Presenting Young Chicago Authors’
Teaching Artist Corps and Teaching Artist Circle

The Teaching Artist Corps

Young Chicago Authors (YCA) is home to a unique incubator for fresh voices in the literary arts community. A model for arts organizations everywhere, YCA’s Teaching Artist Corps development program invests in the careers of promising writers as they lend their passion and creativity to the identity of the organization. It is a rare opportunity for writers on the cusp of their professional journeys and a critical element of YCA’s work with the students it serves.

YCA introduced the Teaching Artist Corps in 2012 to bring talented young artists who have come through YCA’s poetry programs to the center of the organization. YCA engages six teaching artists who are selected based on a battery of criteria. Candidates exhibit artistic excellence, commitment to growth through engaging students in the classroom, and potential to be ambassadors of the art form. The Teaching Artist Corps development program has three distinct components:

- Artists develop a project rooted in creative writing. Some focus on poetry; others may fuse writing with music or visual art.
- Artists lead programs and workshops, sharing their expertise and creativity with YCA’s students.
- Teaching Artists become leaders and youth mentors within the poetry community.

Join the Teaching Artist Circle

YCA has a unique opportunity for individuals or families who deeply believe in the development of young artists. YCA has established the Teaching Artist Circle for a select number of committed supporters, whose involvement in YCA is tangible and visible in the work of its Teaching Artist Corps. Circle members pledge $5,000 annually for three consecutive years, underwriting stipends to teaching artists and funding the platforms upon which they present their work. Members of the Teaching Artist Circle receive special benefits including:

- Acknowledgement on the YCA website, in the annual report, and in other publications
- Invitations to the pre-performance reception of the Teaching Artists Corps’ annual performance
- Invitations to individual Teaching Artists’ performances and events
- Four VIP tickets to the Louder Than A Bomb team and individual finals

For more information about joining the Teaching Artist Circle, please contact Alissa Goldwasser, Development Director, at (773) 486-4331 or Alissa@youngchicagoauthors.org.