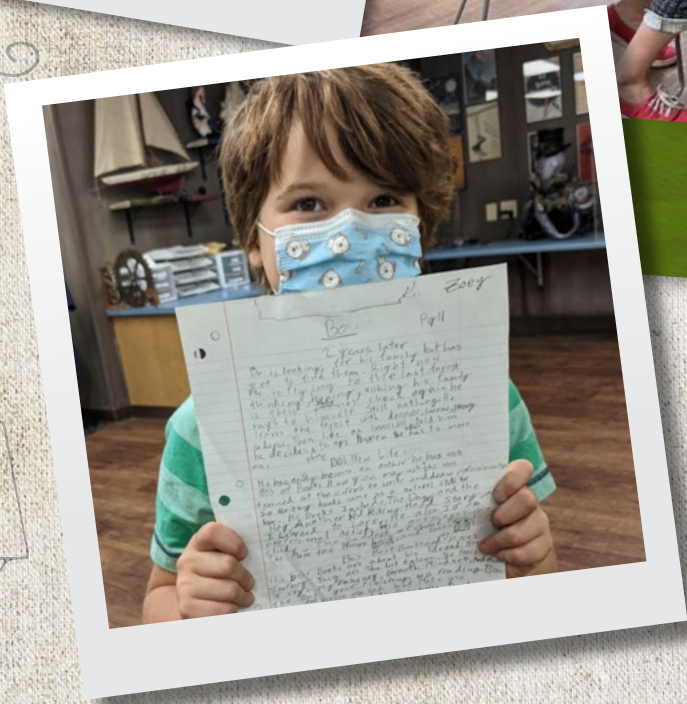


# Celebrating 10 Years of 916 Ink



**Annual Report 2020**  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021



It is my honor to share with you this annual report for the 2020-2021 Program Year. This was a time of rapid change and pervasive uncertainty.

I don't know that any of us fully understand the impact the last two years have had, but I do know that 916 Ink continued to be a positive force for the youth we worked with. We stayed true to our mission and found a way to persevere—that is worth celebrating.

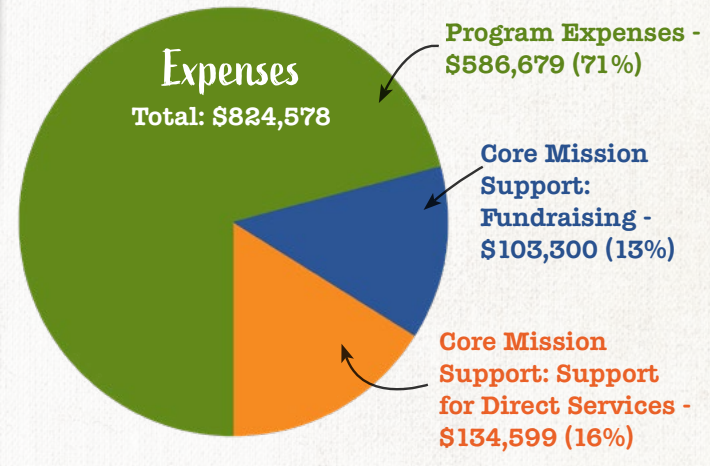
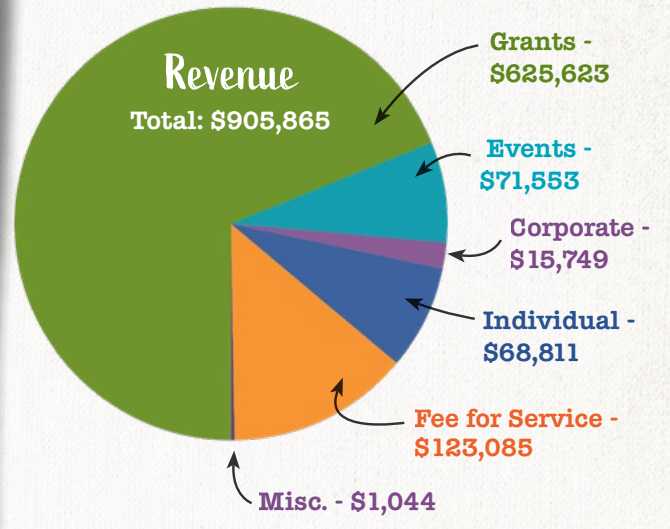
Our Find your Voice programs have provided an environment over the last year where young people can freely express themselves, the good and the bad, the tragic, and the hilarious.

Our new Read On! tutoring program has used the power of individualized instruction to reverse some of the negative impacts of young readers' recent tumultuous experiences.

Additionally, enclosed is a celebration of 916 Ink's 10 years of operation! From the genius beginnings of an idea to the collective dream of our founders to the sustainable Sacramento institution we are today, 916 Ink's journey has been one of resilience, creativity, and innovation.

None of this would be possible without the incredible staff, donors, volunteers, board members, and funders who have chosen to join us in our belief that we can do better for our young people. Because of you, I am certain that the next 10 years will be as impactful, inspiring, and delightfully "inky" as the first 10.

In service,



**I leave here with more confidence in my writing. With a deeper understanding of writing. With more appreciation for teachers. With hope this year will be better than the last.**

— NATALIE ELLIOTT-CISNEROS, 15 YEARS OLD

# 2020-2021 Program Year



Find Your Voice is our signature creative writing program. We work with young writers in a variety of settings: from workshop series in a school or community setting, to after-school programs, to Amplify! Creative Writing Summer Camps.

**598**  
Young Writers

**10,764**  
Hours of Creative  
Writing Instruction  
Delivered

**91%** Improved attitudes  
towards writing

**75%** Improved academic behaviors

**95%** Improved in terms of social-  
emotional development



**308**  
Published Authors

**28**  
Publications

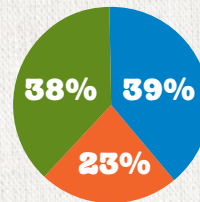
**7**  
School Districts

**51**  
Programs

**21**  
School Sites

Workshops occur in:

Underserved /  
low-income  
schools



Community  
partnerships /  
other

At-risk / juvenile justice

**“ I leave here with a passion for  
writing and a writing brain. ”**

— JAYDEN SIU, 9 YEARS OLD



In 2020, we launched a new pilot program called Read On! This rigorous one-on-one virtual tutoring program builds critical literacy skills for participating students. First year impact data show how effective this program is. Read On! fits in well with the core mission of 916 Ink, because writers read, and readers write!

Number of Students  
**32**

Hours of Tutoring  
**1081**

Number of  
Volunteer Tutors  
**28**

**100%** of Read On! students showed  
growth in foundational  
reading skills.

**100%** of families had positive  
impressions of the  
program and growth  
their child showed.

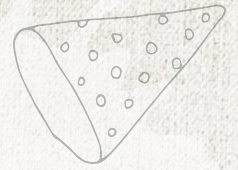
Participating students  
improved reading skills at a

**50% greater rate**  
than they would achieve  
without intervention.

**“ The Read On! staff, tutors, and volunteers are so dedicated to helping children meet their reading potential. Their patience, support, and encouragement have made my son more confident as a reader. That confidence has pushed him to want to read beyond his previous comfort level. ”** - ANONYMOUS PARENT



# Key Funders for 2020-2021



Albert & Elaine Borchard Foundation

Arata Brothers Trust

California Arts Council

California State Library

Cannady-Ford Family Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation

City of Elk Grove

City of Rancho Cordova Measure H

City of Sacramento

County of Sacramento

Golden 1 Credit Union

Margaret Detering Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation

RCA Community Fund

Sacramento City Unified School District

Sacramento County Office of Education

Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture

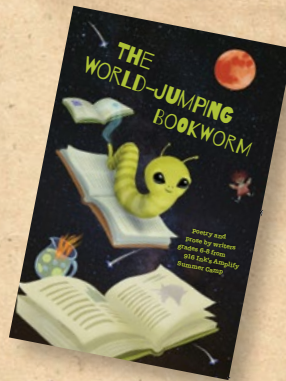
Teichert Foundation

Visions in Education

## The Spark

by Trillian Creath, 12 years old

Eternal darkness. Nothing there, just black upon black upon black.  
 No, wait. What could that be?  
 Light. One tiny, flickering light, the only something within the nothing.  
 Suddenly: "I can't."  
 The words echo around the nothingness.  
 The light dims.  
 "No, it's 'yet.'"  
 Again, the voice reverberates.  
 "I can't yet."  
 The tiny glow brightens steadily.  
 Where might this nothing and this light be?  
 Why, in you, of course. In all of us.  
 Around us.  
 Pulsating through the universe.  
 A dance of thought and flame, flame and thought.  
 What could it be, you ask?  
 Joy. Positivity. Self-confidence.  
 The spark of a heart, mind, soul, aflame with inspiration.



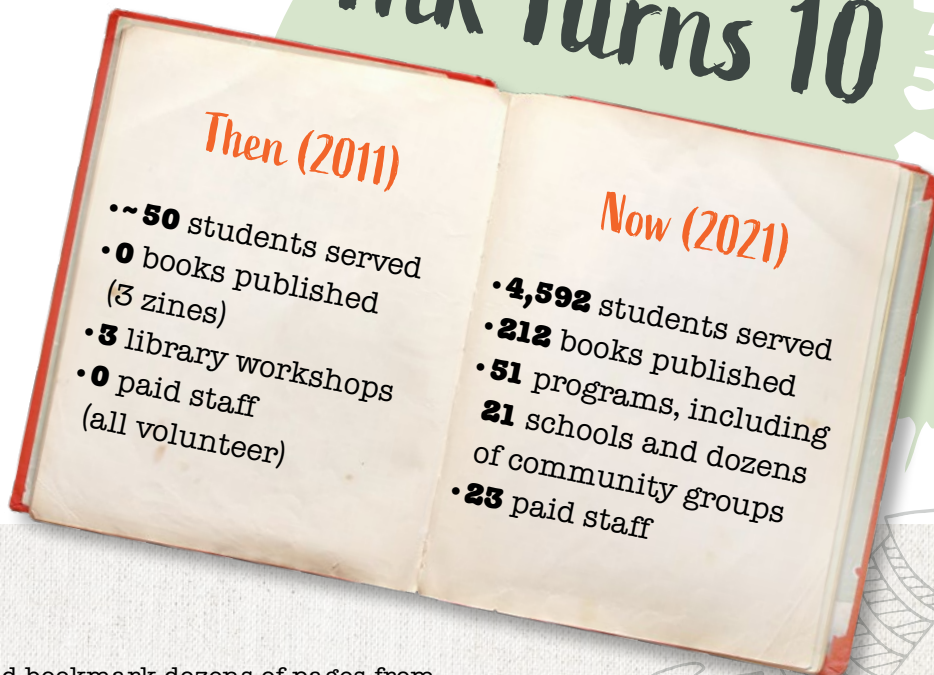
Thank you for your support of youth voices!



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# Ink Turns 10



## Then (2011)

- ~50 students served
- 0 books published (3 zines)
- 3 library workshops
- 0 paid staff (all volunteer)

## Now (2021)

- 4,592 students served
- 212 books published
- 51 programs, including 21 schools and dozens of community groups
- 23 paid staff

## Top 10 in 10

When looking for highlights, we could bookmark dozens of pages from this first chapter of Ink history. But we had to narrow it down! Here are 10 moments from the past 10 years that we are especially proud of and set the scene for what's to come.

### 1 PUBLISHED OUR FIRST BOOK:

From our launch, we knew publishing young authors in real books was key.



In 2013 we published our first professionally printed anthology of student work. Ten years later, we are humbled to have 212 books in our library. That's 4,598 young writers who have seen their names in print and know their voices matter.

### 2 EXPLORED NEW VENUES FOR OUR WORK:

Early workshops took place in collaboration with the Sacramento Public Library and The Salvation Army. In 2013, we partnered with our first school sites to reach more young writers. Since then, we have shown that the Find Your Voice program works in a diverse array of settings.

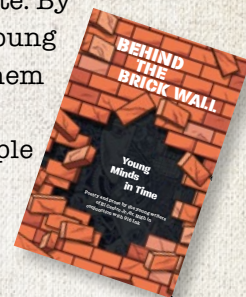
### 3 OPENED THE IMAGINARIUM:

In 2015, 916 Ink opened its whimsical creative writing palace, the Imaginarium, as part of the Maple Neighborhood Center initiative led by La Familia Counseling Center. This special space gave us an anchor and a permanent home to inspire hundreds of young writers.



### 4 PRIORITIZED SYSTEM-INVOLVED YOUTH:

In 2013, we partnered with Sacramento County Office of Education to begin programming in youth corrections facilities. Since then, we have expanded this work to other facilities throughout the state. By publishing these young writers, we show them their stories have value and that people want to hear what they have to say.



## 5 CREATED NEW ENVIRONMENTS FOR EMERGING WRITERS:

In 2016, we began holding summer camps and after-school programming in the Imaginarium. More recently we launched Author's Lab, for returning students who wish to deepen their writing skills, and Write Your Way, a series of genre workshops to delve into the mechanics of specific types of writing.



## 6 TOOK OUR SHOW ON THE ROAD:

Our earliest workshops focused in Sacramento County, but we've increasingly had opportunities to expand our horizons. While Sacramento remains our home base, we are thrilled to reach more youth by connecting with young writers throughout the state. In addition to our deep Sacramento roots, we've now held programs in Yolo, Contra Costa, Solano, and San Joaquin Counties. In early 2022, we'll be hosting our first workshop series in Ventura County!



Learn More

Watch video interviews with past students, board members, and volunteers, and read more about how far we've come.



## 7 PIVOTED DURING THE PANDEMIC:

When shelter-in-place orders began in March 2020, we knew that young people would continue to need the safe space, the academic enrichment, and the social-emotional development offered by 916 Ink's workshops. We spent one week regrouping and then shifted our programs online. Since then, we have served hundreds of students through virtual programming and will continue to host online workshops moving forward.



## 8 LAUNCHED READ ON!:

In 2020, we started a new story for 916 Ink with a reading tutoring program, called Read On! This program began as a pilot program, with two schools and a handful of students, and is rapidly growing (see current year results on the next page).



## 9 SERVED 4,500 YOUNG PEOPLE:

In 2021, we reached a milestone of 4,500 young people who have gone through a 916 Ink creative writing workshop or reading tutoring program. Overwhelmingly, our student writers tell us that 916 Ink helps them feel more confident, their reading and writing skills have improved, and they have a new love for the written word.



## 10 WE'VE LEVELED UP:

From an all-volunteer crew, hand-stapled zines, and a shoestring budget, we are thrilled to now have 23 staff, 200+ publications, and a budget that's about to pass the \$1 million mark. We're proud of how we've grown in such a short time, while always remaining true to the vision and inspiration of our original founders. We can't wait to turn the page to see what's going to happen next.

