



# CREATIVITY CARE KIT

Issue No. 1 – The Find Your Inspiration Edition



## FOR WRITEGIRL ALUMS

IN THIS ISSUE:

TIPS FOR WRITER'S BLOCK  
PLAYLISTS YOU CAN WRITE TO  
TIPS FROM THE ALUM  
REUNION  
WRITING ACTIVITIES  
AND MORE!

WRITE.  
CREATE.  
TAKE ACTION.



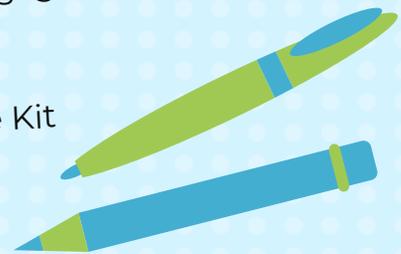
# FIND YOUR INSPIRATION!

Welcome to Issue #1 of:  
The WriteGirl Creativity Care Kit,  
specifically designed for WriteGirl Alums:  
The "FIND YOUR INSPIRATION" Edition!

You did it!!! You made it through 2020! Take a moment to acknowledge your personal victories this past year and celebrate the WriteGirl way. We want to help you start the year off on the right foot, so we've made our first WriteGirl Creativity Care Kit! It's jam-packed with fun activities and writing advice to help you center yourself for the coming year. We wanted to show you that, at WriteGirl, you are loved and cared for. This kit is for those who need a break from everyday stresses and so you can keep a little piece of WriteGirl with you along your exciting journey into 2021!

This kit is filled with **hand-selected goodies** from our very own alums on the Alum Network Committee. It's got writing tips, cool playlists, and even... zoo animals!!??? We also wanted to remind you to incorporate a little time for fun and self-care every once in a while. Additionally, the bios of our guest speakers from the Alumni Reunion are in the kit for you to check out! Finally, be sure to update your contact information so that you can get access to more Care Kits, WriteGirl events, and prizes like our recent Desk Yogi giveaway! Let's ring in the New Year with WriteGirl!

– Editorial Team, WriteGirl Creativity Care Kit



# WRITEGIRL ALUM CREATIVITY CARE KIT EDITORIAL TEAM:

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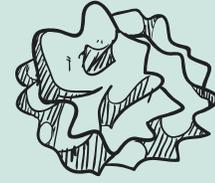


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## 5 TIPS FOR WRITER'S BLOCK!



*Hey alums! This is Arielle Davis here, bringing you 5 tips to get those creative juices flowing! I'm an alum myself, so I know how hard it can be to overcome writer's block. Hope you find these helpful!*

1. Rely on your senses! What can you see, hear and smell?
2. Get physical! Moving the body **can get you out of a slump** and make you more energized to write.
3. Start in the middle! Starting to write from a point that you're excited about is **WAY easier** than trudging through the beginning of a creative piece.
4. Change your POV! Think about how a minor character might tell the story or maybe even **switch between third and first person perspectives**.
5. Seeing is believing! **Make visuals for your writing** using drawings, LEGOs or digital mediums. Being creative in another format can inspire new paths for your creative writing.

# NATIVE AMERICAN LAND MAP

*Hey fellow Alums! I, Arielle, just wanted to remind you that WriteGirl acknowledges that the land on which we reside once belonged to Native American peoples. Here's an interactive map so that you can learn more about the tribes that are the original inhabitants of the land you are on.*

[Native-Land.ca](https://Native-Land.ca) | [Our home on native land \(native-land.ca\)](https://Native-Land.ca)

# ATTENTION ANIMAL LOVERS!!!

It's Arielle again, here to introduce you to some new furry friends! The San Diego Zoo has live cameras of the animal exhibits. If you've been trying to write from the perspective of a penguin, this is the link for you!

[Live Cams](#) | [San Diego Zoo](#)

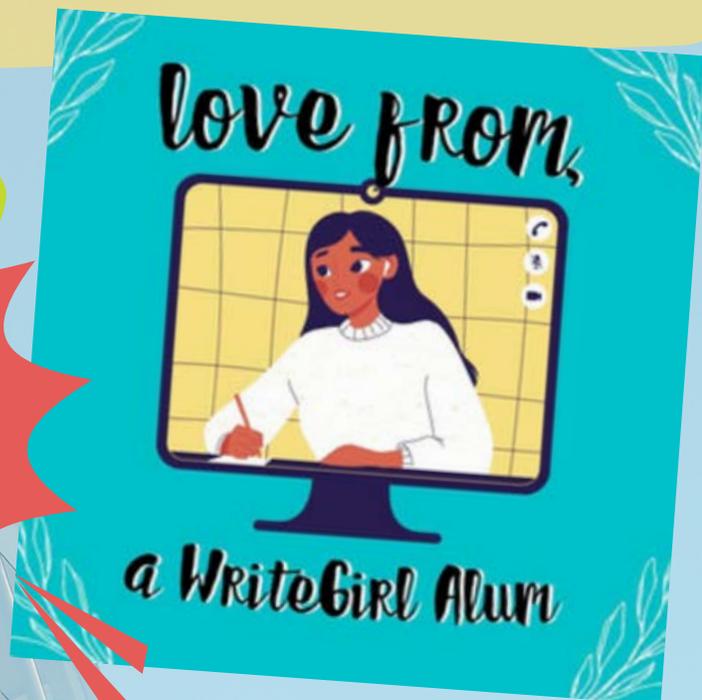


# PLAYLISTS YOU CAN WRITE TO

Need something to jam to as you write?  
Here are playlists from a couple  
of WriteGirl alums.

Hi there, fellow WriteGirl Alums! I'm Sofía Aguilar, a writer and former mentee from the class of 2017. I'm so excited to share this Spotify playlist: "love from, a WriteGirl alum" with you. This playlist is perfect for studying, writing or relaxing! It consists of a mix of movie soundtracks and my favorite indie songs. I hope you enjoy listening!

featuring  
music from  
Billie Eilish,  
the Little Women film,  
and more!





Hey WriteGirl Alums! I'm Sam Campbell and I'm overjoyed to share this Spotify playlist: "Diary of a WriteGirl Alum" with you. I had a lot of fun making it and hope you turn it on the next time you write or just want to have a little dance party in your room. Enjoy!

featuring music from Owl City, Florence + The Machine, and more!



# Meet Our Alum Reunion Special Guests!

## Allison Deegan



Allison Deegan, Ed.D., is a screenwriter who serves as WriteGirl's Associate Director and as a member of the Advisory Board. In addition, she has served as **an Associate Editor on all of WriteGirl's award-winning anthologies**. She has extensive expertise in supporting incoming and current college and graduate school students, managing youth and writing programs, supporting creativity, and public policy. She is a fiscal and **policy administrator with the Los Angeles County Office of Education** and a professor in graduate programs at Cal State Long Beach and Trident University, as well as a private admissions consultant. She holds a B.S. from Syracuse University, an MFA in Fiction from the Institute of American Indian Arts, an **MPA in Public Policy from California State University, Long Beach**, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, also from CSULB.

Connect with her: Search for [Allison Deegan](#) on LinkedIn.

# Kirsten Giles



Kirsten Giles has **built and managed automotive training projects since 1992**. After earning a Master of Science degree in Adult Learning from USC, she took a Sales Consultant position at Martin Cadillac in West Los Angeles. She left the dealership to become **a Performance Improvement Consultant for The Rikess Group**, where she called on dealer clients throughout the US, and played a key role in the development of their training products and learning conferences. In 2005, Kirsten was asked to manage a small e-learning production group at Toyota Motor Sales, where **she and her team launched over 100 online courses that covered all aspects of automotive operations** including product knowledge, business operations, brand values, software training and customer relations. She has an intimate understanding of instructional design and learning strategy, along with adult learning theory and organizational change management. This month, she is writing courses for Jaguar/Land Rover, Lexus, Lincoln, Ford, Chrysler, and Hyundai. Kirsten has also **served as the WriteGirl Curriculum Director since 2009**, overseeing the development and implementation of all WriteGirl workshop activities.

**Connect with her on Instagram: [@palebluedesign](https://www.instagram.com/palebluedesign)**

# Lisa Horiuchi



WriteGirl Volunteer Lisa Horiuchi is **a former business strategist with more than 20 years' experience** in industries ranging from toys and beauty to software and electric vehicles. She received her undergraduate degree in English Literature from UCLA, an MBA from the Marshall School of Business at USC, and an **MFA in fiction from the Programs in Writing at UC Irvine**. Her short fiction can be found in *Conjunctions* and *Nimrod International Journal of Poetry and Prose*, and her novelette, "Bones," was featured in the Ploughshares Solos longform fiction series. **She is currently writing her first novel** while working as an editor and serving on the editorial board of *Nimrod*.

**Connect with her on [LinkedIn](#).**

**Advice for applying to MFA programs: [www.writerspocketguide.com](http://www.writerspocketguide.com)**

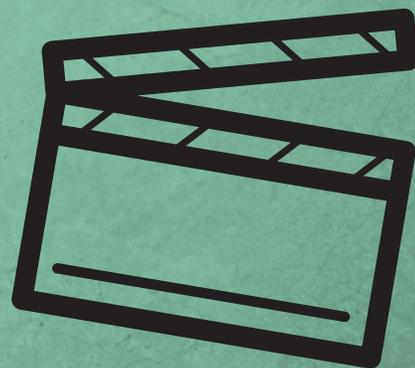
# Cindy Lamar



Cindy Lamar is a **Transformation Coach**, specializing in helping women to lead engaged lives, find their voice, and their power. She works 1:1 in her private coaching practice and volunteers with three organizations (one being WriteGirl!) which foster leadership, growth and entrepreneurship in underrepresented groups. **Much of her career has been in the field of learning**, which she has done in different environments, including academia, corporations and start-ups. Additionally, she **spent a number of years in entertainment as a professional singer**, and she keeps that passion alive with her current studies in electronic music production. When not doing coaching or music, you'll find her reading, writing, meditating and enjoying "chill time" with her spouse and two cats.

# Clare Sera

Clare Sera is a **writer, actor and director, who, with 20 years of experience in family films** from *Princess Diaries* to *Smallfoot*, has worked with every major studio in Hollywood. She is currently in development on two animated musical features, and she was also the writer of the Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore romcom, *Blended*. Clare, who is UK born, has also **recently been named Chief Creative Officer of Powerscourt Pictures**, an Irish production company with a focus on family film and television. Their first project, *Far Away from Home*, is slated for production in 2021. In addition to her career as a writer, **Sera is a co-founder of the award winning SAK Theatre Comedy Lab in Orlando, Florida**, where she was Director of Improv, and she's a Founding Volunteer of the award-winning WriteGirl! She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Sir Drothymoore Englehump III and their hysterics-prone dog, Roxiford Von Hotep.



# Erin Tillman



The Dating Advice Girl, Erin Tillman, is **an inclusive Sex Educator, Dating & Consent Empowerment Coach, Author, Speaker and Media Personality based in LA.** In 2018, Erin **was awarded the Gender Equity Award presented by the California National Organization for Women (NOW).** She is dedicated to empowering singles in all lifestyles to have happy and enjoyable dating lives & relationship wants, needs and objectives. **For more than 10 years, she has helped empower singles** through workshops, matchmaking, podcasting and her book, *The Consent Guidebook*. She has contributed to Lifetime, BuzzFeed, *Elle* Magazine, *Men's Health*, *Washington Post* and more. **Erin is also a longtime WriteGirl volunteer, helping with PR and social media.**





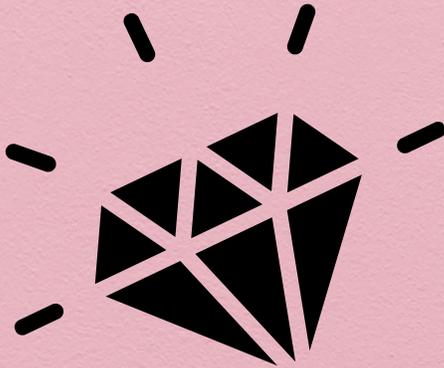
# Wadooah Wali

Regardless of the title – **Producer, Writer, Director, PR/Digital Media Strategist, Entrepreneur** – Wadooah Wali is a visionary, natural born storyteller. A true media influencer, her career expertise spans across traditional and disruptive new media platforms. **Wadooah has 20+ years experience as a PR professional for launches, M&A/public exhibits and digital communications campaigns for emerging tech** (Facebook, Livestrong.com, Google, YouTube, etc.) and traditional, digital/new media companies including WarnerMedia, Fullscreen, M-GO (startup formerly backed by DreamWorks and Technicolor) and podcast leader Midroll Media/Ear Wolf (acquired by Scripps Media). As an award-winning indie content creator, she's passionate about connecting audiences with stories via writing, directing and producing various video and podcast projects. Additionally, **Wadooah currently serves as an advisory board member of GALECA, a co-founder and advisor for Revry.TV and is a frequent guest speaker at the YouTube LA Space.** She also previously served as the director of PR & marketing for Equality Fashion Week LA 2019 and **was a founding member & co-chair of TurnOUT LA, Turner/WarnerMedia's LGBTQ+ ERG group.**

Connect with her on [LinkedIn](#).

Instagram/Twitter: [@Dubya2](#)

# Maria Muñoz



Maria Muñoz **grew up in La Puente, CA**, and is a single mom to two sons, ages 20 and 26. After high school, **Maria studied Horticulture at Cal Poly Pomona and currently works as an arborist.** She studied Horticulture because she thinks plants (especially trees) are absolutely amazing. **She loves to discuss and share anything related to trees.** Her other involvements and interests include: local politics, jewelry making and all things vintage.

# Brandra Ringo

## Part 1



Brandra Ringo is a **Senior Director of A&R at Warner Chappell Music**. Since joining the company in 2018, she has signed and worked with many multi-platinum writers and producers. As a leading A&R executive in the music industry, **Ringo was recently named one of Billboard's 2020 R&B/Hip Hop Power Players**. Her current roster consists of Digi (Khalid, Normani), DJ Durel (Migos), Pooh Beatz (Jack Harlow), 808Melo (Pop Smoke), Pi'erre Bourne (Playboi Carti, Travis Scott, Kanye West, Lil Uzi Vert) and more. **Earlier this year, Ringo helped sign Dat Boi Squeeze, who worked with 30 Roc to co-produce Roddy Ricch's RIAA quadruple-platinum, Billboard No. 1 hit and GRAMMY-nominated single "The Box."** Her other signings include Nova Wav, Section 8, Kirk Knight, Cameron Forbes and DY Krazy of 808 Mafia, who produced Gucci Mane's No. 1 Rhythmic and Urban radio single "Wake Up in the Sky" ft. Bruno Mars and Kodak Black.

# Brandra Ringo

## Part 2



**She is also helping develop BEAM, an emerging artist, writer and producer** who is penning songs for A-List projects, including 21 Savage's solo album, *I Am > I Was*. **Prior to Warner Chappell Music, Ringo was A&R Manager at Universal Music Publishing Group for seven years**, where she signed and worked closely with top superstars like Lil Yachty, Ne-Yo, Quavo and more. **Ringo received her B.A. degree in Music Business from Columbia College in Chicago** before starting her career as an assistant to Motown Records President, Ethiopia Habtemariam. During this time, Brandra worked closely with Sebastian Kole, who wrote Alessia Cara's first three hits "Here," "Scars to Your Beautiful" and "Wild Things." **She has also worked with songwriters Goldiie (Chris Brown, Ty Dolla \$, K. Michelle) and Cardo (Drake, Travis Scott, Kendrick Lamar).**

Connect with her on [LinkedIn](#).



# Edith Rojas

Edith Rojas is **an Assistant Professor of Geology at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA.** Born and raised in Nicaragua, Edith moved to the United States when she was 18 years old after completing two years of law school. Because she spoke little to no English, she had to begin her academic journey all over again. Edith signed up for English as second language classes at the local adult school, and a year later, she graduated as valedictorian.

**Following an internship at the United States Geological Survey, Edith changed her career path from law to geology.**

She earned her Master's in Geological Sciences from California State University, Los Angeles, where she studied volcanic processes, deposits and hazards. Much of her research has focused on the Miocene volcanic landscape of the western Mojave Desert in California. **Edith serves as a mentor for the College of the Desert Geology Club and the Women in STEM Club.**

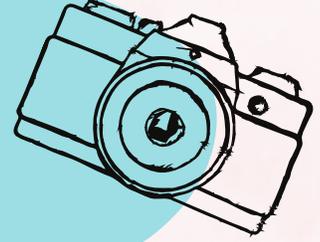


**Connect with her:**

**Instagram: [@latina\\_geologist](#)**

**Twitter: [@latinageologist](#)**

# Social Distancing LA Writing Spots



## Places You Can Go for Writing Inspo!

*It's Arielle again! I'm here to show you some beautiful spots that are a great change of scenery for anyone looking to de-stress and write. Though you'll be busy clearing your mind at these places, please remember to be mindful of others and practice social distancing. Advance tickets required – please check their websites for hours and ticket prices.*

**Huntington Library and Gardens (San Marino)** – A WriteGirl favorite! Observe sculptures and a huge variety of unique plants at your leisure.

**Descanso Gardens (Altadena)** – Filled with old oak trees, this place is perfect for anyone who wants to be enveloped in forest. Tour in the spring to see everything in full bloom!

**Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden (Arcadia)** – Not only great for nature-seekers, but also fun for the family! You can stroll about the environment and check out their many programs afterwards.

**California Botanic Gardens (Claremont)** – Another amazing place to get absorbed in nature! But if you can't go in person, they have an extensive collection of fun and free online webinars that range from conservation stories to origami.

**Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art (LACMA)** – Ever wanted to take that classic LACMA photo amongst the streetlights? Well, you still can! Outdoor exhibits are currently open to those of you interested in modern art.

If you happen to visit any of these places, why not snap a selfie and tag WriteGirl? We'd love to see your smiling faces and hear about your source of inspiration. Happy writing!  
IG: [@writegirlla](https://www.instagram.com/writegirlla) FB: [@WriteGirlOrganization](https://www.facebook.com/WriteGirlOrganization)

# TIPS FOR WRITING IN A BUSY HOME

*Hi Everyone! It's Sam from the Class of 2019 here to give you some tips. Got rambunctious siblings/roommates? Always struggling to focus with the sound of someone cleaning or the neighbors blasting metal music? Here are five tips to help you combat distractions as you write!*

- 1) Wear headphones and listen to a WriteGirl Alum playlist (or any playlist!) as you write.
- 2) Try to establish a personal spot for your writing (ex. a cozy corner in your bedroom, an attic or balcony, even a closet will do).
- 3) Get some fresh air – it never hurts to make a visit to your local park or just go on a walk if being at home is too distracting.
- 4) Incorporate the chaos into your writing! If you do not have a set narrative or topic you need to write about, you can turn it into an exercise where you focus on the specific noises you're hearing in the home and describe them in detail.
- 5) Take a calming break. If you have the time to spare, taking a nap or doing a quiet meditation outdoors are great methods to combat the stress of writing in a busy home. Even a short snack break can work wonders in helping you get back into the writing mindset!



# SELF-CARE TOOLKIT!



*Hi fellow alums, it's Sofía again! Right now, we have a million reasons to be stressed, which can physically create pain in your body. Taking time to relax and unwind through a simple collection of relaxing items can lower your anxiety and stress, whether it's your favorite movie on DVD or a bath bomb!*

*Here are 10 ideas to guide you as you put together your own self-care toolkit.*

## SNACKS!

Not much cures the blues like something sweet or savory — chocolate, a granola bar, trail mix or herbal tea. Make it simple and easy to clean up and throw away. I, for one, love a small bag of macadamia nuts because they're both nutritious and tasty!



# SELF-CARE TOOLKIT CONTINUED

## ENTERTAINMENT!

Make a playlist of songs that you love. Maybe fill it with old jazz tunes from the 40s to listen to during your evening bubble bath, or blast your favorite early 2000s hits for a solo dance party. And of course, don't forget your headphones or speaker!

With so many streaming services out there, you've probably already found a show or movie that you love to watch over and over again. I love to put on *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Office* or *The Golden Girls* whenever I want to relax and not fully invest in the story because I've seen it already.

If you want to turn your eyes away from a screen, a physical book is a great way to go. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros is one of my favorite comfort books to read when I'm stressed, uninspired or creatively blocked. For you, it might be a Stephen King novel, a book of poetry, or the most recent issue of *The New Yorker*. Any reading that comforts you and helps you unwind is perfect for your self-care kit.



# SELF-CARE TOOLKIT CONTINUED

## SCENTS!

Aromatherapy is always a great investment, especially if you enjoy essential oils. But if you want to keep it simple, the possibilities are endless. Burn a candle or incense, spray a favorite perfume or cologne on your clothes or room, rub your skin with scented lotion — get creative!



## BODY CARE!

I love treating my self-care time like a few hours at the spa. You can never go wrong with a face mask, a DIY hair mask, a bath bomb and a hot bubble bath, body butter or a nail care kit.



## ART!

What would the WriteGirl Alum Creativity Kit be without some creative tools? From a journal to coloring pages to a set of clay blocks, creativity can come in any form and help you relax when you need to. I love writing in a notebook before bed, so I can reflect on my day and improve my mental health (Sam and I will give you tips for writing later on in this issue!)

# SELF-CARE TOOLKIT CONTINUED

## COMFORT OBJECTS!

Have an old teddy bear from your childhood? A family photo you love? A warm blanket? Make these (and all of your other self-care items!) easily accessible in your home or office space. Even better, put all your tools together in a basket or box that you can always reach for when you need a moment or a few hours to take care of your body and your mind.

Remember, taking care of yourself is just as important as taking care of others!



# ONLINE CAREER RESOURCES

We've compiled this list of online resources ranging from job boards and LinkedIn tips to places to submit creative writing. At the end of the list, we've also included the tips and recommendations made by our special guests and volunteers during the Alum Reunion.

## JOB BOARDS



Idealist and Indeed are solid job boards where you can search for jobs, post resumes, and research companies.

Dan's List is a lesser-known job portal, but well worth looking at regularly!



# LINKEDIN TIPS

**1** Upload a professional profile picture that is recent and high-resolution. Be mindful of appropriate attire, good lighting, and avoid distracting backgrounds.

**2** Use the “Summary” function to tell your story! As people with creative writing backgrounds, this is an opportunity to tell profile viewers about who you are, your skill sets and experience, and your professional interests.

**3** Grow your network by reaching out to people who you went to school with, former coworkers or employers from past internships or jobs, and even by checking if people in your email address book are on LinkedIn!

**4** Engage with your network on LinkedIn by commenting on posts in your feed or sharing any meaningful projects or news.

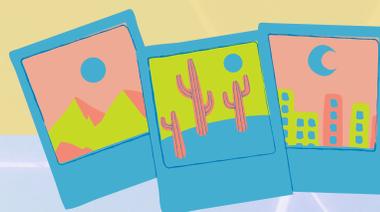
**5** Join the [WriteGirl Alums LinkedIn Page](#) and share an update!



# SUBMIT YOUR WRITING!

## ENTROPY

Entropy Magazine regularly releases a curated list of Where to Submit, which includes a range of publications where you can submit your creative writing! It includes recommendations for presses for submitting manuscripts, chapbook contests to enter, fellowship opportunities, and journals and anthologies where you can submit poetry, fiction, nonfiction, translation, comics, photography art and more!



Poets & Writers  
magazine  
list of writing  
contests!

## M.A.G.20/20

Recently founded by WriteGirl alum Sofía Aguilar, Mag 20/20 is an online magazine dedicated to showcasing the work of **creatives in their 20s!** Published creatives are featured on the online blog, quarterly digital issue and **celebratory launch party** where they have the chance to share their work with a virtual audience. Submit writing, art, photography, music and more to [magtwentytwenty@gmail.com](mailto:magtwentytwenty@gmail.com).



Find more great  
writing  
opportunities on  
the WriteGirl  
Alum Network  
Page!

# Tips from Special Guests!

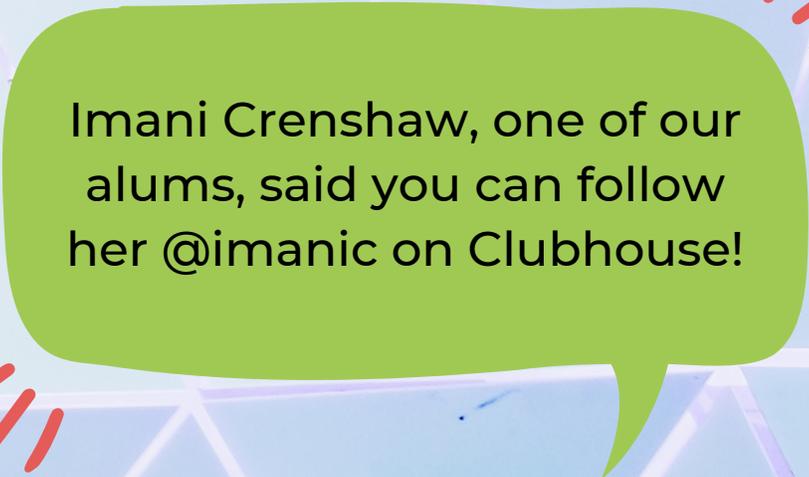
During the Alum Reunion, our special guests and volunteers offered some suggestions for great websites and platforms to check out!

Here are their recommendations:



Clubhouse.

Erin Tillman recommended a new audio app called Clubhouse. Clubhouse is a new type of social network based on voice — where people around the world come together to talk, listen and learn from each other in real time. Please note the app is still in Private Beta mode, but you can still download the app and join the waitlist!



Imani Crenshaw, one of our alums, said you can follow her @imanic on Clubhouse!

## More Tips from Special Guests!

# Lunch — — club

Wadooah Wali recommended Lunch Club, which is an AI superconnector that makes introductions for 1:1 video meetings to advance your career. Wali provided an invite link that you can use by clicking [here](#).

# Raddle

Wali also recommended [GetRaddle](#), which is a space to virtually brainstorm with (un)like-minded problem solvers. The platform hosts virtual brainstorming sessions, provides ongoing support to solopreneurs, and focuses on tapping into the power of unlike minds to keep its member base growing.



# FAIRYGODBOSS

Brittany Beckman, one of our volunteers, recommended [fairygodboss.com](#), a networking site for women! The website features anonymous job reviews, relevant news and advice, a job board featuring companies women love, and a chat platform to discuss salaries, challenges at work, and more!

# CONNECT WITH WRITEGIRL!

If you're looking to make some new friends who love writing, check out the WriteGirl Alum Facebook group!

Or maybe you're looking to network and explore career options? Then take a look at our BRAND NEW WriteGirl Alum LinkedIn group! These platforms will be opportunities to connect with fellow alums and build community among the WriteGirl Alumni Network. We hope you'll use this platform to ask questions, share opportunities and support one another's professional journeys.

**WriteGirl Alums | Groups | LinkedIn**

for professional networking!

**WriteGirl Alumni | Groups | Facebook**

for social connections and everything else!

# CONNECT WITH WRITEGIRL CONTINUED!

Want to directly reach out to someone from the Alumni Reunion? Reconnect with old friends or make a business connection?

View the Padlet "wall" that has all of the information you could ask for! It's a constant work in progress, so feel free to add or update your own info! You can include email, phone number, social media handles and more.



## Alumni Reunion Padlet

Don't forget to add your info too!



Don't feel pressured to share everything, you can share whatever you feel comfortable with!



Speaking of updating information, we know that over the years people change emails and numbers, but WriteGirl would love to stay in touch with you! Fill out this google form to get updates on all things WriteGirl!

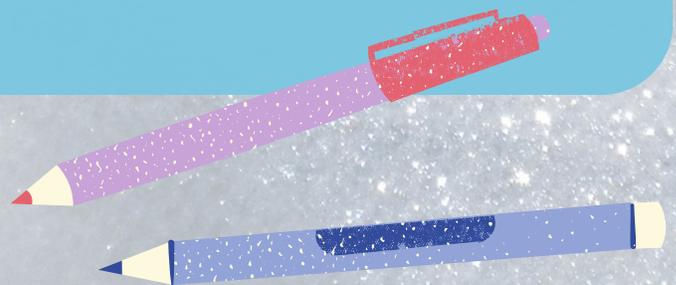
## Update Contact Info Form

# WHAT'S NEXT?

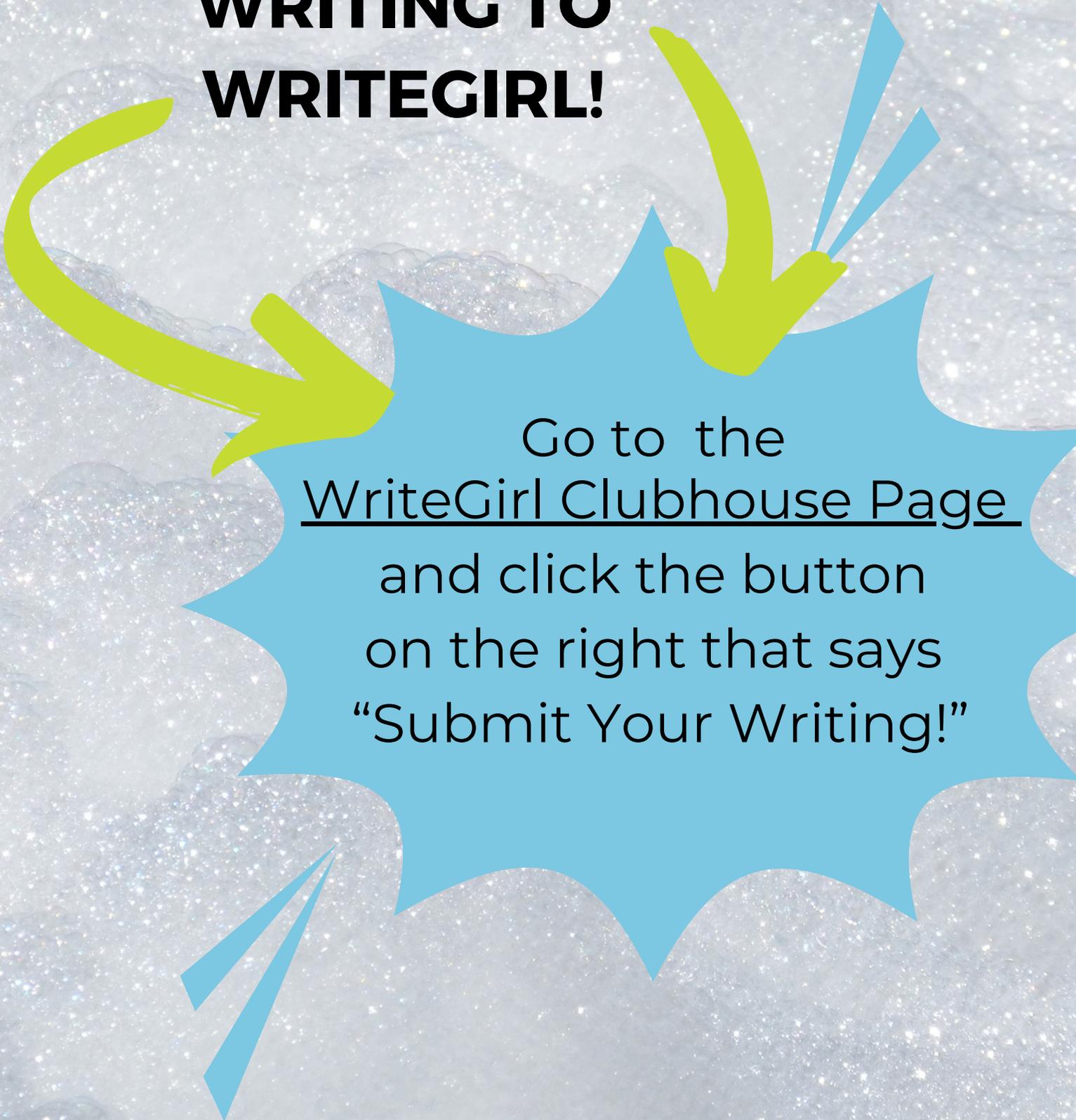
*Hey alums, it's Sofía again! We may no longer be WriteGirl mentees but WriteGirl loves seeing work from our alums for possible publishing opportunities!*

*Whether you're interested in writing novels or studying sea anemone, submitting (and publishing!) your work is a great way to gain experience and credibility in any field. You're learning from and building connections with other writers and publishing professionals.*

*Your resume will stand out with your publication credentials because it shows that you're passionate about your work and sharing it with others, that you can manage deadlines, and that you have an audience. Most of all, it's fun to see your work in print and share with all your loved ones.*



# SUBMIT YOUR WRITING TO WRITEGIRL!



Go to the  
[WriteGirl Clubhouse Page](#)  
and click the button  
on the right that says  
“Submit Your Writing!”

## Interactive Writing Adventures

Hi Everyone! It's Sam and Sofia again from the Class of 2019 and 2017, respectively.

Not sure what to write about? Have you hit a creative wall? Don't worry! Here are a few writing tips/activities to help rejuvenate your creativity:

**Images and Feelings in Poems:** "Many of my poems begin with an image and a feeling." - Yesika Salgado. Pick an image that resonates with you. How do you feel about that image? Start writing a poem that explores the image you thought of. Remember to include as many sensory details as possible!

**Photography Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of items to search for around your house/neighborhood and take photos of them. Then incorporate the images into a piece.

**Blackout Poetry:** Take a poem and cross out (or, if you're feeling extra daring, blackout) words with a Sharpie until you're left with the words you like most. Create a new poem featuring those words.

**Flash Fiction:** Write a story that's as long as you'd like it to be. Challenge yourself by turning it into a piece of flash fiction, a piece of writing that's 500 words long or less. See what words or description or dialogue you can cut and have it not affect the story.





## Interactive Writing Adventures Continued

**Five Senses:** Write a piece that features something you saw, smelled, heard, tasted and touched within the past week.

**Fashion Fever:** Pick an outfit from your wardrobe and describe what you like about that outfit in a poem or short story/short nonfiction piece.

**Name a Character:** Make up a name you love or search online for cool names. Write about that person. Who are they? What makes them tick? What was their life like growing up? What is their life like now?

**Wikipedia Random Article:** Go to the Wikipedia home page and hit “Random Article” on the left sidebar. Use that article to write a story or narrative that relates to or includes the topic of that article in some way.

**Use a Dictionary:** Read through a dictionary or book that contains words you’ve never heard of before. Now pick a word and use that word in a sentence, and then see if you can turn that sentence into a story.



Enjoy this inspirational poem written by poet Ada Limón,  
an award-winning Mexican-American poet!

# HOW TO TRIUMPH LIKE A GIRL

By Ada Limón

I like the lady horses best,  
how they make it all look easy,  
like running 40 miles per hour  
is as fun as taking a nap, or grass.  
I like their lady horse swagger,  
after winning. Ears up, girls, ears up!  
But mainly, let's be honest, I like  
that they're ladies. As if this big  
dangerous animal is also a part of me,  
that somewhere inside the delicate  
skin of my body, there pumps  
an 8-pound female horse heart,  
giant with power, heavy with blood.  
Don't you want to believe it?  
Don't you want to lift my shirt and see  
the huge beating genius machine  
that thinks, no, it knows,  
it's going to come in first.

*Excerpt from The Poetry Foundation*



## Alumni Spotlight: Amanda Gorman



Amanda Gorman (class of 2016) has become the youngest inaugural poet in history from performing at President Joe Biden's inauguration. Fun fact: Amanda has a twin named Gabrielle who is also an alum of WriteGirl and UCLA. On behalf of everyone on the WriteGirl creativity care kit team, we are so proud and wish her great success in her future endeavors!

Read about her here: [Amanda Gorman \*Hollywood Reporter\* Feature](#)

# WRITEGIRL STAFF

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**Executive Director:** Keren Taylor

**Associate Director:** Allison Deegan

**Managing Director:** Katie Geyer

**Curriculum Director:** Kirsten Giles

**Development Associate:** Cindy Collins

**College Program Manager:** Leslie Awender

**Administrative Manager:** Megan Bennett

**Bold Ink Writers Program Coordinator:** Andrea Ohlsen-Esparza

**Administrative Assistant:** Lilliana Winkworth

**Program Associate:** Janel Pineda

We're here  
for you!

Call 213-253-2655  
or reach us at  
[membership@writegirl.org](mailto:membership@writegirl.org)



# CREATIVITY CARE KIT EDITORIAL TEAM



**Keren Taylor**, WriteGirl Executive Director, founded WriteGirl in 2001 with the idea of leveraging the skills of women writers to inspire teen girls. Keren has overseen WriteGirl's expansion into a thriving community of women and teen writers. WriteGirl has published 35 award-winning anthologies of youth writing, and in 2013, received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from First Lady Michelle Obama. Connect with Keren on Twitter: @KerenTaylor, Instagram: @KerenTay or LinkedIn: Keren Taylor.

**Katie Geyer**, WriteGirl Managing Director, manages day-to-day operations, internal and external communications, membership services, and assists in strategic planning, staff development and overall program planning. Katie has a Master's in Journalism from Boston University and a BA in Communication Studies from UCLA. She worked as a political reporter for a daily newspaper and has been published in several magazines. Connect with Katie on LinkedIn at Katherine Geyer.



**Janel Pineda** is a WriteGirl alum (Class of 2014) and staff member. She is a poet, educator and activist who graduated from Dickinson College as a Posse Scholar. Janel also holds an MA in Creative Writing and Education from Goldsmiths, University of London, where she studied as a Marshall Scholar. She is the author of the poetry chapbook *Lineage of Rain* (Haymarket Books, 2021). Learn more about her work at [janelpineda.com](http://janelpineda.com).



**Sofía Aguilar** is an alum from the WriteGirl Class of 2017 and a senior at Sarah Lawrence College where she is studying creative writing, literature and history. You can connect with her on Instagram or Twitter @sofiaxaguilar, Facebook @sofiaxaguilar1, LinkedIn at Sofía Aguilar, or her website [sofiaaguilar.com](http://sofiaaguilar.com).



**Andrea Ohlsen-Esparza**, Bold Ink Writers Program Coordinator, develops curriculum, leads creative writing workshops and oversees participation of teaching artists and special guests for WriteGirl's classroom-based programs. She has teaching experience in a variety of classroom settings, from leading bilingual literacy classes for parents to creating curriculum for preschoolers. She has a BA in Anthropology from California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Minor in Theater Performance. Connect with Andrea on LinkedIn at Andrea Ohlsen-Esparza.



**Sam Campbell** is a freshman at California State University, Los Angeles and is studying Mass Communications with aspirations to pursue a career in Child Development. She is part of the Class of 2019 and enjoys spending time with loved ones and taking art classes in her spare time. You can reach out to her via LinkedIn @SamanthaCampbell or Instagram @girlwiththewildcurls.



**Arielle Davis** is a freshman at the University of California Los Angeles and is studying Political Science and Economics. Check out her YouTube channel, called Elle Says!, that talks about the college experience. If you'd like to reach out to her directly, you can contact her via Instagram @elle.says.byee, or on Facebook and LinkedIn @Arielle Davis.





# **SPECIAL THANKS:**

**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**

**Louchheim Foundation**

**Violets' Giving Circle**

**Desk Yogi**

**Stay tuned for the next edition coming soon!**