

## **Write On, Door County Summary**

**Number of employees:** 3

**Number of volunteers:** 63

### **What is your Mission Statement?**

The mission of Write On, Door County is to inspire and engage writers and readers of all ages, at all stages.

We do this through events and workshops at our Writing Center and within the community, through our residency program, and by offering support to our writers.

### **What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?**

Individual donations account for 70% of our budget, with 20% coming from program revenue (conference and class registrations, etc.) and 10% from grants.

### **What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?**

We offer programs at our center in Fish Creek (Juddville) and at various locations throughout the county, including Washington Island. We also offer a number of our programs online.

### **Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.**

We offer 70% of our programs free to our community. We believe that writing is essential to well-being and mental health. Programs are offered for all ages, including our Memoir Monday program designed specifically for seniors but open to all. We currently hold sessions in Sturgeon Bay, Fish Creek, Sister Bay, and Washington Island. Our Art/Speaks program, held in art galleries and museums throughout the county, always has at least two sessions annually open to middle school students. Author readings and talks, often in partnership with other non-profits, allow community members to meet published writers. Through our residency program, we are able to offer free programs to schools and youth service organizations, libraries, senior care facilities, and more. Now in its fourth year, our year-long mentoring program for women who want to write but feel intimidated has empowered the voices of four dozen women, ranging in age from teens to 70s.

### **How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?**

Write On has had a significant impact on Door County. This has happened one program, one person, one word at a time. A seventh-grader who took our kids' writing camp in 2015 is now a creative writing major at UW-Eau Claire. A resident of Scandia Village who never wrote anything about her life before taking Memoir Mondays now has a bound collection of stories of her childhood to share with her descendants. Hundreds of people attended the free readings of Naomi Shihab Nye

at the Door Community Auditorium (2017) and U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith at Southern Door Community Auditorium (2019) and were reminded of the comfort poetry provides. Each month, dozens of people take to our trails, included in the book "Healing Hikes of Door County." This year, we will present our 5th annual Door County Book and Author Fair, showcasing the talents of nearly 50 writers who live in or have significant ties to Door County. Our community has been aware of our visual artists, musicians, and theatre artists for decades. Now, not only are they aware of our community of writers, but they realize they can be a part of that community as well.

**What is your annual budget?**

Our annual operating budget is \$529,000. Our annual budget specifically for the programs we offer is \$78,000.

**If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?**

There are several unfunded/underfunded programs that would benefit from support of 100+ WWC. These include Telling the Truth of Our Lives, our year-long mentoring program for women who want to write but don't feel they are "good enough" to take a class. This is currently volunteer run. Funds will allow us to offer facilitators a stipend and to underwrite scholarships allowing women to take part in our tuition-based programs, including our annual Writing On The Door conference and Washington Island Literary Festival. Support from 100+ WWC would allow us to better promote our weekly Memoir Monday program and to provide those volunteer facilitators with stipends and scholarships to our classes for participants who want to explore writing more deeply. A program that we hope to revive in 2025-26 is our Healing Through Writing, a free hour-long session that encourages writing as a way to deal with grief, illness, trauma, and other health issues.