HELLO!
WHY WE EXIST
WHO WE ARE
WHAT WE DO
GET LIT MEDIA
GROWTH
OUR TEAM
In Dante’s Inferno, the worst circle of hell is reserved for bystanders. Those who sit on the sidelines and fail to participate in life. In Healing Earthquakes, Jimmy Santiago Baca talks about the pain of looking out a window and watching people. Everyone had a purpose, except him. He felt like a useless arm disconnected from the body. We are all meant to participate. To jump in. Some of us do this boldly, loudly, colorfully, and some quietly, on the sidelines. But jump in we must.


This past June, I took a short sabbatical to Egypt for 3 weeks with Michael Beckwith and a group from Agape Spiritual Center. It was a time to raise our own vibration by listening to a culture older than time and its people from literally across the world. This arduous journey included 3AM wakeup calls, 9 hour bus rides across the desert, and wonders like climbing Mount Sinai and drinking tea with Bedouin desert dwellers.

One day we visited the Sekhmet Temple in Karnak, and there we saw one of the most powerful gods in the Egyptian pantheon, Sekhmet: god of sun, war, destruction, and power. She has the body of a woman and the face of a cat and resides in her own private chamber.

Everyone commented on the “orbs” that they saw, which are little flashing lights around her (some say spirits). You can see them in photographs, but I am sad to say that while they all reacted, I saw NOTHING.

I left her chamber, secretly begging the universe to please let ME see SOMETHING. I wanted to have a deep spiritual revelation, too. Right outside of Sekhmet’s chamber was Phah, her husband: god of creation, wisdom, and healing. (Side note: their child is Nefertum, god of sunrise.) Phah was represented by a statue, but the head was gone, so he was a wide open neck connected to shoulders.

Suddenly, out of this neck, I saw a flock of white birds fly and heard the words, “Sekhmet says every poem is a love poem... every child’s story a flock of birds.”

In that moment, I had a very emotional reaction because suddenly, I felt the full weight of all of the stories, poems, revelations I’ve carried for the past thirteen years. I never once considered the fact that all of these “poems” were in fact strands launched OUT in a heroic attempt to connect with the fabric of oneness, the tapestry of life and love of which we are all a part. The realization made me cry. To be in the midst of such generosity! Such stringing! Such giving! Such vulnerability, hopefulness, no matter how dark or negative the seeming projection, the sheer attempt is HOLY.

I immediately thought of the altar we were scheduled to make with master altar makers Ofelia Esparza and her daughter Rosanna Esparza Ahrens once I got back home. I texted them from the temple and shared those words. When I returned, we spent a collaborative day of writing and art making with our Poets and Rosanna and Ofelia chose Sekhmet’s revelation for our altar.

Every poem is a love poem... every child’s story a flock of birds.

This altar was created to celebrate Get Lit’s almost quinceanera. We are 13 this year, but the 15 year mark is quickly approaching, and this altar marks the beginning, middle, and just on the horizon steps of our journey.

We would like to thank each of you who have been a part of us getting here, and welcome those of you who are looking to join us in our future.

We are not bystanders, we are birds. Ever poised to fly.

Through the power of our Get Lit community, our words, dreams, and visions have already taken flight.

Diane Luby Lane

Founder & Executive Director of Get Lit - Words Ignite
EVERY POEM IS A LOVE POEM
At Learn4Life Concept Charter Schools, we have had hundreds of students across California go through the Get Lit Words Ignite program since 2015. From the Blitz shows, through the curriculum, and all the way to the Classic Slam - the program has been a game changer for our school centers. Get Lit blends language skills with Arts education and helps students from all backgrounds access learning that is relevant to their past, present and future lives - no matter which route they take.

Boris Tsalyuk
Curriculum Instruction Specialist (Experiential Programs), Learn4Life

"
CHILDREN GROW UP ILLITERATE
IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.

1 in 4 children in America grow up illiterate.
79% of low-income Black & Latinx third-grade students read below proficiency.

2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or living below the poverty line.

Only 39% of low-income students graduate from college.

75% of both 12th and 8th graders lack proficiency in writing, according to the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress.

V

10,000 students annually graduate GetLit.
10,000

960,000,000 total online views.

74% of GetLit students hold Title I status.

50,000 audience members served by GetLit.

300,000,000
The Get Lit program does more than teach students about word usage or metaphors. I have seen it quite literally save lives. One of my freshmen from a few years ago went from a suicide risk to one of the stars in our Music program because of this program.

Susan Requa
LAUSD Teacher of the Year,
Hamilton High School

Get Lit - Words Ignite fuses classic and spoken word poetry to increase teen literacy on the page and in visual media. We cultivate enthusiastic learners emboldened to inspire social consciousness in diverse communities.

Based in Los Angeles, Get Lit was founded in 2006 by Diane Luby Lane to increase literacy, empower youth, and inspire communities through poetry. The inspiration for Get Lit began with a solo show that Diane toured with internationally celebrated poet and advocate Jimmy Santiago Baca in venues ranging from high schools and universities to prisons. Teachers and teens responded with enthusiastic requests for poetry in their classrooms. Diane then developed a curriculum through which she saw the most reluctant youth, many on the brink of dropping out, transform into poets, leaders, and scholars.

To sustain this transformative work, Lane founded Get Lit - Words Ignite in 2006 as a project of Community Partners. In 2009, the organization incorporated as a 501(c)(3), and has experienced an increased demand for its services every year since.

The rest is history. Today, the curriculum has expanded from serving three schools to over 100 schools annually, representing an extremely broad range of school and community cultures throughout California and our global community. We have also launched the world’s first content studio led by youth: Get Lit Media. Get Lit Media puts the power into the hands of our young filmmakers by giving them the tools needed to tell their stories, shift the narrative, and ultimately, the world.
Get Lit’s model teaches “classic” poems and asks students to respond with original spoken word pieces to classics that resonate most.

>IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM
This award-winning, common core-aligned 12-week curriculum focuses on building literacy and social emotional skills.

>WORDS IGNITE CURRICULUM
Words Ignite is a year or semester long UC approved (a-g) curriculum taught California middle and high schools. It is a deep dive into project-based learning, problem solving, and social emotional skills to help students become exceptional readers, writers, and performers. Because of its track record of success in engaging students who are at risk of missing an on-time graduation, in 2018, the Los Angeles Unified School Board approved our curriculum as a certified Intervention Course for 9th and 10th grade.

>GET LIT RESIDENCY
Get Lit’s dynamic and highly trained teaching artists lead classes in a 12-week residency to engage and ignite students.

>THE RESULT...IS ELECTRIC
100% of teachers see an increase in engagement & achievement in their students after participating in Get Lit.

>CLASSIC SLAM
The culmination of our in-school program, where hundreds of youth from over 50 schools come to watch and compete in the largest youth classic poetry slam in the world for audiences of thousands.

<Poetic Convergence
A TED-style summit where teachers, students, & poetic luminaries converge to plot a future for arts education in Southern California through workshops, seminars, & trainings.

>Summer Intensives
We host poetry and film intensive camps including training from our professional in-house artists, guest speakers, and group outings to theatres & other cultural events. Intensives culminate in a final show.

<Poetic Programming
We also host monthly open mics as well as long-form theatrical productions, professional development trainings for teachers, & more.
As a 15 year veteran English teacher, I have found Get Lit to be the premier method to teach poetry to middle- and high-school students. I was a skeptic when we started the program, but now I am a full believer in everything Get Lit does to inspire and educate young learners in the reading, analyzing, writing, and appreciating of all things poetic. I have never had students more passionate about how they use their words, economically and effectively, to communicate what they see and experience. In English classes, I think the methodology of this program should be as ubiquitous as double-entry journals, reading circles, and document-based-questioning. Get Lit rules.

Robin Powers
Teacher and Interim Admin,
Larchmont High School

DROP-IN CLASS

Our free writing & performance workshop for storytellers of all experience levels. This curriculum driven program is led by award winning coaches every Saturday throughout the school year at our headquarters in Koreatown and prepares our poets to become Get Lit Players.

GET LIT PLAYERS

Our professional performance troupe & the most watched poets on the internet. The Get Lit Players can be commissioned for anthems, manifestos, and original works of any kind. They have been featured at The White House, The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Center, and more!

LITERATI FELLOWS

Graduated Get Lit Players who are in college or working in their chosen fields, serve as mentors for younger poets as well as performers. The group meets monthly for training in literacy, leadership, life skills, finance, & more, to ease the transition from high school into adulthood.
Get Lit Media is a social enterprise created by youth for the world . . .

**>GET LIT MEDIA**
A professional creative collective, educational incubator, and production company with youth ages, 16-25, that bends society with ideas + turns social media into social action. Working closely with inventive strategists, Get Lit Media delivers research insights, inspired concepts, + multimedia content to cutting-edge organizations.

**>PILOT**
A Two-Year Independent Filmmaking Program for Youth, ages 13-20, teaches students how to write, produce, direct and edit their own films and digital content. The students will also receive the opportunity to work with respected visiting filmmakers who share a gift for teaching the art of storytelling, screenwriting, and filmmaking.

**>POETIC SCREENWRITERS LAB**
In partnership with The Writers’ Guild Foundation and Final Draft, this workshop series gives selected young screenwriters the opportunity to work intensively on their scripts with the support of established writers. Fellows engage in a rigorous process that offers lessons in craft to facilitate the deep exploration needed to fully realize their material.

**>GET LIT NOW**
A weekly series that makes you think. A poetic editorial where our poets respond to the most pressing current events.

**>0!**
An original ode series of life, love, and celebration. Shot on location by our youth poets. One camera. One take.

**>GET LIT GLOBE**
An interview series hosted by spoken word poet, Maia Mayor, where she speaks with other regional, national, and international poets, writers, and authors covering diverse topics such as inspiration, the writing process, career strategies, and the things that connect all writers around the globe.

**>HELP VIDEOS**
Our Help Video Series is hosted by spoken word poets Mila Cuda, Violeta Esquivel, and Khamal Iwuanyanwu who share spoken word performance and writing tips in poetic verse of course!

**>POETIC GAMER**
A video game review, analysis, and gameplay series hosted by spoken word poet, Matthew Cuban Hernandez, where he looks at playing video games from both a therapeutic mental health perspective and literary enrichment viewpoint. The games he plays give him an opportunity to interview guest poets while playing their favorite video games.
2018-2019 BUDGET BREAKDOWN.

- Foundation Grants: $456,237.61
- Government Grants: $81,595.00
- Individual Contributions: $263,520.41
- Corporate Contributions: $180,823.84
- Earned Income: $271,921.87
- In-Kind Donations: $2,727.21

NOTE: Surplus allows for Get Lit to operate with a cash reserve.
### 2018-2019 EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classic Slam</td>
<td>$248,003.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>After School</td>
<td>$261,103.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>In School</td>
<td>$247,076.36</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Get Lit Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,265,843.69</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Programs** >>> $931,200.33
- **Administrative** >>> $145,489.80
- **Development** >>> $189,153.56
- **Total** >>> $1,265,843.69

GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH
I Love GET LIT & believe with every fiber of my being this should be a program in all high schools. It's WAY more than poetry. It shows that every person has their own story that shimmers and fascinates.

Pamela Adlon
Actress, Writer, Producer, Director

Through reading and performing many classics over the years, I've learned the sacredness behind memorizing. Memorizing poems means holding the words in your mouth, understanding how to wrap your tongue around each letter like hard candies to savor. There were many moments where I would feel anxious, and I calmed myself down by reciting poems that gave me strength. I would pull words from worry, turn classics into confidence. Savoring these poems, I now know, is to be saved. Because Get Lit taught me to claim my poem, claim my life. This fall, I will be attending the University of San Francisco as a media studies major. Coupled with my academic achievements, my Get Lit Now piece earned me a scholarship of 88,000!!! Thank you for helping shape me into the woman I am today.

Bridgette Yang
2019 Get Lit Player

I love GET LIT & believe with every fiber of my being this should be a program in all high schools. It’s WAY more than poetry. It shows that every person has their own story that shimmers and fascinates.

Pamela Adlon
Actress, Writer, Producer, Director
OUR STAFF

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Education Coordinator/GFX Co-Coach

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Mila CUDA  
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Teaching Artist

Brian Sonia-Wallace  
Teaching Artist

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I have seen students transformed by their engagement with the Get Lit curriculum. One student who was on the verge of being expelled for defiance joined our poetry team and found a place for their voice to be heard in a productive way. Another equally capable student was not comfortable speaking out until they performed on a Get Lit stage; that student went on to be their class salutatorian.

Laura Farrell
Teacher, Camino Nuevo High School