



An abstract graphic design featuring the words "WORDS", "HOLD", and "POWER" repeated in a white, outlined, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three diagonal columns against a dark blue background. A red, halftone-style pattern is visible in the upper right corner, partially overlapping the "POWER" column. The overall composition is dynamic and layered.



**HELLO!**

**4**

**WHY WE EXIST**

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**WHO WE ARE**

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**GET LIT MEDIA**

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## A NOTE FROM **GET LIT'S** FOUNDER

“ I LEFT HER CHAMBER,  
SECRETLY BEGGING  
THE UNIVERSE TO  
PLEASE LET ME SEE  
*SOMETHING.* ”

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.

There are many stories and poems of pain. Of political unrest. Recognitions of injustice. Loss. Anger. Small and large cries for justice, a righting of a toppled ship in a sometimes endless stream of indignities.

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 Ptah, her husband: god of creation, wisdom, and healing. (Side note: their child is Nefertum, god of sunrise.) Ptah 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 striving! 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

HELLO!  
HELLO!  
HELLO!  
HELLO!  
HELLO!



EVERY POEM EVERY POEM IS A LOVE POEM IS A LOVE  
EVERY POEM EVERY POEM IS A LOVE POEM IS A LOVE  
EVERY POEM EVERY POEM IS A LOVE POEM IS A LOVE  
EVERY POEM EVERY POEM IS A LOVE POEM IS A LOVE



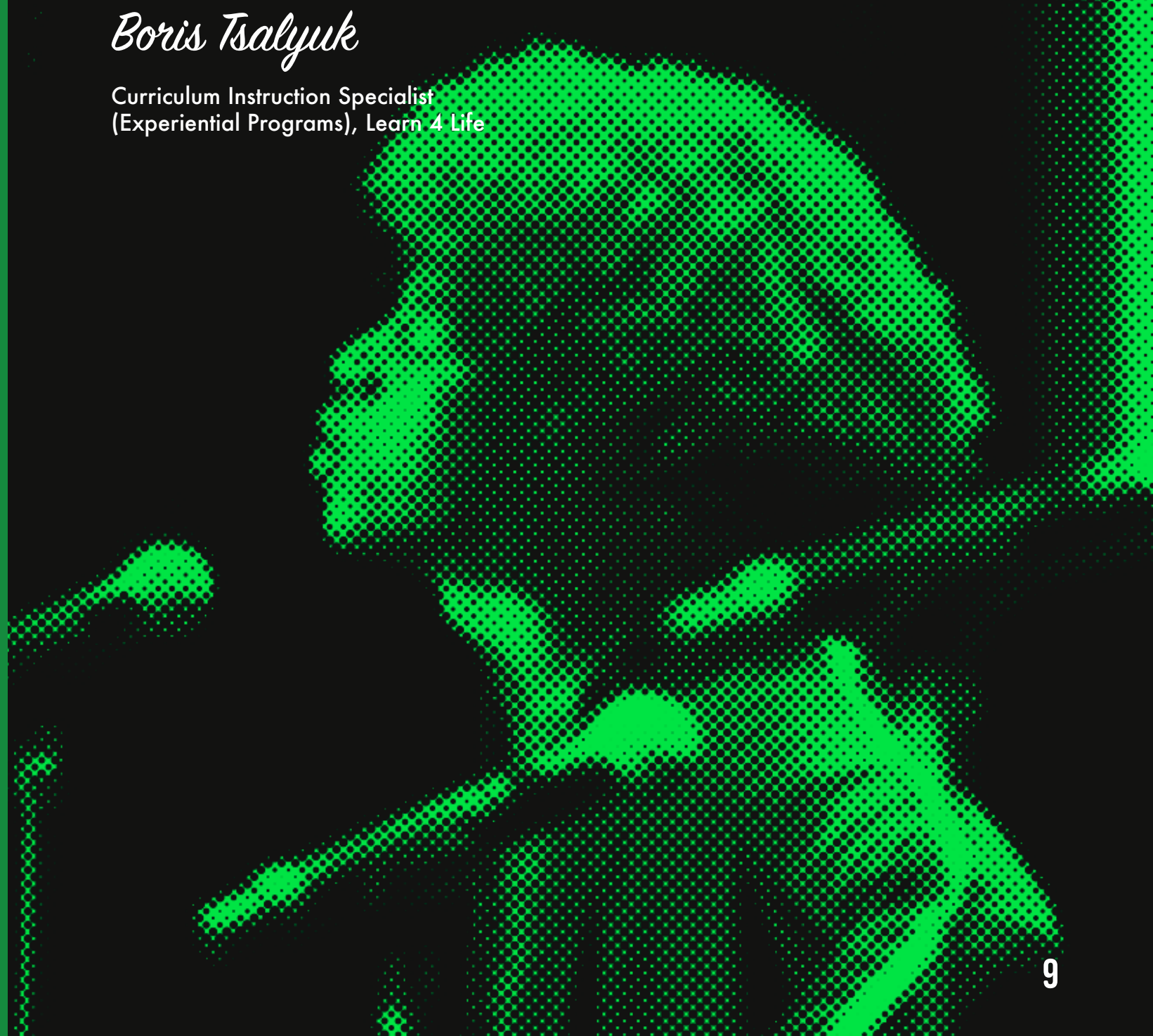


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“ At Learn4Life Concept Charter Schools, we have had hundreds of students across California go through the Get Lit Words Ignite program since 2015. From the Blitz shows, through the curriculum, and all the way to the Classic Slam - the program has 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), Learn 4 Life





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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.

**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.



**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.

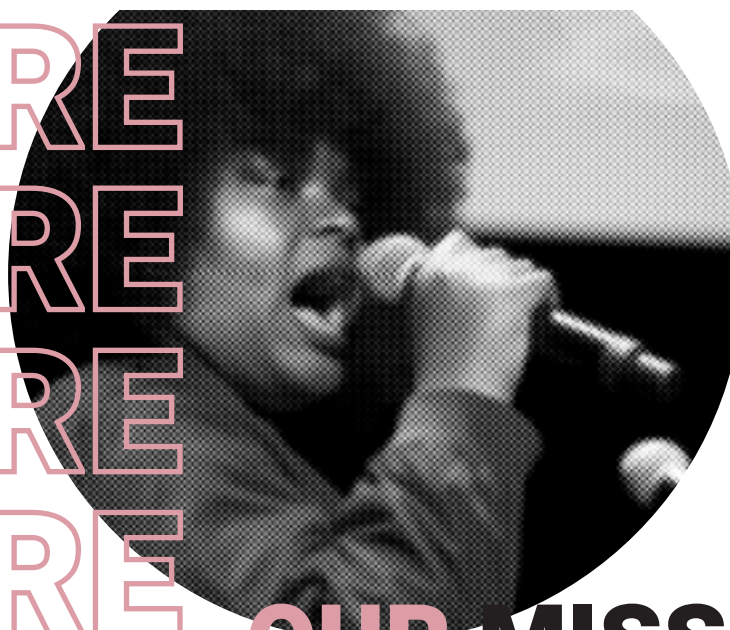


“ The Get Lit program does more than teach students about word usage or metaphors. I have seen it quite literally save lives. One of my freshmen from a few years ago went from a suicide risk to one of the stars in our Music program because of this program. ”

*Susan Regua*

LAUSD Teacher of the Year,  
Hamilton High School

WHO WE ARE  
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## OUR MISSION.

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.

## OUR HISTORY.

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.



**WE LEARN FROM THE GREATS.**

# A GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMS.



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.

#### >O!

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.

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>REVENUE SOURCE

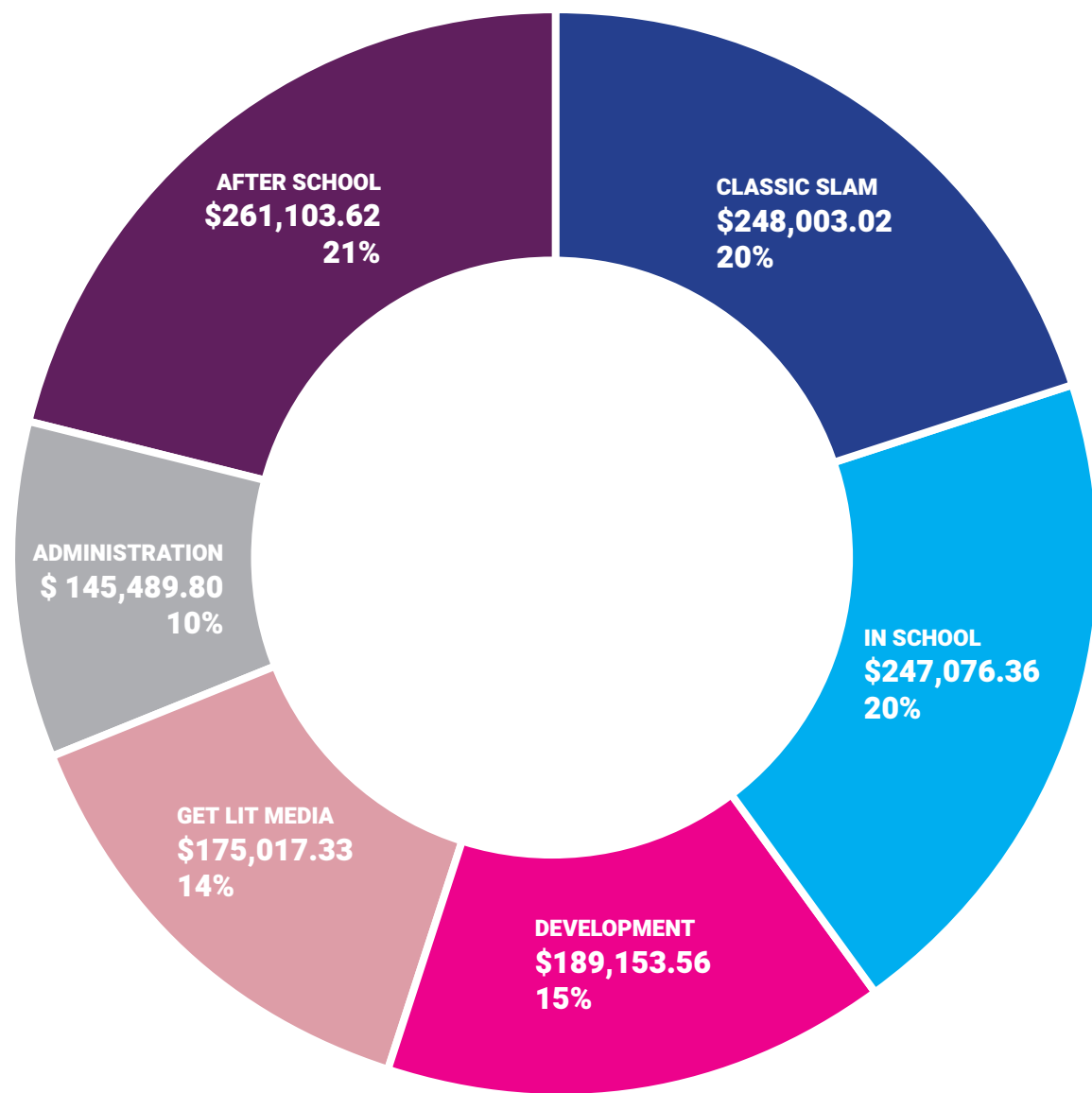
Foundation Grants: \$456,237.61  
Government Grants: \$81,595.00  
Individual Contributions: \$263,520.41  
Corporate Contributions: \$180,823.84  
Earned Income: \$271,921.87  
In-Kind Donations: \$2,727.21

>REVENUE	>>>	\$1,276,825.94
>EXPENSES	>>>	\$1,265,843.69
>NET INCOME	>>>	\$10,982.25

2018-2019 BUDGET BREAKDOWN.

NOTE: Surplus allows for Get Lit to operate with a cash reserve.

2018-2019 EXPENSES BREAKDOWN.



>PROGRAMS >>> \$931,200.33  
>ADMINISTRATIVE >>> \$145,489.80  
>DEVELOPMENT >>> \$189,153.56  
>TOTAL >>> \$1,265,843.69

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“ 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. ”

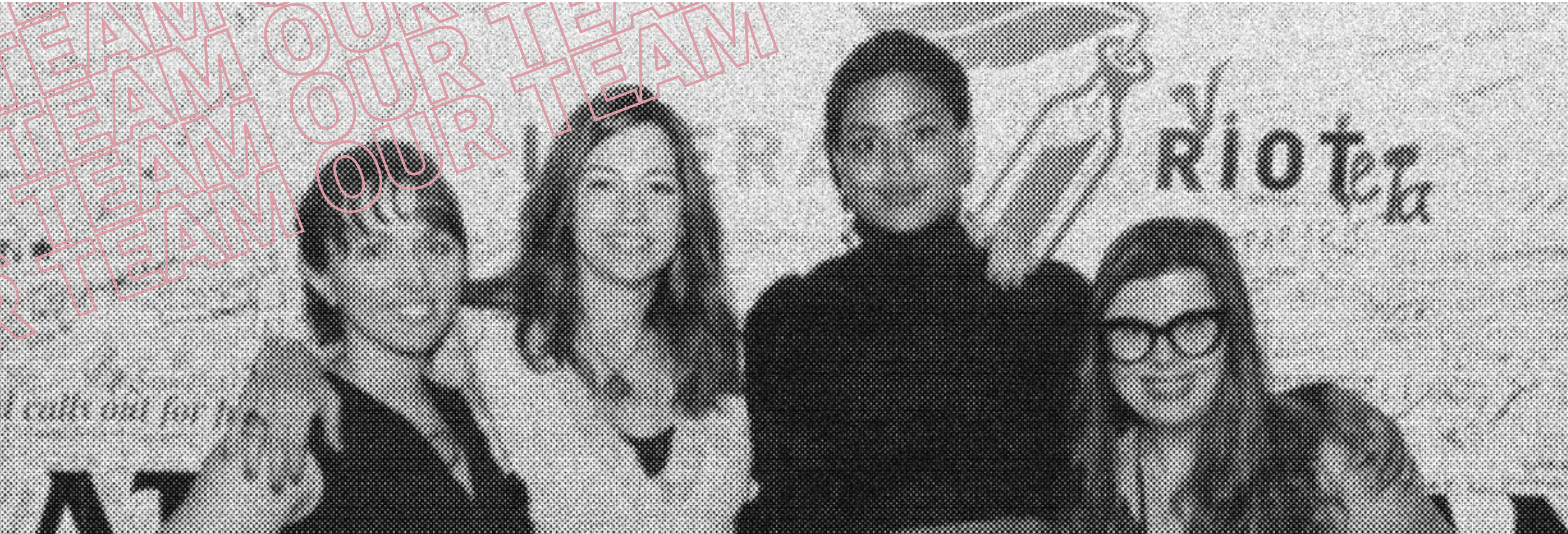
*Bridgette Yang*

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

**DIANE LUBY LANE**  
Founder and Executive Director

**AMANDA CONLEE**  
Director of Operations

**TESS JABLON**  
Operations Manager

**KELLY GRACE THOMAS VOJDANI**  
Director of Education & Pedagogy

**SAMUEL CURTIS**  
Head of Productions, Get Lit Media

**RACHEL KILROY**  
Program Associate & GFX Production Artist

**MONIQUE MITCHELL**  
Head of Community Outreach

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Education Coordinator/GLP Co-Coach

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Teaching Artist

**BRIAN SONIA-WALLACE**  
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ENERGY \$25,000+

Ash Grove Music Inc.  
Department of Mental Health  
State of California Library  
The Comast NBC Universal Foundation -  
Project Innovation  
William & Helen Stuber Endowment Fund  
Rosenthal Family Foundation

HEAT \$10,000–\$24,999

City of Los Angeles  
Hollywood Foreign Press Association  
Hudson Clothing LLC  
Peter Kim/ Golden Circle Group

WILDFIRE \$5,000–\$9,999

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Farmers Daughter Hotel  
Leslie Poliak  
Paul Jablon  
Susan Saltz  
Gravillis Inc  
Liberty Godshall

The Ahmanson Foundation  
The Hearst Foundation  
County of Los Angeles  
The California Endowment  
The Mark Hughes Foundation  
The Wunderkinder Foundation

Ellen & Peter Piccatagio  
Pasadena Community Foundation - Bolton  
The Vermont Apartments

Gary & Luisa Romoff  
Naveena Ponnusamy  
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Rags for Riches Foundation  
TOMS Shoes LLC  
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Harriet Aronow  
Lida Jennings  
Robert Zaugh  
Suzanne Mcmanus  
Hilary Siebens  
Roderick M Spencer  
Terry Curtin  
Jason Blackwell  
Roy Choi  
Tony Chu  
Wendy vanden Heuvel

TORCH \$500 - \$999

Aaron Harberts  
Heidi Frey Greenwald  
Mica Nafshun-Bone  
Sarah Pillsbury  
Alex Sangster  
Jean Chodos  
Michael Dieden & Dana  
Gluckstein  
Scott Harris  
AMA-LA  
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Mimi Kennedy  
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Andy Spahn

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Eric Helm  
Kelly Ziegler

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Vangaurd Charitable  
Erika Abrams  
Malanie Abrams  
Richard Luby  
Wendy Posner  
Gerald Kay  
Maria Ferrari  
Robert Greenwald  
YourCause, LLC  
Harris Smith  
Melanie Abrams

FLAME \$250 - \$499

Andia Bayandor  
Eugene Allen  
Jessica Oyelowo  
Maria Kuznetsova  
Andrea Zomber  
Gilbert Romoff  
Joanne Bancroft  
Marina Berti  
Ann Spinelli  
Glen McKinney  
John Keim

Michelle Snyder  
Benjamin Taverniti  
Gretchen Berg  
Karen Valencia  
Mindy Fox  
Blake Drabkin  
Heather Mathieson  
KC Paper  
OneUnited Bank  
Brett Eagan  
Helen Park

Kirsten Ellis  
Public Interest Investigations  
Brian Weitman  
Jas Maharu  
Laurie Benenson  
Steven Sloan  
Emily Zietlow Match  
Jennifer Levin  
Lori Nafshun  
Suzanne Thompson  
Canuto Borromeo

Lynz Floren  
Therese Curtin  
Charles Jensen  
Madyson Park  
Tiffany Mosely  
David Derus  
Yulia Rafailova  
Diesel, A Bookstore  
Emily Zietlow

SPARK \$100 - \$249

Andrea Rothschild  
Felix Pfeifle  
Jamie Thompson  
Maya Kell-abrams  
Anie Hong  
Frederick Toland  
Jasbir Daley  
Michael Drabkin  
Barbara Luby  
Gail Shingler  
Jerold Saslow  
Michael Henderson  
Benjamin Skerker  
Gina Blumenfeld  
Jerri Chou  
Michael Kass

Braden Pollock  
Grace Tuan  
Jonathan Rios  
Mike Goldstein  
Brenda Lozano  
Greg Liberman  
Karen Madigan  
Min Kim  
Carole Jablon Bernardi  
Gregory Curtin  
Katrina Frye  
Monica Chinlund  
Chloe Kim  
Gregory Liberman  
Kim Ohanneson  
Network for Good

Crystal Meurant-Davis  
Howard Abramson  
Laura Nieto  
Paola Gianturco  
Edison International  
Jaime Masuda  
Lucia Banuelos  
Rob & Nina Fresco  
Elizabeth Suzuki  
James Ellis  
Maria Alvarado  
Sam Nouri  
Eteban Alvarado  
Jamie McCormick  
Mary Kennedy  
Ted Bean

Scott Director  
Silvia Thomas  
Masa Sushi Bon Appetit Sushi  
& salad LLC  
Thomas Harrison  
Seimie Kim  
Stephanie Saldivar  
Toby Gilbert  
Thomas North  
Shelia Romana  
Susan Ollweiler  
Tracy Trivas

\$1 - \$99

Artemis Bayandor  
Karen Wong  
Lydia Tadross Marks  
Bronwyn Watson  
Cass Walrath

Kelsey Ko  
Skyler Evans  
Katherine Villoria  
Hiram Sims  
Leah Snell

Tisha Maldonado  
Timothy Shortnacy  
Jennifer Pooley  
Linda Powell  
Jamie Perelman

Wendelin Woolf  
Jill Demko  
Lois Sunrich

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GOVERNMENT



CORPORATE



FOUNDATIONS



COMMUNITY





“ 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

**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**  
**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**  
**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**  
**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**  
**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**  
**CLAIM YOUR LIFE**

The image features a solid yellow background with a repeating pattern of the text "CLAIM YOUR POEM". The text is rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The words are spaced out evenly across the frame, creating a rhythmic and visually striking effect. The pattern repeats horizontally and vertically, filling the entire image.



WORDS HOLD POWER

