



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 non-profit 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, college prep, 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 over 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.

Number of youth directly served: 15,000+

Age: 13 - 24
44% Male 56% Female
85% Low Income

Number of youth indirectly served: 50,000

40% African-American	20% Latino
15% Asian-American	3% Pacific Islander
15% White, non-Hispanic	5% Middle Eastern
2% Other	

In 2008 – 2009 Urban Word NYC:

- **Worked with over 16,000 youth in 112 public schools, community centers & cultural institutions; and conducted over 2,000 hours of free writing workshops.**
- **Offered long-term (at least 12-weeks) workshops in 22 NYC public high schools, middle schools and community centers.**
- **Produced 59 events with over 2,500 youth performing from our stages, for 20,000 audience members.**
- **Had 95% of core students (in the program for at least 2 years) graduate high school and go on to college.**
- **Awarded over \$250,000 in college scholarships.**
- **Partnered with the NY Knicks to produce an award winning documentary, and with filmmaker Lisa Russell’s Emmy Award winning documentary Bi-Racial Hair.**

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Additional 2008 – 2009 Accomplishments

- 59 events produced by Urban Word NYC, including sold-out performances at the Hammerstein Ballroom, Grand Ballroom, Madison Square Garden, Apollo Theater, Nuyorican Poets Café, and Dance Theater Workshop.
- UW PSAs featured on MTV, VH-1, BET, ESPN and other networks, sponsored by Time Warner Cable.
- UW featured prominently in HBO documentary *Brave New Voices* chronicling the youth spoken word movement, airing in January 2009.
- UW Teen Slam Team were special invited performance guests at Sundance Festival.
- 10 teen leaders from UW committed to the *Word Wide* youth leadership board.
- UW's Healing Arts Program for teens continued to thrive at Bellevue Hospital, ACS and Montefiore Children's Hospital.
- UW's summer program, the Summer Institute for Social Justice and Applied Poetics featured award-winning poets Amiri Baraka, Sapphire, and Beau Sia, among others.

Creatively College Bound Program

- As part of UW's efforts to engage youth in their efforts to go to college, UW's Creatively College Bound, had full enrollment on-site in Manhattan and Brooklyn.
- CCB was also offered at 3 off-site locations, including a pilot program at Eagle Academy for Young Men in the Bronx, supported by the Robin Hood Foundation.
- Co-presented the 3rd Annual Urban Word and NY Knicks College Fair and Poetry Expo at Madison Square gardens, attracting 3,500 teens, 55 colleges, and 350 youth poets/performers
- Urban Word NYC awards over \$250,000 in scholarships, including 3 full rides to University of Wisconsin's First Wave program, and 1 full ride to Mercy College.
- Urban Word NYC core students receive scholarships to Brown, Cornell, Princeton and Howard Universities, the University of Pennsylvania, Barnard College, Smith, NYU, Wheaton and many more.

Services for Educators

- UW's annual Mentor Training, Preemptive Education: Language & Liberation, sponsored and hosted by NYU's Steinhardt School of Education, attracted over 150 educators, teachers & mentors participating in workshops, panels and performances.
- UW presented the Spoken Word and Hip-Hop Teacher & Community Leader Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin, winner of the 2007 North American Association of Summer Sessions "Creative and Innovative Program Award."

Urban Word NYC Additional Information

- Urban Word NYC spends 81% of all revenue on programs
- Urban Word NYC generates 65% of all revenue from grants and individual donors, and 35% from fee-for-service projects.
- 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.