

About **Words Within**

The **Words Within** Mission:

The mission of The Within Movement will be to empower all urban youth by emphasizing the necessity of literacy and providing the means to be stronger and more purposeful readers, communicators and leaders.

The **Words Within** Vision:

To promote growth within urban communities everywhere by serving African American youth educationally and spiritually through essential literacy building and cultivating gifts of self expression through reading and writing. Our main focus will be youth aged 3 to 17.

Words Within is a literacy and creative expression based organization that will work to motivate children to be better and more willing readers by offering creative programs and activities that are fun and help to change the negative perception of reading in urban communities. We offer story times that present core literacy values for younger children and tutoring, writing workshops and mentoring for older age groups. Everything that is offered will be influenced by the input of the children; we strongly believe that their interests will guide them and that we will assist where needed. All of the services offered are 100% mobile and can be scheduled at schools, churches, daycares, libraries and community centers upon request. Words Within is completely committed to playing its part in teaching kids to be stronger communicators, adept at self expression and dutiful contributors to their communities through the empowerment of books and words.

A breakdown of **Words Within** services by age group:

Ages 3-6:

- Interactive story time and storytelling that include literacy building skills like singing and playing.

Ages 7-13:

- Book clubs and book talks that help to get or further encourage kids to read.
- Tutoring in reading and writing for the classroom
- Writing workshops designed to help teach kids to find their voice through writing about what's important to them.

Ages 14 -17:

- Tutoring in writing for essays and research papers.
- Poetry workshops that prepare kids for poetry performance and that will offer the opportunity to publish writing.

What sets us apart?

Words Within intends to reassess and redefine the common approaches that have been taken in regards to making reading, writing and expression more palatable to urban youth. Our plan is to do this through a primary method known as: ***The L.O.V.E Approach.***

L.O.V.E represents the four major concepts that we will utilize as an organization in order to best serve our youth and encourage them to embrace these essential lessons.

LEARNING:

It will always be a top priority of **Words Within** that youth we work with learn from the fun and creative activities we offer. The ultimate goal will be to have them fall in love with learning new things and new ways to express themselves.

OPENNESS:

For too long there has been an unhealthy fear of expressing what goes on inside our minds and hearts. This repression is most evident in and detrimental to the youth. We want to let our youth know that it is ok to feel and express those thing without judgment or ridicule. Whether through a storytelling that they could relate to or a poem that says it all; the mission will be for them to be ok with it. This organization will, in all ways, embody a sense of openness and a willingness to learn.

VALIDATION:

It is paramount that our youth understand and believe that their voice means something. That if they decide to write, read or speak words there is a meaning and a purpose to the act. Through genuine interaction in storytimes and workshops, activities driven by the ideas of our youth and intentionally consistent requests of youth preferences there will be no doubting how valid their ideas are.

EXPRESSION:

This last concept is immensely powerful. This concept is the crux of our approach. Our youth have so much to say and to teach us and **Words Within** is committed to being the outlet that offers them the opportunity to be heard. Everything that we do will be to foster in our youth a desire for literacy which will lead them to speak and write boldly the truth that exists in them. Expression is the ultimate accomplishment of the **Words Within** mission to create capable and willing readers, communicators and leaders.