Where Indiana Writers Find A Home
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The IWC supports Indiana writers of all ages and backgrounds and reaches out to people whose voices are rarely heard. Classes and workshops taught by published writers provide writing education that encourages creative expression and enhances the communication skills necessary for success in school, in the workplace, and in life.
The Indiana Writer’s Center Would Like to Thank . . .

Sheila Fortune Foundation
“Abuse is no excuse not to perform...in the Arts.”
In FY2017 the Indiana Writers Center reached a new height in its support of Indiana writers with the publication of Not Like the Rest of Us: An Anthology of Contemporary Indiana Writers. Funded by an Indiana Masterpiece Grant from the Indiana Arts Commission, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, Indy Reads, and individual donors, the collection includes more than 75 notable writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from around the state.

Celebrating Indiana authors, we often focus on our literary past. Not Like the Rest of Us celebrates authors who bring honor to Indiana now, extending the appreciation of our literary heritage into the 21st century.

Also in FY17, professional writers taught 55 one-session classes and 25 multi-session workshops in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and the business of writing, receiving overwhelmingly excellent evaluations. Nationally recognized fiction writer Brian Leung gave the keynote address at our Gathering of Writers to a sold-out crowd at Indiana Landmarks, followed by workshop sessions taught by nine accomplished Indiana writers. Our Third Annual Short Play Festival, in partnership with Indy Fringe Theatre and ten local theater companies, featured the work of six IWC playwrights—with a sell-out crowd at every performance.

Outreach programs in schools, libraries, and community centers brought writing to a diverse audience. Our summer learning program, “Building a Rainbow,” served more than 250 at-risk kids at three sites throughout the city. With the support of the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, we held a memoir writing workshop for women who had experienced domestic abuse and published their stories in Joy Comes in the Morning: Writing Through Darkness at the Julian Center for Domestic Abuse. Clowes funds also supported the publication of
*Memory Workshop*, a guidebook for those who want to write about their lives.

Partnerships with community organizations expanded our outreach opportunities. In FY17 IWC faculty led 39 classes and book discussions for the Indianapolis Public Library at branch libraries throughout the city. The Center collaborated with the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library to present a memoir workshop for women veterans, culminating in the publication of an anthology of their stories and poems, and with the Jewish Community Center, Dance Kaleidoscope, and the Indiana Historical Society to present “Writing Home: Stories from American Veterans in Words and Dance” as a part of the Spirit & Place Festival.

I am grateful every day for the many ways my work as the Executive Director of the Indiana Writers Center has enriched both my personal and writing lives—and very proud of what the Indiana Writers Center accomplished FY2017.

I look forward to what the future will bring.

Barbara Shoup  
Executive Director

Barbara Shoup  
Executive Director
Classes at the IWC

The IWC offers single-session and series classes in fiction, nonfiction, creative nonfiction, and memoir, as well as in publishing, blogging, website development, time management and other writing related topics. In 2016-2017 The Indiana Writers Center held 55 single session classes and 25 multi-session classes. The Indiana Writers Center had the pleasure of instructing 1,455 participants.

“The information presented was incredibly useful, and the materials were beautifully organized. That alone is worth a quick note of thanks. But I rarely get around to actually writing those notes. I was motivated to actually sit down and write this one because of the instructor:

“My first flash fiction piece was published today. Thanks for the advice during a “Come Write In” at the Writer’s Center that tipped me off to the flash fiction genre.”

“I just wanted to say how awesome a time I had in this workshop. Now that it’s over I don’t know what I’m going to do. Thank you for creating a positive and engaging environment. I’ve been to enough ‘shops to know that they all aren’t like this one.”
An officially endorsed Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project, *Not Like the Rest of Us: An Anthology of Contemporary Indiana Writers*, extends the appreciation of Indiana’s rich literary heritage into the 21st century, celebrating authors who are bringing honor to the Hoosier state in our own time.

*Not Like the Rest of Us* was published in September, 2016 by INwords, an imprint of the Indiana Writers Center.

Partially funded by an Indiana Masterpiece Grant from the Indiana Arts Commission and the Indiana Bicentennial Commission and Indy Reads Books, the collection includes more than 75 notable writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from around the state—among them: Marianne Boruch, winner of the Kingsley-Tufts Award; Jared Carter, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Award; Christopher Coake, winner of the PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship; Mari Evans, winner of the John Jay Whitney Fellowship; Helen Frost, winner of the New York Historical Society’s Children’s History Book Prize; John Green, winner of the Printz medal for Young Adult Fiction and the Edgar Award; Patricia Henley, finalist for the National Book Award; Adrian Matjeka, finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize; Susan Neville, winner of the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction; Scott Russell Sanders, winner of the Lannan Literary Award and the Mark Twain Award; and Dan Wakefield, winner of a Rockefeller Grant for Creative Writing. The title of the book comes from an essay about Cole Porter by Muncie author, Cathy Day.
Celebrating Indiana authors, we often focus on our literary past. *Not Like the Rest of Us* celebrates authors who bring honor to Indiana now, extending the appreciation of our literary heritage into the 21st century. With a grant from the Indiana Humanities, The IWC created a website with author photos, biographies, contact information, and a curriculum for use by college and high school teachers. The stories, poems, and essays in the book are available for download for educational purposes at www.indianawriters.net.
IWC’s summer learning program, “Building a Rainbow,” serves a diverse group of more than 250 at-risk youth at three sites throughout Indianapolis. The instructors, who are all published writers, guide students through a process to visualize moments in their lives, write them down in a series of steps, and shape them into finished stories and poems. A cadre of college interns and volunteers work one-on-one with students, providing inspiration and encouragement, as well as helping them hone their writing skills. At the end of the program, the IWC publishes an anthology of the students’ stories, which is a source of pride for them and a potent reminder of their writing experience.

All instructors, college interns, and volunteers receive training during which they discuss the ideas behind the curriculum and participate in the writing exercise they will be teaching. They receive information about assessing student writing, facilitating successful small group sessions, and working with at-risk youth.
INWords Publications:

2009:
Sitting at the Feet of Our Elders: Flanner House Speaks
Recording Memories: Girls in Prison Speak

2011:
Harvesting History: 50 Years - Pioneer Village at the Indiana State Fair
I Remember: A Collection of 4-H Stories in Celebration of 50 Years of the Indiana 4-H Foundation

2012:
Returning: Stories from the Indianapolis Senior Center
Writing Murder: A Basic Guide to Writing Mystery Fiction

2013:
Monday Coffee and Other Stories of Mothering Children with Special Needs

2014:
Life Dances: Stories from the Indianapolis JCC and the Arthur and Sara Ruben Senior and Community Resource Center

Flying Island
2015:

I Remember: Indianapolis Youth Write about Their Lives 2015

Where Mercy and Truth Meet: Homeless Women of Wheeler Speak

Dream Workshop

New in 2017:

Not Like The Rest of Us

Joy Comes in the Morning: Writing Through Darkness at the Julian Center for Domestic Violence.

Memory Workshop

I Remember: Indianapolis Youth Write About Their Lives 2016
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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EVERY DONATION DOLLAR COUNTS

IN 2016 - 2017

Professional writers taught 80 sessions and workshops in poetry, fiction, nonfiction and the business of writing.

The IWC served 308 at risk kids in our “Building a Rainbow” summer learning program.

The IWC partnered with Indy Fringe Theatre, the Indianapolis Public Library, the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library and many more local organizations.

100 $
Pays for three hours of classroom instruction

500 $
Pays one summer intern.

1,000 $
Ensures a keynote speaker at the annual Gathering of Writers

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FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHOSE
GENEROSITY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

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