



## Redbud Writing Project Community Classes Case for Support

The Redbud Writing Project is a community-oriented organization intended to bring the care and rigor of university-level creative writing instruction to the general public. Founded in May 2019, Redbud has worked with more than 600 students and offered hundreds of classes across the Triangle. Our instructors are professional writers with Masters-level education in Creative Writing and years of professional teaching experience. We support local writers by providing crucial employment, which helps keep talent rooted in our community. At Redbud, we believe that everyone deserves access to the tools, craft lessons, feedback, and community to hone their writing and their voice. We are proud that we've achieved this goal over the past three years.

"They are on to something truly rare and wonderful."

-Jennifer A., Redbud student

### Our Vision to Expand Access:

To further our goal of expanding access to craft instruction and community, Redbud is expanding its community offerings, which will be available free of charge. Our goal is to move to a model where half of our classes are tuition-based, and half are community offerings that make creative writing accessible to specific groups – such as low-income BIPOC seniors – with a focus on topics that are empowering and healing for those who are underserved. In order to best serve survivors of trauma and other marginalized communities, we are partnering with local nonprofits with expertise in serving the systematically oppressed.

At the Redbud Writing Project, we believe that writing is transformative for individuals, and that inclusive writing classes support systemic transformation: elevating rural, queer, BIPOC people, survivors of trauma and other marginalized voices will lead to more diverse published books, teachers, editors, and publishers. When we cultivate and elevate stories from marginalized voices, we have the opportunity to inspire whole new generations of readers and citizens. Writing and reading inspire empathy and can fundamentally change how we see the world.

### A Southern Vision:

Redbud Writing Project will join the ranks of other nationally renowned writing schools such as Minneapolis' The Loft Literary Center and Boston's Grub Street, who are committed to community work. No other organization in North Carolina provides this essential service. It is crucial that Redbud expand offerings to create a more inclusive and accessible literary community that reflects the diversity of our state.



## Creating Equity

We partner with other nonprofits to provide creative, educational spaces for community groups who have been historically excluded from the writing community. We are looking for corporate sponsors to join us in creating a more inclusive, healing creative community.

### Successful Community Initiatives & Pilot Programs:

- We're thrilled to be rolling out a six-week class this fall in collaboration with Planned Parenthood. Starting in August, this class will be for students in Planned Parenthood's patient advocacy program, and will focus on destigmatizing stories about abortion, gender-affirming care, and more.
- In April 2021 we offered a library-funded class at the Durham library system, free to community members.
- In January 2021 and March 2022, we offered six-week classes to BIPOC and under-represented writers in Orange County.

### Classes and initiatives for which we are actively seeking funding:

- **Supporting BIPOC Writers:** a drop-in community class for BIPOC writers in Raleigh, taught by local activist Taari Coleman. (cost: \$2500 per six-week session, \$16,000 for the entire year);

"Taking this memoir class... has given me a set time to write and reflect...on the importance of understanding who I have been over my lifetime."

-Aisha BH, a student in our cost-free community Intro to Memoir class in Chapel Hill



Students at a donor-sponsored memoir class at the Durham Center for Senior Life in April 2022.

- **Anti-Racist Writing Space:** for BIPOC writers where students can have a safe anti-racist space to grapple with identity and racism (this class will be a paid tuition-based class for some students, but we are committed to offering three scholarships so at least 3/8ths of the students participating will come from low-income backgrounds. Cost to fund scholarships for one of these classes: \$1047);
- **Finding Catharsis Through Writing:** for women and non-binary people on writing trauma, offered through a specific local nonprofit (cost: \$3100 per six-week session, \$18,600 for the entire year);
- **Writing Your Life Story:** A memoir class for seniors at the Durham Center for Senior Life (Estimated cost: \$3100 per six-week session, \$18,600 for the entire year).



### Tax-Deductible Donations:

Redbud is a fiscally sponsored organization through Visual Art Exchange Raleigh, which means that any donations made to us are tax-deductible. The costs listed above are estimates based on past offerings. Redbud's financials and tax information are available for review. Itemized budgets can be provided for any offering. Redbud operates in good standing and embraces the values of transparency and fiduciary responsibility.

### Funder Recognition:

Donors and sponsors will be listed on our website and mentioned anytime we promote or discuss the specific program to which you donated. We rely on private investment to make our vision a reality. Thank you for contributing to the invaluable project of making creative writing more accessible and inclusive.



Students in a Fiction I class at Quail Ridge Books in May 2022.