WRITERS ROOM

Writers Room: a co-op for creative writing and art—in all its forms. Free and open to all. Diverse across age, race, religion, sexuality, and gender identity. And after nearly a decade, we’re family, too.

"And what you need to know about Writers Room is that we are a utopia—of what life could be and should be."
—VICTORIA HUGGINS PURIFOY, 78 COMMUNITY RESIDENT

ORIGIN STORY

AUG 2013

"WHAT IF WE MADE A COMMUNITY WRITERS HOUSE?"

Drew President John Fry calls the question. Founding Director Rachel Wervick embarks on a year of planning with students and neighbors.

JUL 2014

WRITERS ROOM LAUNCHES

Students, faculty, and neighbors co-create arts programming at the Drexel Center for Neighborhood Partnerships, Drew’s urban extension center.

JUN 2015

ANTHOLOGY RELEASE ● CAROL’S DISPLACEMENT

Our first book release is a standing room only celebration.

Carol Richardson McCullough, a founding member of Writers Room and social resident, loses her housing when a developer buys her apartment building and then markets its units to students. The seed for our co-living project is planted.

WRITERSROOM@DREXEL.EDU

GEOGRAPHY

Mantua and Powelton Village are West Philadelphia communities with longstanding residents and deep histories, but there are significant class differences between the two, which also coincide with the racial makeup of each neighborhood.

To move forward, we need to be in the same room. Share stories. Develop real connections.

AT A GLANCE

2014

The year Mantua and Powelton were designated as part of a federal Promise Zones area of high poverty with high opportunity to connect its 36,000 residents to vital resources.

3.5 BILLION

The cost of the Schuylkill Yards development project within the Promise Zone.

44%

The percentage of Promise Zone residents living in poverty, nearly twice the Philadelphia average of 29%.

"GOING DEEP FOR CHEAP"

On-campus housing is expensive. Students migrate north in search of cheaper.
“THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE NARRATIVE OF UNIVERSITY-ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT FROM ONE OF DISPLACEMENT OF LONG-TERM RESIDENTS TO ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. WE HAVE THE TEAM AROUND THE TABLE TO DO IT.”

- CHARLES LOMAX
  CHAIRMAN + CEO, LOMAX REAL ESTATE PARTNERS
NOTE: THIS ZINE WAS DESIGNED TO BE PRINTED DOUBLE-SIDED ON 11X17" PAPER. IF YOU'RE USING STANDARD 8.5X11" PAPER, CLICK "SCALE TO FIT" ON YOUR PRINT SETTINGS.

FOLD YOUR PAPER IN HALF. THEN FOLD IT AGAIN INTO QUARTERS. THEN FOLD IT AGAIN INTO EIGHTHS. WHEN YOU OPEN IT BACK UP, YOU SHOULD SEE EIGHT SQUARES.


NOW OPEN THE SHEET OF PAPER ALL THE WAY. YOU SHOULD SEE A CUT IN THE CENTER ONLY.

FOLD YOUR PAPER ALONG THE LONG EDGE (THE SIDE THAT HAS THE SLIT). HOLD BOTH ENDS AND PUSH INWARD. YOUR PAPER SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS FROM ABOVE.

KEEP PUSHING IN UNTIL YOUR FINGERS MEET IN THE MIDDLE, THEN FOLD NATURALLY INTO THE EIGHT PAGE BOOKLET.