

WRITE



CLUB

Write Club Chicago

www.writeclubnation.com

About Us



"Best of Chicago," Chicago Magazine 2024 "Best Brainy Battle of Words"

Nerds. That's the first thing you should know about us. We're nerds.

As in, we bring people to read their own words out loud in a bar at a competitive essay show for prize money with the energy of a rock concert at a wrestling match. Really specific literary word nerds, you know?

But for our founding Nerd, Ian Belknap, it simply wasn't enough to write, to perform, to teach. He decided to create a show alongside Lindsey Muscato and produce it every single month. He also invented the term "Live Lit," which is exactly what Write Club is.

Write Club is the world's greatest competitive reading series, featuring only the most audacious and fearsome of writers and performers. It's Live Lit at its most vibrant and visceral. It also pays its artists for their work. Novel.

The Show

3 BOUTS

Two writers (we call them “combatants”) square off in each bout, armed with an essay they’ve written off a previously assigned prompt, while their opponent has the opposite prompt (think Sugar vs Salt or Late vs Early).

Each writer has 7 minutes - can be less but not more or the crowd buzzes them - to make their case at the mic and convince the audience to cheer loudest for them. That applause is then gauged by the judges picked from the crowd. Winner gets \$100, The Other gets \$50.

6 WRITERS

With six of Chicago’s best writers and performers each show, you’re getting actual storefront magic in the form of compelling writing and live performance. welcome to your new favorite show. You’re gonna quote it a lot.

Write Club alum include Samantha Irby, Megan Stielstra, Lisa Beasley, Ike Holter, Dr. Devon Price, Jennifer Peepas (Captain Awkward), Jen Ellison, Sherman Dilla Thomas, and more.

This isn’t your English Lit class. It’s your nerd friend who holds court while valiantly defending the honor of “Unicorns” against the tyranny of “Leprechauns.” In a bar.



The Prize



The Loving Cup

If you didn't get a trophy, did you even win? Of course not. If you haven't received Write Club's own **Loving Cup of Deathless F*cking Glory**, have you ever even had a trophy? Probably not. It's pretty special.

Once our hand-selected audience judges choose the winner of each bout, the The Loving Cup of Deathless F*cking Glory is bestowed upon the winning combatant in all its tiny, plastic, magical glory.

Money

The winning combatant of each bout receives \$100 and The Other receives \$50. In addition, Write Club will pay for childcare and transportation reimbursements for its artists when needed.

If you want the full breadth of Chicago's sharpest writing talent, bringing together contenders from across the city's diverse range of identities, you need to pay them and provide in more ways. A good piece goes to waste when no one hears it, and we aim to amplify the best of the best. And the best gotta eat too.

Our Values



Responsibility

We take responsibility for the safety, security, and entertainment of our audience and our artists on and off stage every month. If not us, then who?



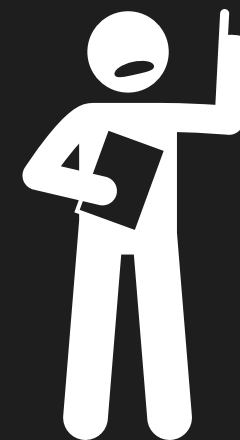
Listening

We don't just amplify marginalized voices, we listen to what they're saying. We strive to create an environment where needs, wants, and visions are heard and validated.



Honesty

Stories are fun. but it's speaking the truth of the piece that keeps our audiences coming back. Our current environment, no matter how fraught, must be faced head on. If we're going to provide artistic solace, we have to be honest about where we are.



Artist Focus

We provide our artists with the tools they need to perform their best: time, topic, communication, style guides, compensation, childcare reimbursement, transportation reimbursement, and a warm crowd.

About Now



Write Club is in its 15th season, having had franchise shows in several cities, and its Atlanta chapter still going strong. We're not done by a long shot.

We're now at GMan Tavern, with rotating sponsors from the venue covering room costs. The host and producer, Corrbette Pasko, has led the effort to diversify both the talent onstage and the audience who watches it in order to give traditionally silenced voices a microphone and undivided attention. She has also implemented the use of air purifiers for audience and artist safety.

Write Club seeks to expand its audience reach beyond GMan's walls via YouTube and a revival of its podcast to give artists a broader reach. **It is currently one of the only Live Lit - or storytelling - shows in the city that pays its artists.**

In order to combat the inherently exploitative nature of performance work, Write Club seeks to pay its artists more. Yes. MORE.

The Crowd



It's packed. It's loud. It's warm and supportive. It's the best audience performers and hosts could ask for, and it's also a live captive audience for you. These are people aged 25 - 65 who love the arts, live performance, and community. They have disposable incomes and families. They support small businesses and good causes. Plus, they can really let loose on a Tuesday.

As a sponsor, you can put your message, poster, or even a live ad onstage for all to see in the 150 seat capacity backroom at GMan Tavern. We can create digital ads to use in our social media channels and website. Hell, we'll name our show pieces after you. You want the Your Company Honorary Microphone? The Your Biz Time Timer? We can make it happen.

Thousands of people have seen Write Club Chicago, and they can see you too. We'll make sure everyone knows who is supporting their favorite show and how they can support them back. You're now in with the in crowd.

The Goals



Staff Support

Currently, Write Club Chicago is a small team of freelancers with decades of industry experience. The work they do is skilled and essential, and they deserve to be compensated accordingly.



New Voices

New writer/performers are emerging daily, and it takes time and talent to find them. Workshops, school visits, and revitalizing our podcast and YouTube channel can help with this goal.

The Ask



Sponsorship

Get your name, your business, and your goods in front of the coolest audience in Chicago. Our crowd loves supporting local - shopping, bands, shows, food, and more.

As a sponsor, you're in great company. We have secured over \$7000 in sponsorships for this season, and the same amount is promised for next season. From private donors to media companies and local breweries, sponsors love what we can do.

Discover what can we build together so our audience is as loyal to you as they are to us.

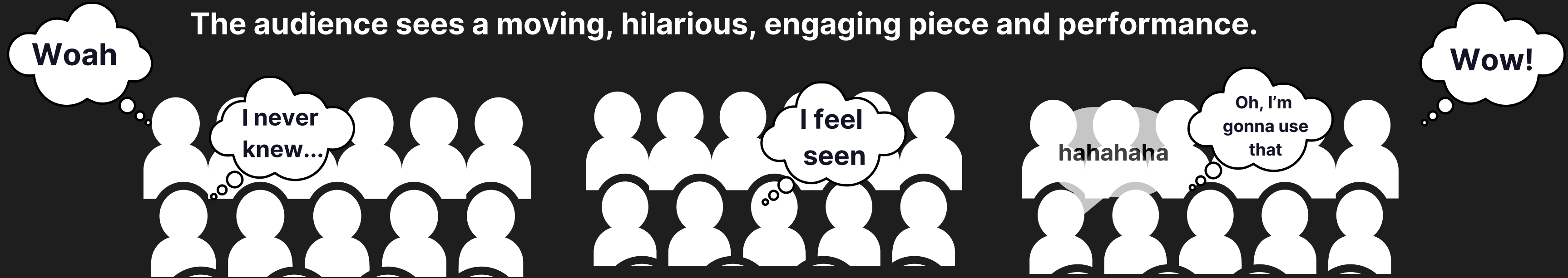
Things Cost Stuff

Here are the things we currently spend money on so you don't think we're blowing it all on candy (we swear we buy that ourselves).

- Combatant (Artist) Pay
- Staff Payment for producing, hosting, timekeeping, filming, editing, and marketing
- Website maintenance/hosting and subscription payments (Canva, CapCut, DocHub, etc)
- LLC maintenance
- Materials (trophies, signage, etc)

The Breakdown

The audience sees a moving, hilarious, engaging piece and performance.



Here's what they don't see

Rent, mortgage, bills

Job(s) to work all day
and later that night

Years of training and
experience

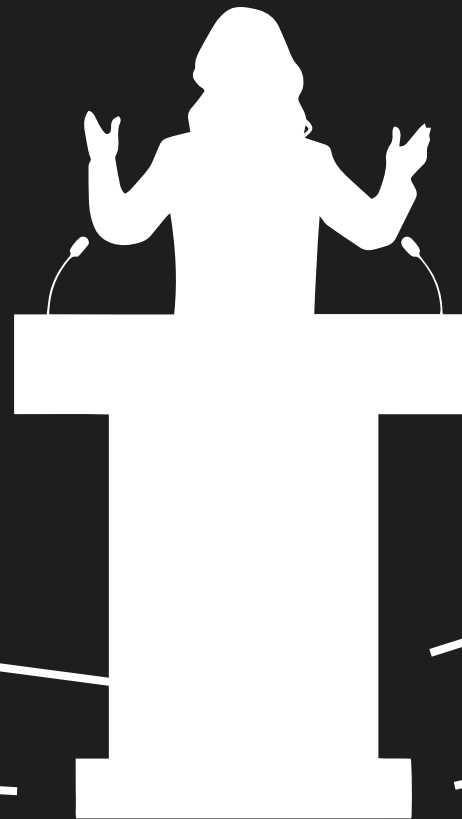
Transportation cost and timing

Making time for writing
and edits

Other projects and
responsibilities

Arranging childcare

Exclusionary spaces and missed
opportunities

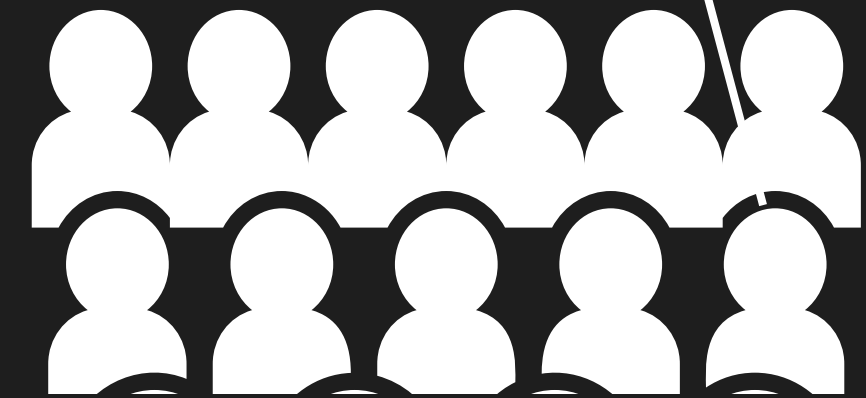


The Rewards

Sponsors can have show elements named after them AND have shout outs and ads.



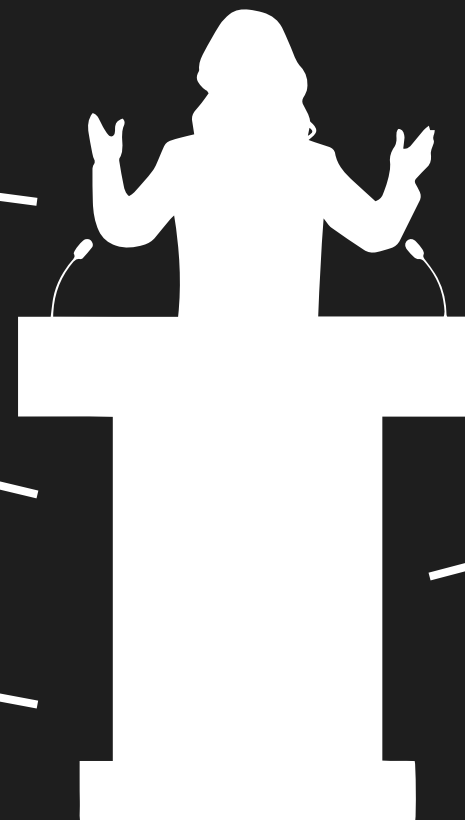
Audience learns about sponsors while learning about the artist



A focused and energized artist pool paid for their work

YouTube and podcast showcases artists for wider audience

Crowd is engaged and will return



Childcare is covered

Transportation is covered

Staff is compensated fairly

Environment of respect for the work

The Packages



Helping Hand

\$500

- Help to cover costs in general. Every bit helps!
- Branding on marketing materials for season
- Shout out from stage



Patron Saint

\$750

- Artists or staff are covered for one show
- Branding on marketing materials for season
- Shout out from stage
- Branding on 6 videos from supported show



Media Magnate

\$1000

- Support for our audio/visual efforts
- Branding on marketing materials for season
- Shout out from stage
- Branding on all videos for supported season
- Show element named for you!



Season Savior

\$3000 and up

- A whole season of support!
- Branding on all marketing materials for season
- Option for digital ad on social media
- Option for live stage ad
- Show element named for you!
- Shout out from stage
- Cocktail with your brand at shows

Team



Corrbette Pasko

Producer, Host,
Marketing Director,
Booking Manager,
Overbeing



Josh Zagoren

Co-producer,
Timekeeper

Team



Bilal Dardai

Co-Producer



Jill Hopkins

Co-producer, Venue
Rep

Team



Laura Marsh

Marketing Assistant



**Kyle
Hamman/
KBH Media**

Video Producer