



writers  
in the  
schools  
2016 GALA

What if we were all *free to be*, like a young child, curious, confident, and carefree. Who would you be? An artist? A gamer? An astronaut?

Writers in the Schools (WITS) nurtures the dreams and imaginations of children, celebrating their stories and voices. Since 1983, WITS has brought innovation, connection, and education to Houston, teaching creative writing in school and community classrooms. As the largest literary arts organization in Texas and leader of international movements for arts education, WITS is a change agent for cultivating creativity in literacy for 36,850 children and teachers.



## FREE TO BE GALA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016 | THE ASTORIAN

honorary chair  
**Lisa Helfman**

celebration chairs  
**Mitra Woody**  
**Ryan Leach**

auction chair  
**Beth Bernal**

#FREE2BE

Join us this November for the *Free to Be* Gala. This event has grown so much that we are heading over to The Astorian, an industrial-chic venue in the Washington Avenue Arts District. We will introduce Houston's second-annual Youth Poet Laureate, celebrate student stories, hear poetry performances, and play games together during a fun auction. Event proceeds are instrumental in helping WITS reach more underserved children, grow a new digital program, expand the teen slam poetry movement, and coach teachers. Tickets start at \$350, table sponsorships at \$3,000. Customized sponsorships are available.

## HONORING SARA SPEER SELBER

We will honor Sara Speer Selber with the *Free to Be* Award. Sara has made a meaningful difference for the people of Houston. As a former WITS parent, collaborator, and longtime friend, Sara passionately promotes poetry and the power of creative learning. For 30 years, Sara has developed socially responsible projects and businesses, including: The Dynegy Foundation, AIDS Foundation Houston, Prepared 4 Life, Selko and Associates, BuildClean, the Bynum School in Midland, NFL Super Build, and Lemonade Day. Sara is President of the Project Management Team, helping nonprofits design, develop, and implement visionary strategies that create community impact.



I can't think of a better organization to change the education of our children and communities where we live, work, play, and create."

—SARA SPEER SELBER



writers in  
the schools

WITSHOUSTON.ORG



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

WITS reaches kids where others cannot! WITS sponsors provide a critical role in helping more children experience creative learning and academic success. Set your company apart by being a WITS sponsor, showcasing your commitment to high-quality education.

### TABLES

### TICKETS

	\$15,000 Visionary	\$10,000 Advocate	\$5,000 Underwriter	\$3,000 Benefactor	\$550 Ambassador	\$350 Friend
CHILDREN DIRECTLY IMPACTED	300	200	100	60	11	7
MARKETING IMPRESSIONS	194,815	185,115	169,115	2,515	2,515	315
SEATS AT GALA	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10 PRIME SEATING	Table of 10	1 PRIME SEATING	1

### GALA BENEFITS

Speaking opportunity at gala	●					
Logo projection at auction	●					
Featured story in e-newsletter	● LOGO + LINK	●				
Spotlight on social media	● LOGO	● LOGO	●			
Listing on signage and invite	● LOGO	● LOGO	●	●	●	
Recognition in program	● LOGO	● LOGO	●	●	●	●

### WITS PROGRAMMATIC RECOGNITION

Community event signage	● LOGO	● LOGO	●			
Listing in student anthologies	● LOGO	●	●			
Year-long listing on website	● LOGO + LINK	● LOGO	●			
Chance to judge poetry slam	●	●	●			
Signage at adult writing salons	●	●	●			
Reserved seating at readings	●	●				
Personalized poetry video	●					
Logo on student t-shirts	●					
Onsite "poet-tree" installation	●					

### EARLY BIRD LIMITED UNDERWRITING

#### Bar - \$10,000

**Benefactor** recognition, plus:

- Signage with logo at bar
- Logo projected at auction
- Logo on bar napkins

#### Valet - \$4,000

**Ambassador** recognition, plus:

- Signage at entrance
- Giveaway in each car
- 1 additional seat (2 total)

#### Stage Design - \$4,000

**Ambassador** recognition, plus:

- Logo projected outside on building
- 1 additional seat (2 total)



\*9.16.16 INVITATION DEADLINE

WITSHOUSTON.ORG



Anonymous

Name (for recognition)

Contact Person (if different)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone

**Yes, please include me on the Host Committee!**

**T A B L E S**

- \_\_\_ \$15,000 - Visionary
- \_\_\_ \$10,000 - Advocate
- \_\_\_ \$5,000 - Underwriter
- \_\_\_ \$3,000 - Benefactor

**T I C K E T S**

- \_\_\_ \$550 - Ambassador
- \_\_\_ \$350 - Friend

**S U P P O R T W I T S**

- \_\_\_ Sponsor a workshop - \$500
- \_\_\_ Sponsor a teacher - \$125
- \_\_\_ Sponsor a child - \$50

I will host a writer at my table     I will sponsor a writer as my date

**TABLE CAPTAIN** I pledge to recruit friends to fill  a table of 10;  a half table

I am unable to attend, but would like to enclose a gift \$\_\_\_\_\_  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**MATCHING GIFT** \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Match \$\_\_\_\_\_

**SILENT AUCTION + IN-KIND** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Value \$\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL GIFT \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**P A Y M E N T** [visit [WITSHOUSTON.ORG/GALA](http://WITSHOUSTON.ORG/GALA) to register online]

- Check payable to Writers in the Schools (WITS) enclosed
- Charge credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

Please contact me about payment options



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CHARITABLE TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 76-0338549 | FAIR MARKET VALUE: \$125 PER SEAT

Writers in the Schools (WITS) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. WITS does not place a value on goods and services. This is a privilege and responsibility of the donor. Auction donor(s) agree to release, discharge, and indemnify WITS, its agents, representatives, or employees, from and against all claims, demands, actions, and judgments which may result from damage to or loss of any items the donor(s) has provided solely for displaying purposes during WITS' Celebration of Story. Donor is responsible for transit of donated items. The donor(s) represents that the donor(s) owns the auction item described above without encumbrance, and the donor(s) donates and gives the donation to WITS with the purpose and intent of transferring all right, title and interest in the donation to WITS.