



*2018-2019*

# IMPACT REPORT

*Photo by Catherine Grace Photography*

**PRESENTED BY**  
*WordPlay Cincy*

*4234 Hamilton Avenue | Cincinnati, OH 45223*

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513-996-0010 | [info@wordplaycincy.org](mailto:info@wordplaycincy.org) | [www.wordplaycincy.org](http://www.wordplaycincy.org)

# A message from WordPlay's Executive Director

Lined up against the bookcases stood a troupe of teenagers, hailing from west side to east. Some had been raised by families comfortably settled for generations; others had only recently arrived in the country; one had been shuttled between various relatives and homeless shelters for years. Each was waiting his or her turn at the microphone, a chance to share their story through poetry. All ears and eyes in the room were trained on their voices. The youngest and final performer, a 12-year-old newly arrived to Cincinnati, had never stood in front of a mic before, let alone an audience. When she stumbled over her first line, hand to face to hide the swelling tears, the others came to her side, stood by her and wrapped their arms around her shoulders, bolstering her with their show of support. She quietly finished her piece, and she beamed.

This seemingly small slice of WordPlay captures our true essence: a space where young people activate their strengths to forge connections through creativity, exploration and validation. 2018 and 2019, years 6 and 7 for WordPlay, witnessed so much good: new students, community partners, schools, families, volunteers, Board members and staff to whom I offer my sincerest gratitude for expanding our horizons. To all who have engaged in our work, attended a performance, donated to a campaign or simply followed our progress—thank you. Just as our young poet standing before her first-ever audience, your support lifts us up to carry forward our mission, creating tangible and lasting impact for all.



Sincerely yours,

*Libby Hunter*



Photo by Catherine Grace Photography

## STRATEGIC PLAN

In early 2019, WordPlay's staff and Board of Trustees completed a process of strategic planning, facilitated by Partners In Change. This plan looks ahead to the organization's priorities for the next 3 years, with 4 primary objectives:

- 1. Our People.** Invest in staff, teaching artists and volunteers to empower professional growth while supporting well-being.
- 2. Impact.** Maximize the impact of programs, partnerships and advocacy.
- 3. Scale.** Create effective, high quality programs that can be replicated in schools and neighborhoods.
- 4. Sustainability.** Develop a consistent strategy to generate earned and contributed income and grow our budget.

# WORD PLAY



513-996-0010  
info@wordplaycincy.org  
www.wordplaycincy.org

**About WordPlay:** WordPlay Cincy is a nonprofit writing center that offers free creative learning programs to young people across Greater Cincinnati.

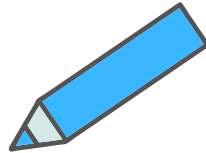
**Mission:** Creating spaces for young people to fulfill their potential by discovering, honoring & sharing their voices.

**Vision:** An inspired community of people who learn, thrive & share.

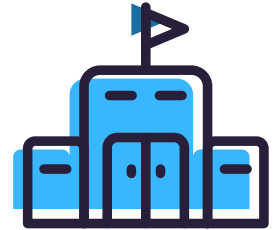
## 2018-2019 OUR IMPACT



1,200 young people  
(ages 5-18) reached per  
month across all programs



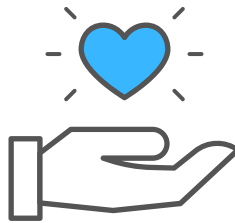
23 creative learning  
programs offered in  
schools, neighborhoods &  
partner organizations



6 partners through  
Cincinnati Public  
Schools



12 teaching artists  
leading integrated  
arts programs



40 dedicated volunteers  
logging 260 hours



Over 5,000 books  
donated to build kids'  
home libraries

85%

of participants are  
from low-income  
households

0%

of families have to  
pay for WordPlay's  
programs & services

### SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF YOUTH VOICES

In 2019, WordPlay participants Lilly, Daphne and Azaria received invitations to serve as delegates to the International Congress of Youth Voices in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They joined 100 other young writers and activists from around the world for a 3-day gathering of panels, speakers and discussion around current events and social justice issues.

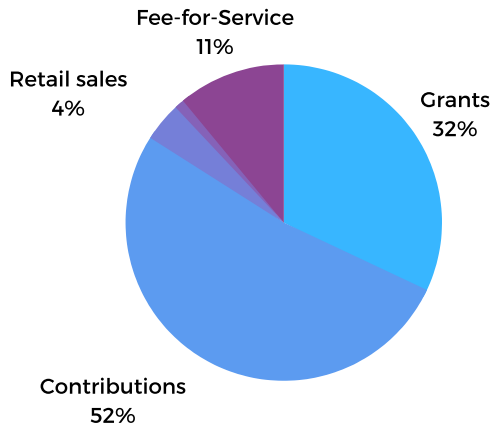


# REVENUE & EXPENSES

2018-2019\*

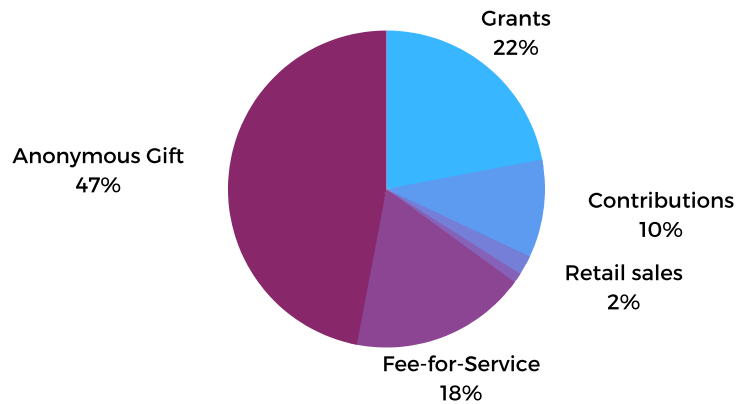
## 2018 REVENUE

\$323,996



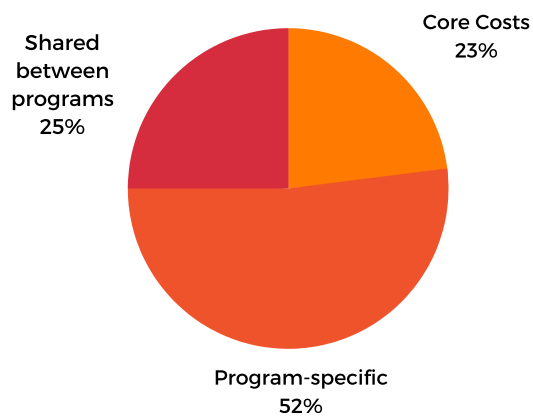
## 2019 REVENUE

\$1,046,982



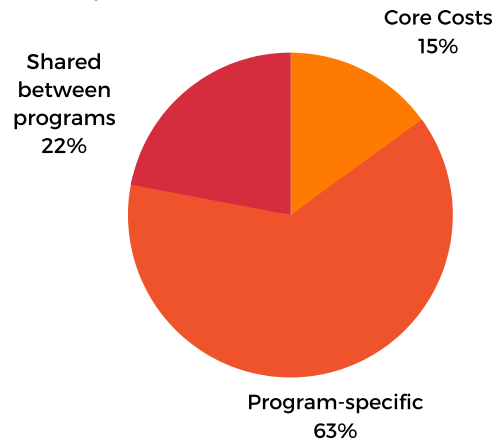
## 2018 EXPENSES

\$329,109

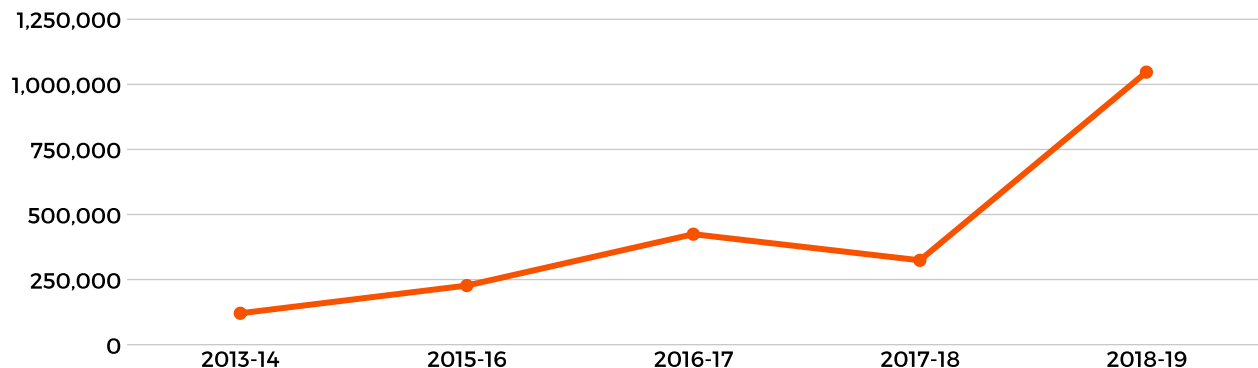


## 2019 EXPENSES

\$513,813



## REVENUE RETROSPECTIVE



\*Pending accountant review



# OUR CANON OF GIVING

The following list comprises gifts and donations to WordPlay that took place from January 2018 through July 2019. Please bring omissions or corrections to our attention and we will correct all errors in future publications and acknowledgments.

Kari Acton  
Ometeji Adeyemon  
Janelle Allen  
Eleanora C.U. Alms Trust  
Alexander Alvarez  
Amazon Smile  
Deborah & Keith Andrews  
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The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
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Michael Duffy  
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Crystal & Kyle Eldridge McAllister



*"Not only had I grown as a reader but my imagination had grown wild."*

*—Audrey, age 9, writing about her first time reading Harry Potter*

Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati  
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Christina Zorn

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Cincinnati Arts Association  
Cincinnati Museum Center  
Cincinnati Opera  
Cincinnati Public Schools  
Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
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Cradle Cincinnati  
Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati  
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Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition  
Midpointe Library  
Music Resource Center  
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Project Connect  
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County  
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Sayler Park Elementary School  
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South Avondale Elementary School  
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