

QUESTION #1: What is the Writers House

ANSWER: As one of only six Writers Houses in the country, and the second to be built after the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, The Philadelphia Alumni Writers House is a literary performance space – and so much more. Each school year, the Writers House Community (including you!) re-defines the House, creating their ideal of what a space devoted to readers and writers should be and bringing invention to each program we host. Yet there are some common themes that shape all of our programs:

- We foster and nurture student creativity.
- we work with faculty and students to support the curriculum across disciplines.
- We bring world-class writers into conversation with emerging writers and readers.
- We build stronger ties between current students, alumni, faculty, and featured writers.
- We do all of this to commune in the lively, larger world of writing, publishing, creating, and interpreting.

QUESTION #2: When did the Writers House begin?

ANSWER: Officially, the Writers House opened its doors in 2004. But before the actual building existed, students, faculty and staff initiated the first iteration of the Writers House Community and began planning and hosting literary programs across campus. At the same time, they laid the foundation for how the Writers House would live and thrive on the Franklin & Marshall campus.

QUESTION #3: When is the Writers House open?

ANSWER: The Writers House is open Monday through Thursday from 9AM-10PM, Friday from 9AM-5PM and Sunday from 7PM-10PM. Classes are held in the Writers House, and student publications hold their offices and meetings, here. Typically, the house is humming, and you can be a part of it by getting involved with Writers House business or events, or by spending time here in the evenings with friends, with books, or with your thoughts. The fireplace and kitchen are always open.

QUESTION #4: How can I get involved with the Writers House?

ANSWER: You can start by joining WHCommune, the listserv for the Writers House Community. On it, we share information about events, internship opportunities, writing contests, alumni news and the occasional haiku or joke exchange. You can also join one of the Writers House committees, hospitality; publications; or student initiatives (information on these can be found on our website under Writers House Community), write for a student publication, attend our monthly Community meetings with literary guests, join us for Writers House field trips, read your work at an open mic or workshop, or you can be a member of the Writers House super staff. Or, if you're inclined, you can simply lurk on the edges.

QUESTION #5: What is the mission of the Writers House?

ANSWER: In addition to the information provided in number 1, the Writers House does have an official mission statement, which the Mission Committee composed with lines mined from several student submissions offered from the Writers House Community:

The Philadelphia Alumni Writers House welcomes, inspires, feeds, teaches, shares, loves. Among pens, computers, dirty dishes, and good food, more than a community is evoked. It is here where the imagination has no limits and dreams meet reality. We believe that academic and artistic endeavors are fundamentally connected to everyday life. All are welcome to visit, listen, contribute, or just stay a while.