




WORDPLAY CINCY

Helping Cincinnati's young people fulfill their potential through reading, writing and storytelling.



2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



"We the kids are the dreamers, believers, achievers."
- Zakiya, age 14 -

"If I was a type of weather, I would be sunny
because I'm happy."
- Tianna, age 12 -

"The color green, bursting with so much life.
I wondered, Is this what happiness looks like?"
- Solomon, age 18 -

"WordPlay is fun. People are caring, and they really
listen to what you say and your opinions."
- Thaysha, age 10 -

WORDPLAY CINCY

Helping Cincinnati's young people fulfill their potential
through reading, writing and storytelling.

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

WORDPLAY BOARD AND STAFF



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

KAREN WILLIAMS, Chair
JOE MOORMAN, Vice Chair
PHILLIP RIDLEY II, Treasurer
MICHAEL LINK, Secretary
EVE BOLTON, Trustee
NICK PIETOSO, Trustee
MICHELLE WATTS, Trustee
TIM'M WEST, Trustee
ELISSA YANCEY, Co-Founder & Trustee
STEVE YANDELL, Trustee

STAFF

LIBBY HUNTER,
Co-Founder & Executive Director
JARED O'ROARK,
Education & Outreach Director
REBA HENNESSEY,
Development & Communications Director
JORI AN COTTON,
Writer-in-Residence & Saturday Program Lead
DESIRAE HOSLEY,
Program Coordinator
SARAH NIMMO,
Development & Communications Coordinator

"WordPlay helped me take my whispers and transform
them into a beautiful voice."
– Daphne, age 18 –



KAREN WILLIAMS Board Chair

I was first introduced to WordPlay in 2016 by my dear friend, colleague and mentor, the late Tom Monaco. Tom shared with me about this wonderful organization led by two dynamic and very passionate women with a mission to encourage young people to reach their full potential through reading, writing and storytelling. It didn't take long after meeting with them to say, "Sign me up."

The staff, like any new organization, met challenges head-on, and today they are a stronger organization than ever. As incoming Board Chair, it has been a privilege to work alongside the other trustees to chart a positive path for the youth we reach.

As we continue to lay the groundwork for a new strategic plan, one thing is for sure: WordPlay stands committed to ensuring the ongoing success and future of our youth. From volunteer opportunities, to poetry nights with one of the best-known African-American poets, Nikki Giovanni, to our

signature fundraising dinner at Nicola's in Cincinnati's historic Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, there are endless opportunities to be inspired and moved by the good works happening thanks to WordPlay.

As we continue to move forward together, I want to express my gratitude for you. With your tremendous support, WordPlay has provided the foundation to continue to provide Greater Cincinnati youth with access to vital programming in schools and neighborhoods. Our city is counting on us, and with your ongoing support, we can reach more young people than ever.

Sincerely,
Karen Williams

TOM MONACO: An Enduring Legacy

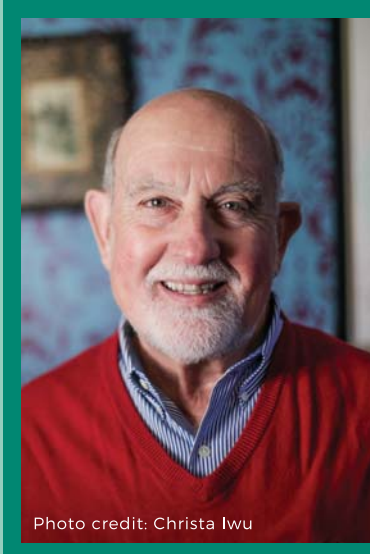


Photo credit: Christa Iwu

WordPlay suffered an unimaginable loss in early spring 2017 when our Board Chair and friend, Tom Monaco, passed away unexpectedly. Our organization, along with all whose lives he touched through his work with WordPlay, numerous other nonprofits, schools and individuals across the city, are immeasurably better for the gifts he so selflessly shared.

Tom was a keen observer of human behavior and spent the majority of his mentorship with me teaching me not how to be a more productive leader in my work role, but how to prioritize my personal well-being. Take care of yourself, and the rewards of work will fall into place. An elusive lesson, but one I now emphasize in coaching our WordPlay team and students. I believe this is his most enduring legacy, helping others to define what it means to be their very best selves, starting with "self."

Thank you, Tom.

--Libby Hunter, Executive Director

MICHELLE WATTS & ELISSA YANCEY Past Co-Chairs



We've been proud to help lead WordPlay's Board through times both challenging and transformative. As former Board Vice Chair (Michelle) and former Board Chair and co-founder (Elissa), we worked first and foremost to provide stability in the days after the unexpected death of our visionary former Board Chair Tom Monaco.

With Tom's spirit guiding us, we moved forward with a strategic planning process as we worked to ensure WordPlay's programs and services flourished. We are most proud, in particular, of two areas: support for strategic organizational growth and Board recruitment and development.

As the evolution of WordPlay continued in 2016-2017, we look back with pride on the growing and sustainably funded full-time and part-time staff, including a diverse group of wonderfully talented teaching artists.



Photo credit: Tina Gutierrez

All of these dedicated professionals continue to define WordPlay as they help us build longer-term collaborations and fuel opportunities to extend our impact on youth and their families. Among other exciting developments, we are exceptionally grateful for the continuing growth and diversification of our Board. New members have joined our ranks, bringing with them expertise in finance, education, development strategy and community building. While we continue to add to our Board, we feel confident in and excited about the energy and dedication these volunteers bring with them.

Together with you, our friends and supporters, WordPlay continues not just to survive, but to thrive. We appreciate the part each and every one of you play as members of our WordPlay community, and we look forward to celebrating with you for years to come.

Sincerely,
Elissa Yancey & Michelle Watts

LIBBY HUNTER

Co-Founder & Executive Director

On the following pages, we share stories with you that represent some of the highlights of 2016 and 2017 at WordPlay. This is no easy task; so much good has passed through our doors in these two years that it's impossible to cover it all in this space. During this time we deepened our presence in schools, working to close the academic gap by offering equitable access to our programs both in class and after school. We brought our creative programs to increasing numbers of English language learners. We expanded our pool of multi-disciplinary teaching artists to broaden creative experiences for our young participants, and inspired thousands of new audience members through performances spanning the city, celebrating the immense talent of our young writers.



Photo credit: Hans Schellhas

As an organization, WordPlay recognizes the vital purpose of community voice in designing and delivering our programs, so the input of parents, students, educators and other community members is central to all that we do. We constantly challenge ourselves to take a hard look at what is and isn't working and carefully make adjustments, always aiming for that "sweet spot" where student and community needs intersect with our mission to help young people fulfill their potential through reading, writing and storytelling. I am immensely proud of our team and our work, but far beyond this, I am proud of our kids.

To our families, partners, supporters, volunteers, Board, staff and all who have become a part of the life-changing experience that is WordPlay, my sincerest thanks.

Sincerely,
Libby Hunter

WHAT DOES WORDPLAY DO?

About our programs



Self-awareness. Empathy. Positive relationships. Confidence. Setting goals and achieving them. These are some of the skills WordPlay blends into our creative, literacy-building programs.

From community writing workshops to school partnerships, from written publications to public performances, WordPlay's programs are designed to meet the needs of every unique population we encounter. Students from all school districts and neighborhoods are welcome to enroll in our programs, which are free to families because of generous support from people like you.

THE PROGRAM DESIGN PROCESS



With input from teachers, parents, professors, researchers and artists, WordPlay continuously strives to create student experiences that grow a love of reading and writing while instilling the tools necessary to take charge of their own success.

THE WORDPLAY WAY

At WordPlay, we deploy innovative learning strategies and create space for students to:



Understand the depths
and horizons of their
creativity



Discover, honor and
share their personal
narratives



Actively connect
with others in an
inclusive community



Define, realize
and pursue their
own futures

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Free and open to students across the region, WordPlay's community-based programs for grades K-12 take place in our Northside writing center after school and on Saturdays.

Students build reading and writing skills through arts and movement-based activities, led by local writers and special guests, like dancers from Pones Inc. and artists from Visionaries + Voices. Teens develop important critical thinking and communication skills by creating spoken word pieces with professional writers, educators and performers.



MOBILE PROGRAMS

WordPlay teaching artists are on the road every week bringing the fun and creativity of our workshops and performances to a growing list of partner organizations across the city.

Recent partner organizations include Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Down Syndrome Organization of Greater Cincinnati, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), Cloverbrook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Price Hill Creative Community Festival, Santa Maria Community Services and Community Matters.

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

From immersive Readers Theater performances to public Poet Trees, WordPlay brings project-based reading, writing and storytelling workshops into classrooms, featuring teaching artists who partner with teachers to complement curriculum with the arts. In 2017, WordPlay also piloted a new model for school collaboration: embedded programming. The WordPlay Writers Room, located inside Aiken High School, hosts programs both during and after school hours, customized to fit Aiken's population.

Other recent school partners include Chase Elementary School, LaSalle High School, Taft Information Technology High School and the Academy of World Languages.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer learning loss is a very real and persistent challenge for children who do not have access to quality learning opportunities in the out-of-school months. Each summer, WordPlay provides three types of engaging experiences for young people that help them stay on track academically while exploring new creative horizons: community-based workshops open to all students; school-based programs for students enrolled in local summer school; and mobile programs designed in partnership with other community organizations.

CANDACE, TRISTAN and CHRISTIA

Growing up WordPlay

When WordPlay opened in 2012, new Cincinnati transplant Candace Ellis was one of the first to participate with her two energetic daughters: 2nd grader Christia, smart and eager, and Tristan in diapers, with a strong voice and bright smile.

WordPlay's creative approaches to learning sparked Christia's imagination and critical thinking skills, and before long she was reading out loud to the younger students and acting as a peer mentor. Candace brought little Tristan in her stroller at Christia's drop-off and pick-up, and staff and volunteers always enjoyed connecting with them.

A few years later, however, Candace made a difficult decision: it was time to try a move back to New Jersey so the girls could be closer to their extended family. After bittersweet goodbyes, Candace promised to keep in touch.

Imagine our surprise when, one recent Saturday, all three came back through WordPlay's doors! New Jersey just didn't feel like home, so they returned to the places that did: Cincinnati, and WordPlay. All three continue to be central to the WordPlay family.

"I wish there had been a WordPlay when I was young. I have seen firsthand the impact that WordPlay's programs can have on children's achievement, and I hope one day all of Cincinnati's young people will have the same opportunities as my own two girls."

- Candace Ellis, WordPlay Parent -





INSIDE AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL

What a school partnership can mean

THE WRITERS ROOM: An innovative new model

In fall 2017, WordPlay opened the WordPlay Writers Room inside Aiken New Tech High School.

Since our partnership with Aiken began back in 2012, WordPlay staff has met with teachers, staff and school leadership to gain an understanding of the larger trends, opportunities and challenges the school faces.



In our commitment to creating student-centered programs, we also consistently seek input from Aiken students to learn what they want from WordPlay programs, what is missing, and how we can continue to increase impact and engagement.

The Writers Room is the latest, and so far biggest, step in this relationship. The former teacher's lounge now provides a dedicated place for WordPlay activities inside the school, where students flourish among a community of peers and caring adults. We launched integrated arts and literacy programs five days a week during the school day and expanded our after-school programs to three days a week, reaching as many as 250 students each month. As a result, students felt more connected to their peers and grew confident as readers, writers and creative voices, which in turn boosted their academic performance. Teachers gained valuable support through co-teaching experiences in creative writing, and Aiken cited increasing connectedness to the greater Cincinnati community, with WordPlay serving as a conduit for public engagement.

Thank you to the Robert C. & Adele R. Schiff Family Foundation, ArtsWave, the Woodward Trust, the Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, and all the individual supporters who have made the WordPlay Writers Room a reality for the students of Aiken.

"WordPlay captures our students' attention, lifts their chins, fills their hearts and instills the confidence to fly."

– Lisa Votaw, Principal, Aiken New Tech High School –

AZARIA: From WordPlay Scholar to Program Assistant

Azaria Pittman-Carter, known to all as Zee, first came to WordPlay in 2015 as a junior at Aiken High School. A natural leader, she stood out immediately for her easy confidence and enthusiasm. Zee embodies self-motivation, having turned her high-school career into a success story after many years as a disengaged, disillusioned student. In 2017 she earned her diploma, along with numerous awards and speaking engagements, and entered the University of Cincinnati's program for first-generation college students.

Through WordPlay's partnership with UC's Federal Work Study program, Zee has returned to Aiken as a WordPlay Program Assistant to coach students in literacy, creative writing and public speaking, inspiring a new generation. Zee is a passionate advocate for young people who have experienced hardship and plans to continue her work as a middle school teacher and eventual administrator. We couldn't be more proud to have her on our team.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Highlights from the years since WordPlay's founding

2012

Libby Hunter and Elissa Yancey co-found WordPlay, staffed by an all-volunteer crew. Doors open with a sandwich board on the sidewalk inviting families in with a simple announcement: "Free tutoring!"

Kentucky Poet Laureate Frank X Walker holds one of WordPlay's first writing workshops, organized by the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition.



≡ 100+ program participants
(averaging 80 enrolled in ongoing programs)



≡ 200+ volunteers & audience members



≡ 500+ books given away



≡ 4 programs & workshops

2013

As Executive Director, Libby Hunter becomes WordPlay's first paid employee. Students embark on a field trip to the University of Kentucky. Children's book authors Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett visit the writing center in Northside. Ride for Reading Cincinnati launches.

Board member Michael Link organizes Creature Feature, an early fundraiser. Local and nationally renowned artists and authors, such as Nikki Giovanni and George Saunders, create works of art in an online auction supporting WordPlay.



≡ 500+ program participants
(averaging 155 enrolled in ongoing programs)



≡ 500 volunteers & audience members



≡ 1,000+ books given away



≡ 16 programs & workshops

2014

WordPlay hires its second and third employees. The Writer-in-Residence program begins with Cincinnati's first Poet Laureate Pauletta Hansel. Students write and perform in Enter Stage Write, a page-to-stage production.

The Exquisite Corpse project partners WordPlay students and notable artists to create works of art, which are displayed at Braze Street Studios. Participating artists include Jim Borgman, Will Hillenbrand, Sarah Jones and the late Andrea Cheng.



≡ 750+ program participants
(averaging 400 enrolled in ongoing programs)



≡ 700 volunteers & audience members



≡ 2,500+ books given away



≡ 21 programs & workshops



 = 50 students

 = 100 people

 = 100 books

 = 1 program or workshop



2015

Staff increases to four. WordPlay co-founds poetry competition Louder Than a Bomb - Cincinnati with UC and Elementz. WordPlay student Lacey "Asylum" Robinson wins first place. Award-winning writers J. Ivy, Jacqueline Woodson, Sharon Draper and Rafael Rosado visit the writing center in Northside.

300+ students hang poems in trees for the public to read and take home in the first annual Poet Tree project. The first cohort of WordPlay Aiken students earns their diplomas.



= 2,150+ program participants

(averaging 499 enrolled in ongoing programs)



= 900 volunteers & audience members



= 3,500+ books given away



= 26 programs & workshops

2016

WordPlay hires a fifth employee. Program offerings expand through a combination of creative strategy, community input and academic research. Students from the Scribes teen poetry troupe perform regularly throughout the city.

Notable partnerships include Cincinnati Public Schools, the psychology and education departments at the University of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Museum Center, FotoFocus and local creative organizations Pones Inc. and Visionaries + Voices.



= 3,000+ program participants

(averaging 550 enrolled in ongoing programs)



= 1,000 volunteers & audience members



= 4,000+ books given away



= 35 programs & workshops

2017

WordPlay grows to a staff of six and opens its second location inside Aiken High School. The Scribes teen poets mark their 40th public performance. Thanks to a generous donor, 30 teens participate in two civil rights-themed field trips.

WordPlay partners with the Academy of World Languages and Aiken's ESL program to reach 70+ refugee and immigrant students. A new partnership forms with the Cincinnati Arts Association to provide integrated arts programming in schools.



= 4,900+ program participants

(averaging 600 enrolled in ongoing programs)



= 1,500 volunteers & audience members



= 5,000+ books given away



= 52 programs & workshops





DESIRAE & NOELLE

Teaching Artist & Student, Mentor & Mentee, Friends

WordPlay teaching artist and Program Coordinator Desirae Hosley first met Noelle O'Neal in 2014. WordPlay was working with Noelle's school, Seven Hills, to prepare for Cincinnati's Louder Than a Bomb youth poetry slam.

Over the coming years, Noelle became a regular in Desirae's office, noting that she "sought Desirae for everything—she was the first person I could turn to about my writing."

Desirae recalls her first impression of Noelle as a brave young voice, willing to progress on stage and in her writing; "Noelle asked for criticism and wanted to do better and better—and she ended up killing it on stage!"

Noelle also began attending Scribes, WordPlay's teen poetry and spoken word program, which Desirae continues to lead each week.

"[Scribes] made me aware of Cincinnati in a way I had never been before," Noelle says. "We definitely grew up in a bubble in my school; the people you knew lived close by, and I was always aware of the fact that there were more important things out there. Poetry is a common ground."

Having completed her first year at Kenyon College, Noelle is looking forward to coming back to WordPlay as a volunteer and mentor to other young writers.

As for what she will take forward from her time with Desirae? "I still talk a lot with Desirae about the world. I trust her to tell me things that will be helpful for me to understand new situations, things where there are no right answers," Noelle says. "Desirae never tells me 'this is how you'll figure it out,' but instead offers ideas, and I do it myself. Definitely my understanding of writing and performance have improved astronomically thanks to her."

**"[Scribes] made me aware of
Cincinnati in a way I had
never been before. ...
Poetry is a common ground."**

Desirae, too, is grateful for her time with Noelle. "Teenagers are where my heart is, letting them know they aren't alone. We are all going through this with you," Desirae says.



RIDE FOR READING

Five years of bikes and books

In 2013, WordPlay launched Ride for Reading Cincinnati with neighbor Northside business SPUN Bicycles. Inspired by the national program based in Nashville, Ride for Reading aims to address the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income students by providing books for students' home libraries. Studies show that having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on raising a child's level of education.

The 2017 event gathered together volunteers to deliver 3,500 books to students at Frederick Douglass Elementary School, bringing the total number of books delivered since 2013 up to 7,000. Books were collected via donations, as well as from partner organizations Adopt A Book and Better World Books. To top off an already successful event, the City of Cincinnati officially declared May 12, 2017 Ride for Reading Day.



Photo credits:
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County



JARED O'ROARK

WordPlay's first Education & Outreach Director

In 2017, WordPlay welcomed Jared O'Roark as the organization's first full-time Education & Outreach Director. In this role, Jared directs programming for all ages, which includes identifying new collaborations to help WordPlay expand across the city.



"The team at WordPlay has truly been welcoming of my new ideas, especially for broadening the styles of writing offered through specific themed workshops that resonate with young people's areas of interest," Jared says.

Jared came to WordPlay from Florida, where he spent 15 years working in nonprofit arts education. He has worked as Professional Development Lead alongside the Director of Education and Community Relations at the Cincinnati Arts Association and managed projects and programs at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Tampa.

In addition, Jared specializes in training youth educators in creative teaching strategies, helping young people create the safe

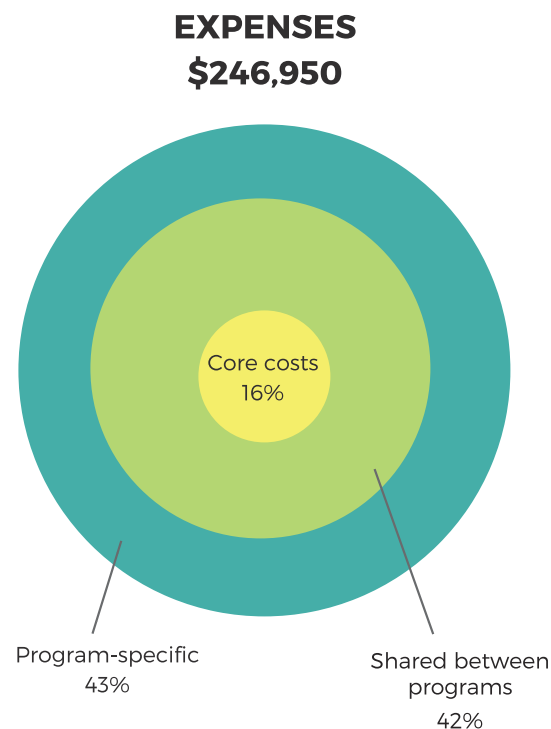
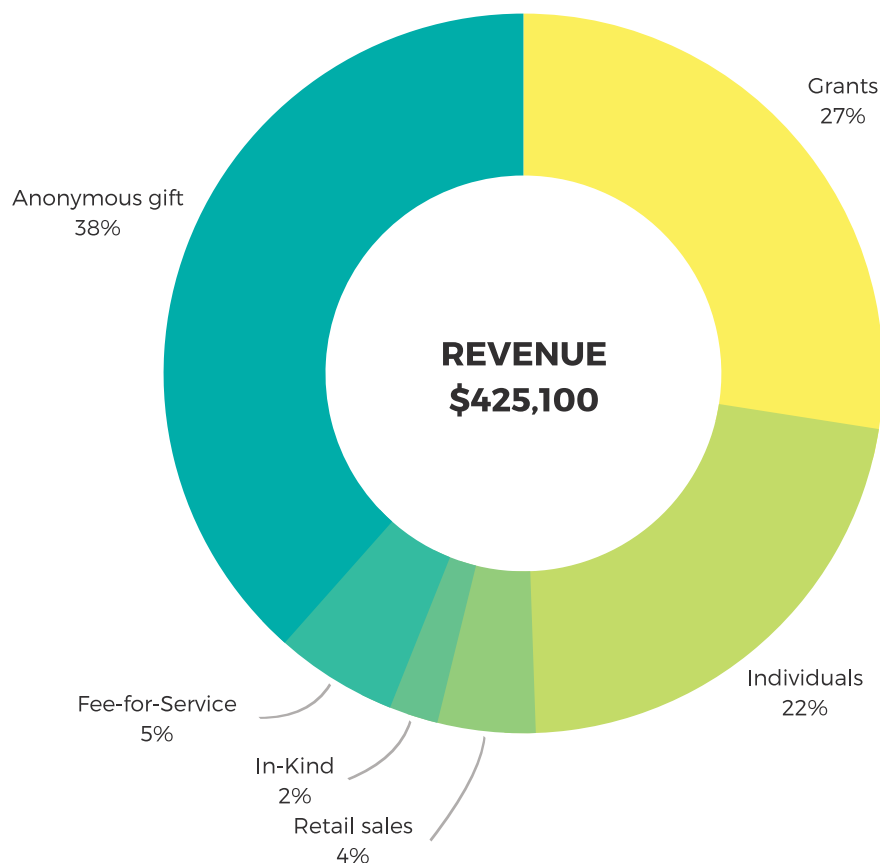
intellectual and emotional space in which learning can happen.

"I see this position as a fantastic opportunity to build the love that children, teens and young adults have for words and storytelling," Jared says.

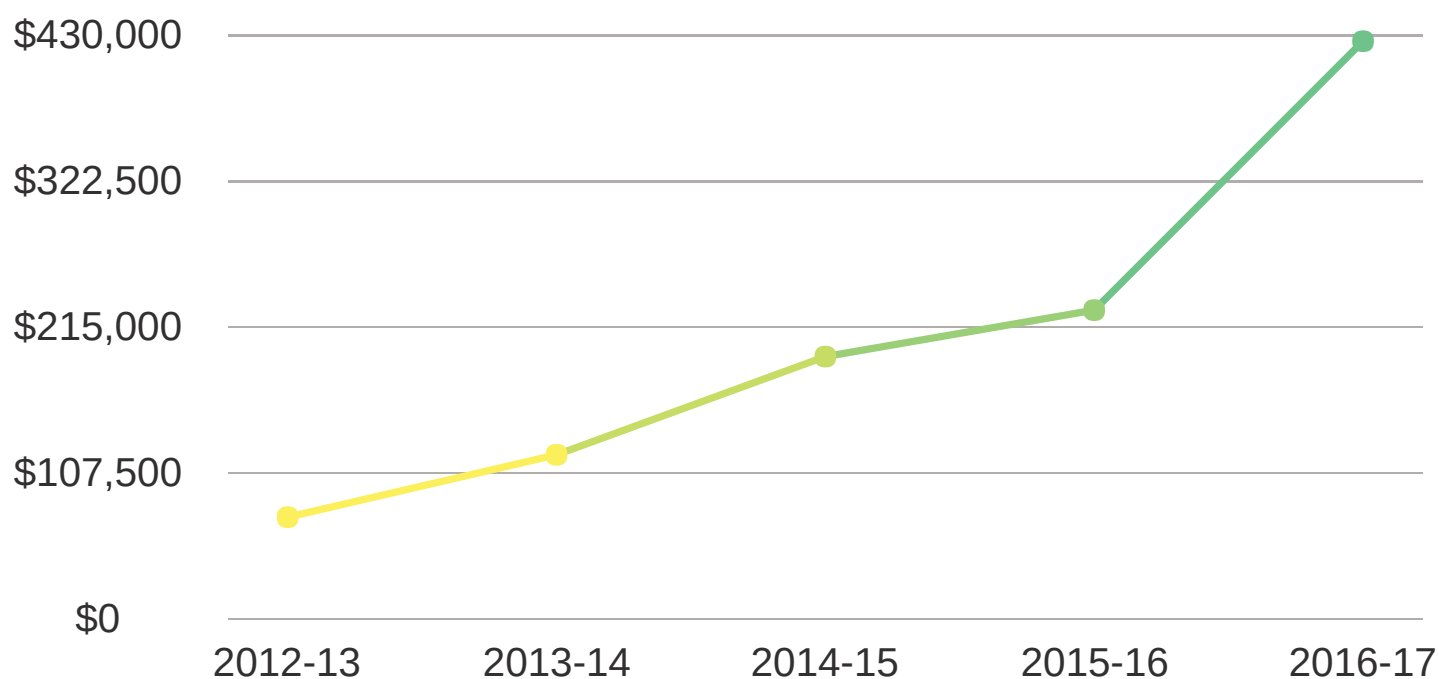


REVENUE AND EXPENSES

2016-2017 Fiscal Year



REVENUE RETROSPECTIVE



THE WORDPLAY CANON OF GIVING

Our deepest gratitude for your ongoing generosity



The following list comprises donations that took place in calendar years 2016 and 2017.

Please bring omissions or corrections to our attention and we will correct all errors in future publications and acknowledgments.

Legends | \$10,000+

Anonymous Friends
ArtsWave
Kimberly & Martin Chavez
Charles H. Dater Foundation
Ed & Joann Hubert Family Foundation
Landen Family Foundation
George & Margaret McLane Foundation
Nicola & Maureen Pietoso
Richard Polt & Julie Anne Gifford
Robert & Adele Schiff Family Foundation
Louise Taft Semple Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation
U.S. Department of Education

Bards | \$5,000-\$9,999

Difference Maker Legacy Fund
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Maggie & Karl Gieseke
Michael Holder, Holder Creative LLC
Interact for Health
Andrew Jergens Foundation
Ohio Arts Council
The Schulz Family
Woodward Trust
Yelp! Foundation

Laureates | \$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous Friends
Deborah & Keith Andrews
Kelley & Troy Bronsink
Otto M. Budig Family Foundation
Tom & Maureen Callinan
Colby Chapman & Marc Manly
Cincinnati Museum Center
Sheila & Philip Cohen
Combined Federal Campaign of IN, KY, SWOH
Crosset Family Foundation
Paul De Marco & Karen Smith
Richard & Freda Flerlage Foundation
Sarah Foster
Clay Francis
Katharine Freeman
General Electric
Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile/U.S. Bank Foundation
Judy Heiny & Piotr Chomczynski
Dan & Kathleen Hennessey
Joseph-Beth Booksellers
Junior Women's Club of Wyoming
Patrick & Susan Keefe Family Foundation
James & Carol Kelly Fund
Robert A. & Marian K. Kennedy Trust
Martha J. Kidd Foundation
Austin E. Knowlton Foundation

Drs. Eva & Richard Komoroski
Drs. Uma Kotagal & K. Shashi Kant
Krol Family Charitable Fund
Krombholz Jewelers
Heather & Lee Krombholz
Magnified Giving
Mangat, Holzapfel & Lied
Kelly McDow, Esq.
Marie & Thomas Monaco
Mount Saint Joseph Student Philanthropy
Shawn Newman
Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust
On Paper, Inc.
OTR Brewery District C.U.R.C.
Mary Beth & Salvatore Privitera
Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio
Cynthia & Denis Read
Kate & Phillip Ridley
Rock Island Realty
Tom Schessler & Mark Palkovic
Scripps Howard Foundation
Ann Segal & Jerry Malsh
Christopher Shroat
Snack in a Sak
Social Venture Partners
Kathleen Spencer
Staples Foundation
Talmetrix, Inc. c/o The DPS Family Fund
Yvonne Van Eijden & Alexander Vinks
Michelle & Wynndel Watts
Vanessa & Richard Wayne
Maxwell Weaver Fund
Elissa Yancey

Literati | \$500-\$999

Mrs. Melissa W. & Dr. Dallas G. Auvil
Mac Barnett
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Harry Blanton
Caryn Breen
Cincinnati Arts Association
Catherine Clark
Cynthia & Ian Collins
Nigel Cotterill & JC Diaz
Diesel, A Bookstore
Michael J. Ehrensberger
Sherry Ford
Sam Foulkes
Monica Gerstle
Karen & Carlos Gutierrez
Michelle Hackman
Lia & Bruce Hager
Kathy Hamm

David Hennessey
Jessica & David Hunter
Jen Kawanari
KeyBank Foundation
Kroger Company
Drs. Robert & Maria Krzeski
Barbara Kulbaga
Sophia McAllister
Arnold Miller
Kim Miller & Dr. Gene Chung
Christine & Richard Montefiore
Joseph Moorman & Kate Eisenpress
Northside Community Council
Phillip J. Nuxhall
Robyn O'Brien
Penguin Random House
Laurie Pike
Raines, Buechel, Conley, Dusing & Sutton, PLLC
Vicki & David Rider
Jens G. Rosenkrantz, Jr.
Jessica Salyers
Matt Sander
Monica Schroeder
Linda Seiter & Chuck Brown
Sheri Selk
D'Shon & Jon Shapiro
Tricia Suit & Eric Appleby
Amy Summerville
Julie Tran
Linda Trebbi
Julia & George Wadih
Mikey Warden
Louise Watts
Chuck Webster, A Catered Affair
Wilmington College
Stephanie Wyler
Debbie & Keith Zook

Wordsmiths | \$101-\$499

Amazon Smile
Julie Anglim
Deborah Arapa
Joe Armao
Corey Asay, Esq.
Angela Asselin
Marjory & Bruce Barkhau
Jennifer Bass
Hilairy Begley
Linda & Andrew Berger
Cynthia Berre
Kevin Bertke

Wordsmiths (cont.) | \$101-\$499

Elizabeth A. Betemps
Dr. Jayapandian & Vanagambika Bhaskaran
Mary Billmire
Bishop Family Fund
Eve Bolton
Jim Brofft
Kathy & Ed Buechel
Carolyn Burke
Julia Carlson
Daniel Chia
Chubb Insurance Co.
Patrick Clements
Ron Clemons
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Lloyd Cobble
Ethna Cooper
Susan Cramer
CRAVE Restaurant
James Crosset
Shannon Crutchfield
Daniele Cusentino
Cut and Sewn, LLC
Amy Dean
Sara & Jacob Drabik
Barbara Druffel
Candace Ellis
Alice Emmons & Thomas Owens
Charlotte Fabe
Barbara Fant
Priscilla Faux
Lauren & Frank Fernandez
Findlay Market Biergarten
Lori & Gerry Finke
Rebecca Finnigan
First Book
Michael Fisher
Fletcher Realty, Inc.
Patricia Frey
Future Life Now
Jo Anne M. Gibbons & John R. Getz
Nancy Gill
JoAnne Gilliam
Grace Restaurant, LLC
GRAD Cincinnati, Inc.
Donald Gruber
Jacquelyn Gruer & Gail Fiebig
Peter Haberkorn
Stephanie Hackman
Rebecca Hennessey
Frank Henson
Michelle Holley
Robin & Wayne Holstein
Gordon Hue
Elizabeth Hunter
Pamela Innes
Lynn M & Gregg R. Jankowski
Robert Jonason
Stephanie Jones
Susan & Kevin Kelly
Joanne & Tom Kennard
David Kennedy
Ruthanne Kline

Judy Kraus
Kelly & Scott Kremer
Caren & William Laverty
Lisa & Ernest Lee
Dave Levin
Patrick Limbach
Ayanna Love
Alexandria Lubans-Otto
Doris Marks Rodier
Laura Martin, Esq.
Dr. Robin Martin
Nicola Mason & Michael Griffith
Stacey McIntyre
Lisa Meeks
Rena Mei-Tal
The Mercantile Library
Mary G. Miller
David Moore
Patricia & Mo Nazek
Fred Neurohr
Northside Bank
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation
Margaret & Bill O'Kain
Oxford Title
Mark Painter, Esq.
Phoenix Restaurant Group, Inc.
Amanda & Cristian Pietoso
Elizabeth & Ioannis C. Pioscos
David S. Pointe
Dr. Michael Privitera
Gerald Reid
June & Don Reynolds
Sean Rhiney
Courtney Rice
John Robinson, Jr.
Rachael Sampson
Suzanne Schindler
Nicole & Chad Scholten
Shake It, Inc.
Eric Smith
Helen Smith
Adam Stegman
Monica J. & Robert T. Strathern
Katie & Jeffrey Syrone
Leah Terhune
Vince Tierney
Amy Townsend-Small
Phillip Trotwood
Mindy & Breck Weigel
Karen Williams
Robert J. Wimpberg
Susan Zaunbrecher, Esq.

Storytellers | Up to \$100

Susan Abernethy Frank
Marcella Allison
Jillian Altus
James M. & Marjorie C. Anderson
Anna Armao
Rose Arnell
Art Group
Arwa & Khahlil Atwan
Marilyn F. Baldwin


Steph Barnard
Patricia Bath
Andrea Beck
Caitlin Behle & Evan Roberts
Donald & Nancy Beimesche
Clare & Tony Blankemeyer
Kelly Blewett
DeJuan Jamel Blumberg
Patrick Borders
Toastacia Boyd
Elizabeth Brand
Beth Brann
Kate Bridgeman
Kendra Broadwater
Stephen & Ann Bromberg
Carrie & Kurt Brown
Christie Brown
John Bruggen
Rebecca Brunner
Cara Buerger
Building Value Corp.
Melissa Burdick
Patricia Campos
Phyllis Scott & Robert K. Cappel
Thomas Carver
Anne Cassia
Celestia International
Kerri Denise & Michael J. Chaney
Charitable Words
Erin C. & Alexander L. Childs
Sunjoo & Andrew Chun
Cincinnati Marathon Inc.
Mark Ciolli
Nadya & Robby Cload
Corey Cloyd
Jennifer Cohen
The Comet
The Community Writer
Peter Cooper
Elizabeth Cornwell
Barbara Cowley-Durst
Angela Cracchiolo
Nancy Crace
Matthew Cullinan
Michelle & Leo D'Cruz
Thais & Remco deJong
Mary & Michael Delaney
Hon. Susan J. Dlott
DNS Group
James Patrick Dobric
Linda Docter & Stephen B. Herzog
Jayne Martin Dressing
Emma Durham
Crystal Eldridge & Kyle McAllister
Megan Elenicik
Emily Ellis
Betsy Emery
Jean Eschenbach
Anne Evans
Jan & Richard Evans
Lauren Farr

Storytellers (cont.) | Up to \$100

Diane Fee
Denise Fitzgerald
Follett Corporation
Form Building Solutions LLC
Stacie Furst
Davida Gable
Francis Ganance & Judy Trombly
Leeann Garrett
Rebecca Gasiewicz
Matthew Gildea
Lewis Goldfarb
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Kim Graham
Chris Graves
Hillel Gray
Pam Green & Landen Summay
Gloria Gruer
Stacie Haas
Jasper Hammonds
Zuri Hammonds
Meg Hanrahan
Pauletta Hansel
Kate Harrow
Sarah Hawkins
Victoria Hayes
Samantha Hedges
John Hein
Walter Hemmens
Mary D. Hensel
Amy Hequembourg
Julia Hermes
Nicki & Miette Hilshorst
Teresa Hoelle & Scott Provancher
Dorothy Houck
Edward Houck
Jennifer & Sean Hughes
Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman
Catholic Church
Jennifer Imsande
Christa Iwu
Candace & Peter Janidlo
Brittany Johnson
R. Daniel Johnson
Sheri L. Johnson
Joan Kaup
Michael Keller
Rian Keller
Laura Kennedy
Arlene Klein
Kim Klosterman
Tony Knies
Darlyne Koretos
Theresa Kulbaga
Edward Kwon
Ann Lafferty
Shandra Lalley
Karin Langner
Susan Langner
Steven Lansky
Christina LaVecchia
Martha Lea
Carol M. Leigh
Maggie Leon
Christopher Lewis

Robyn Lightcap
Cassandra Lipp
Judi & Dominic LoPresti
Angie & Wally Lovejoy
Anne Lozier
Karl M. Lutes
Julia Mace & Ed Rush
Macy's / Bloomingdale's
Jean & Richard Mankamyer
Katy Mankamyer
Christopher Martellino
Pamela Matson
Mayhew Creative
Carmen McCanna
Melissa McClure
Matt McDonald & Mark Miller
Alyssa McInanahan
Meghan McNamara
Carolyn Milillo
Emily Miller
Marcia Minsky
Leslie Mittendorf
Katherine Monasterio
Howard M. Monte
Ryan & Jesse Mooney-Bullock
Joanne Moore
Raynal Moore
Susan Moore
Katie & Mike Moroski
Anne Moss
Stephanie & Tyler Moss
Norbert Nadel
KellyAnn Nelson
Kathryn Neus & John J. Fox
James & Patricia Niedhard
Sarah Nimmo
David Nolan
Northside Hardware Corp.
Northside Tavern
Molly & Mark O'Brien
Colleen O'Connell
Rachel & Ryan O'Malley
One Technologies, Inc.
Open Wound, Inc.
Barkha Patel
Paypal Giving Fund
Hazel Pegues Williams
Kurt Percy
Pike 27
Andrew Pike
Joan Pike
Mark Plano Clark
Andrea Poling
Isa Polt-Jones
Jory Pomeranz
Misty Porter
Frank Pospisil
Rebecca Potter
Rick Pouliot
Scott Priestle
Rosemary & Michael Quaranta
Sheryl Rajbhandari
Yvonne Reissig
Elsa Reverendo & Ajax Alexandre
Christine Rice

Jen Ridenour
David Rippe
Ursula Roma
Susan & Robert Rost
Ruth's Parkside Cafe
Sarah Saarela
Danielle Sabarese
Schaeper's Pharmacy Inc.
Amy & Russ Schardein
Robert Scheadler
Kathleen Schill
Julianne K. & David Schmitt
Emily Schneider
Barry Schwartz
Kelly Scovanner
Shefali Shah
Emma Shibley
T. Cecilia Slonkosky
Barbara Smith
Scott Smith
Donna Snyder
Elizabeth Solaro
South Block Properties, Ltd.
Maria Southman
Sarah Speeg
James W. Steele
Paul Stegman
Jennifer Steube & Pippin Rush
Tamia Stinson
Scott Stoll
Victor Strunk
Janet Tepe
Jennifer Thomas
Jannine & William Thompson
Linda Thomson
Elizabeth Tillis-Gilland
Soroya Smith & Together
Thanking 30
Veronica Tollefson
Carol Tonge Mack
Allyson Trebbi
Tucker's 2.0
Julie Tucker-Sullivan
Emily Tunnat
Anne Wainscott
Helen & Ernie Waits
Christopher Wales & Erin Connor
Andrea Warnken
Tricia Watts
Gerald V. Weigle, Jr.
Peter Weil
Amy West
S. Leigh Whitaker
Donald & Emily White
Nicolas Whiteford-Wayne &
Myra Bhatnagar
Phillip Whitford
Annette Wick
Barbara Wiley-Kroner & Mark Kroner
Sherry Willbrand
Geri Wilson
Patricia Wilson
Sharon Yurkowski



"Because of WordPlay, I learned that walking to the
beat of my own drum doesn't mean walking alone. "

- Olivia, age 16 -

"You can't just save the world by yourself.
We are all in this together."

- Violet, age 12 -

"If I was a flower, I would be dandelions
because they come back no matter what
and never give up."

- Bix, age 10 -

"Almost 8 years later, we still know each other.
And that's more than just a friendship.

That's family."

- Max, age 13 -

"WORDPLAY HELPED ME
LEARN TO BE ME IN A WAY
THAT I NEVER KNEW
I COULD BE."



WORDPLAY
A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.



WORDPLAYCINCY.ORG
LEARN MORE. DONATE. VOLUNTEER.



4041 HAMILTON AVE. CINCINNATI, OH 45223

513.541.0930
info@wordplaycincy.org