, through revision and revision and revision, until each piece is ready for publication in an original literary magazine they create as our culminating project. The work is rigorous, challenging, and no one gets off easy.

One of the gifts of being a guest

in a school is how Left2Write can come in, with its own culture and expectations, and rather than blend into the traditional milieu of the classroom, we build something new. We challenge students equally, lend support where it appears most needed and rewrite curriculum to support each student body. Each student has the opportunity to begin as the very best versions of themselves, for a six week increment. I have found this to be both a manageable and truly telling span of time. I have seen writing skills mature—and develop—and heard stories of students turning in homework, and coming to school on-time, participating in class, and sharing writing with their classroom teachers, for the first time. The effects of Left2Write is long-reaching, and we are only just beginning.

As we hunker down for our inaugural year, we have two well-received PDs (and counting), five tremendous literary magazines, and hundreds of surveys and other data we have used to inform Left2Write moving forward. As we move, I so hope you continue to join us!



