



Founded in 1999, Urban Word NYC™ (UW) is at the forefront of the youth spoken word, poetry and hip-hop movements in New York City. As a leading nonprofit presenter of literary arts education and youth development programs in the country, Urban Word NYC offers a comprehensive roster of programs during the school day and after-school hours and conducts diverse programmatic offerings in the areas of creative writing, journalism, literature and hip-hop. UW presents local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series, open mics and more. All told, Urban Word NYC works directly with 15,000 teens per year in New York City alone, and has partner programs in 42 cities across the United States.

UW believes that free self-expression - matured in an enhanced critical literacy environment - improves self-confidence and strengthens educational achievement for NYC's inner city youth. We promote active literacy, critical thought, and positive social dialogue across boundaries of age, race, class, gender, culture, and sexuality. Our many workshops are designed to enhance critical thinking skills, leadership, and to ignite a personal commitment to growth and learning which leads to heightened in-school performance, and greater interest in pursuing higher education.

**Total Number of NYC youth directly served**

**Per Year: 15,000**

**Total Number of NYC youth indirectly served**

**Per Year: 50,000**

Age: 13 - 24

44% Male

56% Female

85% of school-aged youth are eligible for free or reduced school lunch program

40% African-American

20% Latino

15% Asian-American

3% Pacific Islander

15% White, non-Hispanic

5% Middle Eastern

2% Other

### **In 2005 – 2006 Urban Word NYC:**

- **Worked with 15,000 youth in 108 public high schools, middle schools, community centers & cultural institutions.**
- **Offered long-term (at least 24-weeks) workshops in 41 NYC public high schools, middle schools and community centers.**
- **Conducted over 1,450 hours of free workshops for NYC teens.**
- **Had 2,500 youth perform from its' stages.**
- **Produced 54 events, with over 20,000 audience members.**
- **Had 90% of core students (in the UW program for at least 2 years) graduate high school and go on to college.**

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## **Additional 2005 – 2006 Accomplishments:**

- Over 20,000 total audience members for 54 events produced by Urban Word NYC in the year, including sold-out performances at The Apollo Theater, BAM Howard Gillman Opera House, Washington Irving Auditorium, Dance Theater Workshop, and The Whitney Museum.
- Awarded \$22,000 in youth educational scholarships.
- Urban Word NYC's publishing imprint, *UW Press*, releases an anthology of teen poets, a CD and DVD.
- 25 teen leaders from Urban Word NYC are committed to the *Word Wide* youth leadership board.
- 25 Poets from Urban Word NYC featured on HBO's Def Poetry.
- Urban Word NYC creates safe spaces for queer youth and allies, students at Bellevue Hospital and Montefiore Children's Hospital as well as Women & Hip Hop, Faith in Words tolerance workshops and Transatlantic Word Trade workshops for African immigrant youth.
- Urban Word NYC poets featured at conferences, festivals, colleges, etc., nationwide, in front of over 30,000 audience members (Rhythm & BAM concert, NY & Los Angeles National Hip-Hop Conference, Howl Festival, Teen Night at The Whitney, NYU Education Summit, The New School Young Writer's Conference).
- National and local media coverage includes the *NY Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Education Week*, *The Fader Magazine*, *The Ave Magazine*, *The Daily News*, *NY1*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Newsday*.
- Urban Word NYC commissioned to produce BAM's Annual Rhythm & BAM concert, as well as pieces for Dance Theater Workshop, The Howl Festival, Bloomberg's Culture Bites and the NYC Hip-Hop Theater Festival.
- Planning for 9<sup>th</sup> year celebrations is underway, including booking the BAM Howard Gillman Opera House for the Grand Slam Finals of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Word NYC Teen Poetry Slam (Feb. 24, 2007).

## **Urban Word NYC hosts *Brave New Voices*™ 2006, New York City**

- *Brave New Voices*™, the International Youth Poetry Slam Festival, was hosted by Urban Word NYC this year, and is featured in a different city each year.
- 450 poets age 13 – 19 from 42 United States cities (largest yet).
- Grand Slam Finals of the National Youth Poetry Slam attracts 1,500 to the Apollo Theater.
- Over 7,500 total audience members for the 5-day festival.
- 27 events in 10 venues over 5 days.
- 1,200 students from 15 New York City high schools take field trips to attend poetry bouts.
- Local and National press coverage.

## **Urban Word NYC Additional Information**

- Urban Word NYC spends 74% of all revenue on programs, with 19% on administration, and 7% on fundraising.
- Urban Word NYC generates 55% of all revenue from fee-for-service projects, and 45% from grants and individual donors.
- Through the National Brave New Voices Network, Urban Word NYC works with over 250,000 youth across the country each year.
- Since 1999, 95% of our ticketed shows have been sold out. Our free events usually exceed capacity.

### **Urban Word NYC Partner Cities Include:**

San Francisco, Oakland, Ann Arbor, New York City, San Jose, Madison, Seattle, Chicago, Ypsilanti, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Los Angeles, Plymouth, Connecticut, Honolulu, Austin, Leeds (England), Amherst, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Denver, Detroit, Washington D.C., Taos, St. Louis, Worcester, Fontana, Providence, Chapel Hill, New Orleans, Humboldt, Cincinnati, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Cleveland, Phoenix, Memphis

## **Contact Information:**

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