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This year was a particularly special year. We opened the curriculum to amazing students from all across the city who represented different gender expressions, races, classes, and even geographic locations. Over the course of the year, a familiar refrain was “I come to school just for this class.”

SUSAN REQUA
Teacher, Hamilton High School
What is a Liminal Space?

The word liminal comes from the Latin word limen, meaning threshold – any point or place of entering or beginning. This is a space between worlds: It is cracking open a book. Taking the stage. Crossing a border. Richard Rohr calls it “the sacred space where the old world is able to fall apart, and a bigger world is revealed.”

Creating and maintaining an organization like Get Lit is a largely liminal activity. We are leaving reached plateaus to stretch for new landings. Writing three year-plans in ever-shifting circumstances. Leading teams confidently, on hunches as we go.

We are world-building.

This process is glorious and humbling. Getting ahead by not forgetting where we came from: The vision, the opportunity, the yet-to-be revealed emergence of all that we might be.

Here is a snapshot of Get Lit’s 2017-2018 journey.

We have enjoyed the ride!

DIANE LUBY LANE
Founder & Executive Director of Get Lit - Words Ignite
WHY
WE EXIST
Why We Exist

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.
• **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.
• **40%** of those who took the ACT writing exam in the high school class of 2016 lacked the reading and writing skills necessary to successfully complete a college-level English composition class.

• **10,000** students annually graduate Get Lit.
• **50,000** audience members served by Get Lit.
• **300,000,000** total online views.
• **74%** of Get Lit schools hold Title 1 status.

In the face of arts education & literacy crises, Get Lit is a homegrown remedy.
WHO
WE ARE
WHO WE ARE

MISSION

GET LIT – WORDS IGNITE FUSES CLASSIC AND SPOKEN WORD POETRY TO INCREASE TEEN LITERACY AND CULTIVATE ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNERS EMBOLDENED TO INSPIRE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

“CLAIM YOUR POEM, CLAIM YOUR LIFE.”

HISTORY

Diane Luby Lane created a one-woman show about the power of words and toured with poet Jimmy Santiago Baca. After the show closed, she couldn’t bear the thought of cutting off the work completely. She started teaching classic and spoken word poetry in 3 high schools, Fairfax, Fremont, and Walt Whitman. When the semester ended the students wouldn’t leave. They insisted on meeting after school. Diane developed an innovative poetry-based 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, Diane founded Get Lit 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 Los Angeles. Curriculum requests flow in from Mexico to New Zealand.
WHAT WE DO
WE LEARN FROM THE GREATS.

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. It is a deep dive into project-based learning, problem solving, and social emotional skills to help students become exceptional readers, writers, and performers. The course is currently being piloted with our official partner LAUSD, the second largest school district in the nation, to use poetry as intervention to target student success.

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.
Get Lit is a world-class organization which is the one of the largest of its kind, but no detail is overlooked by their extremely competent leadership in the planning of their LAUSD-approved curricula and events alike. Leadership and citizenship is part and parcel of what Get Lit engenders in young people, and it shows in the young poets’ outlooks. They actively recruit others to join them in their poetic pursuits, and they never fail to acknowledge just how much Get Lit has changed their lives.

DAVID METZ
Teacher, Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts
A GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMS...

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 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.
I remember the first time the Get Lit Players came to my school I knew I had to be on the team. They made me feel less alone, and I wanted to spread that feeling with others. I don't know where I would be without Get Lit; it feels like I have finally found a family.

OLYMPIA MICCIO
Venice High School, Get Lit Player
MORE PROGRAMS...

**DROP-IN CLASS:**
Our free writing & performance workshop for storytellers of all experience levels, every Saturday throughout the school year at our headquarters in Koreatown!

**GET LIT PLAYERS:**
Our professional performance troupe & the most watched poets on the internet. The GLPs can be commissioned for anthems, manifestos, and original works of any kind.

**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, performance, finance, & more, to ease the transition from high school into adulthood.
LITERARY

RIOT!
“LITERARY RIOT” IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CREATED BY YOUTH FOR THE WORLD . . .

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.

LITERARY RIOT MEDIA: A professional creative collective, ages 16-25, that bends society with ideas + turn social media into social action. Working closely with inventive strategists at Wondros, Literary Riot delivers research insights, inspired concepts, + multimedia content to cutting-edge organizations.

SCREENWRITER’S LAB: A writers’ workshop series that 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.
Collaborating with the students of Get Lit was a highlight of my career. During the student-led March For Our Lives events this year, we were fortunate enough to bring some of their powerful stories to life on screen. These capable and talented activists inspired our production team, and the entire country, reminding us that regardless of our age, we can all affect positive change. These students have a bright future and I look forward to witnessing all that they achieve.

JORDAN BARROW
Executive Producer, Den of Thieves
Literary Riot!

Get Lit has officially launched the world’s first content studio led by youth.

Get Lit Now: A weekly series that makes you think. A poetic editorial where our poets respond to the most pressing and relevant issues.

O!de: 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.

Write to Riot: A docuseries that follows a group of individual poets and their high school slam teams as they prepare for the world’s largest classic poetry festival, the Get Lit Classic Slam. The series traverses through the diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles, creating a real-world portrait of the city and it’s youth culture.

Explore at literaryriot.org.
GROWTH
2017-2018
BUDGET BREAKDOWN

REVENUE SOURCE

Foundation Grants: $393,600
Government Grants: $46,325
Individual Contributions: $207,429.55
Corporate Contributions: $75,130.81
Earned Income: $414,757.60
In-Kind Donations: $34,053.17

REVENUE: $1,171,296.13

EXPENSES: $1,140,978.99

NET INCOME: $30,317.14

* Surplus allows for Get Lit to operate with a cash reserve.
2017 - 2018
EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

PROGRAM EXPENSES

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
Program Expenses: $976,241.72

Administrative Expenses: $107,536.41

Fundraising Expenses: $57,200.86

Total Expenses: $1,140,978.99
$10,000 +
Adam Stern
Trivas Family
Ellen Picataggio
Berne Evans
Suzy & Steve Gilison
Leonora Horwin

$5,000 - $9,999
William Cho
Gina Browne
Richard Luby
Anna Akana
Paul Jablon
Mikkel Eriksen
Suzanne Stern

$1,000 - $4,999
Gary Romoff
Arnold Cattani
Seniora Matthews
Erika Aronson
Carolyn Rodriguez
Naveena Ponnusamy
Ned Colletti
Suzanne McManus
Steven & Melissa Sloan
Delta Wright
Theodore Chittenden
Diane Cary
Sara Meshael Garcia
Teiji Kawana
Jill Rosenthal
Tim Lane
Kirk Ayers
Yosi Sergeant
Paola Gianturco

$500 - $999
Helen Park
Robbert De Klerk
Ann Spinelli
Kirsten Sarkisian
Philip Angelides
Eric Helrn
Natalie Marrero
Candice Rusch
Marianne Perls
Jeane Hamilton
Mindy Fox
Leah Corselli Felisan
Christine Bren
Tina Gittelsson
John Tumlin
Katrina Tyme
Kym Bye
Margaret Huebner

$250 - $499
Eugene Allen
Yulianna Rafailova
Jeffery Light
Charles Jensen
Stephen Prough
Deborah North
Sarah Koskoff
Christina Kretschmer
Wanda Rudd
Vincent Thompson
Tiffany Mosely
Patricia Garza
Ralph Finfrock
Nancy Bornn
Michelle Snyder
Robert Judge
Sebastian Vignieri
Elizabeth Friedman

$100 - $249
Lida Jennings
Harriet Aronow
Katherine Moore
Andrea Abeleda
Eric Fullilove
Sylvie Vaught
Lola Kirke
Delia De La Vara
Lorri Espinosa
Michael Drabkin
Ted Bean
Gina Blumfeld
Cristina Pacheco
Ira Brodsky
Bob Zaugh
Leslie Poliak
Edward Vandenberg
Leilani Riehle
Emily Church
John Hollingsworth
Johanna Blakley
Seymour Englander
Deb Patterson
Jerry Saslow
Christina Calcote
Claudette Sutherland
Terese Kohn
Hugh Kretschmer
Caroline Heindel
Clark Simon
Susan Parker
Jenna Lubet
Terry Curtin
Jonathan Zeichner
Jordan Padams
Michael Burns
Adam Mlodzinski
Rebecca Wolf
Jenna Diaz-Gonzalez
Roberta McMorrow
Jean Kling
Judy Bain
Heather Heslup
Velta Moore
Todd Lane
Glenn Frank
Jennifer Pittie
Fernanda Erlanger
Yvette Bergeron
Toby Gilbert

$5 - $100
Kaycee Conlee
Matt Hanna
Kate Buss
Chelsea File
Michael Legum
Mathew Perelman
Jina Virtue
Ariana Delware
Njoroge Nyoike
MaryAnne LoVerme
Kimberly Stuckwisch
Paige Glover
David Derus
Michael Schaefer
Carmen Roberts
Jordan Allen
Ellington Wells
Wanda Jane
Gilles Chiasson
Lynn Marks
Brad Koenepnick
Lisa Leschinsky
Barry Rothbart
Darrin Stuckwisch
Kella Birch
Charles Stone
Lindsey Kozberg
Reggie Blu
Carol Helm
Diana Farley
Danielle Smith
Robert Schulman
Mollie Green
OUR TEAM

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Founder & Executive Director

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Manager of Education & Pedagogy

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Program Associate & Graphic Production Artist

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Development Coordinator

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Literary Manager & Producer, 3 Arts Entertainment

TESS JABLON
Tour Accountant, David Weise & Associates

NATALIE MARRERO
Executive Director, Viver Brasil Dance Company
CIAO

...the powerful play goes on,
and you will **contribute a verse.**

Walt Whitman

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@GetLitPoet