



FISCAL YEAR 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Board of Directors and Advisors
at PJP's in person meeting,
Washington, D.C., 2024.



PJP STAFF AND
LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

64%
Female

45%
Incarceration-
impacted

55%
BIPOC

07

Our Mission



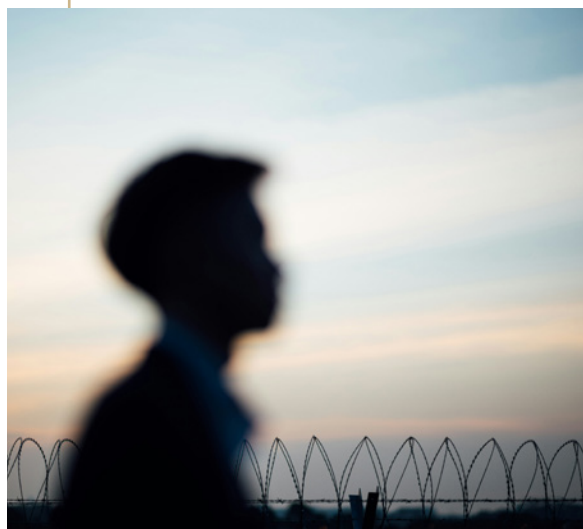
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INSIDE

CHANGING THE STORYTELLERS

We had another busy and productive year, making big strides at Prison Journalism Project.



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

We've been building a solid foundation for our writers to learn and grow. We launched a comprehensive curriculum that combines journalism skills with literacy and workforce readiness — a holistic approach we believe in deeply. We're excited to be working with 186 writers from across the country through our handbook course. Our summer journalism program in Oklahoma, in partnership with Poetic Justice, led to the creation of two new prison publications.

In our publishing work, we focused on stories about the experience of prison. The year's highlights include a story co-published with USA Today from

a writer in New York about watching the Knicks' playoff run (selected for "The Year's Best Sports Writing 2025" anthology), a special project on how people experience extreme summer heat in prison (a finalist for Poynter Institute's Punch Sulzberger Prize for Journalism Innovation) and our "Locked Out" series about what voting and politics mean to incarcerated Americans. We were also incredibly proud to partner with the Society of Professional Journalists in launching the Stillwater Awards, a national prison journalism awards program that celebrates the talent and dedication of incarcerated journalists.

Your support makes it possible to provide the training, the platform and the recognition for the writers. In a world that often feels fractured, the power of storytelling to connect and foster understanding is essential. We hope you'll dive into this report and see the impact you're making. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

YUKARI KANE AND SHAHEEN PASHA
Co-founders, Prison Journalism Project



1



4

1. Board of Directors and Advisors at PJP's in person meeting, Washington, D.C., 2024.

2. PJP team with Hon. Myron H. Thomson, U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, in his historic courtroom in Montgomery, Alabama.

3. Co-founder Shaheen Pasha with PJP alumni Ryan Moser, who served as panelists for "Prison Journalism: For, By and about the Incarcerated. Who Gets to Tell Their Stories?" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference in Philadelphia, PA, Aug. 2024

4. Co-founder Yukari Kane with the late Marcus "Wali" Henderson, a PJP alumnus and former Editor-in-Chief of San Quentin News, and Jonathan Chiu, a PJP alumnus and former layout editor and crossword designer for Wall City magazine and San Quentin News.

5. PJP Writer Relations team organized a "Welcome Home" holiday Zoom gathering with PJP writers who have come home in Dec. 2025.



I'm using my writing as an outlet to get out and definitely stay out. I'm never coming back to this, at least as an incarcerated person. I am driven to be an advocate for change and want to use my writing to shift the perception of those of us in here, and those who got out. By changing the conversation to something that shatters stereotypes, I believe we can accomplish a ton! Right?"

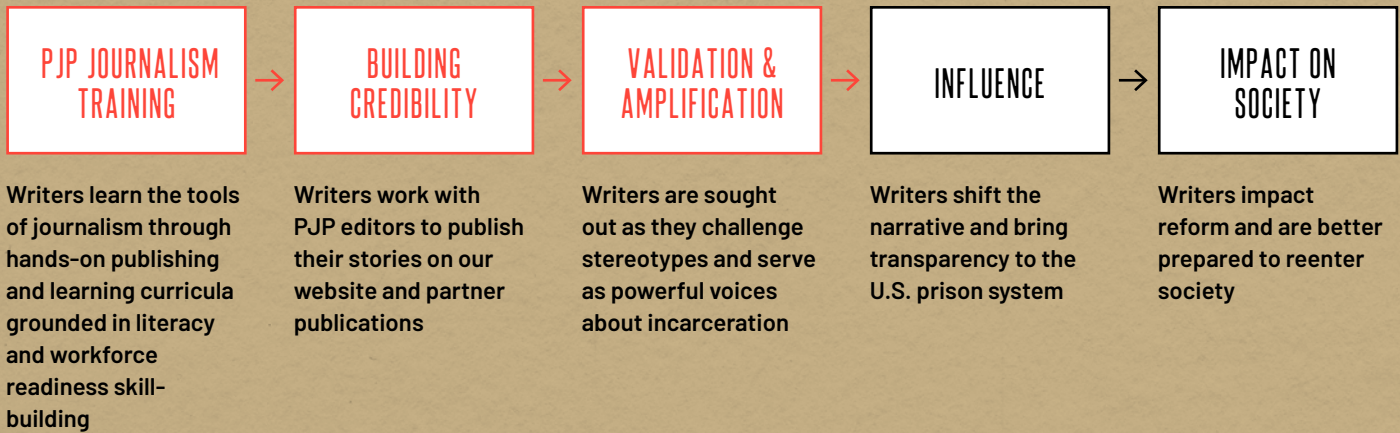
Derick LeCompte, incarcerated in New Jersey

OUR MISSION

Prison Journalism Project is an independent, national nonprofit initiative that trains and publishes incarcerated writers so they can share impactful stories, shed light on the U.S. prison system, and shift the narrative about life behind bars. We aim to develop leaders who can challenge stereotypes and influence broader conversations about incarceration while also gaining workforce readiness skills.

PJP THEORY OF CHANGE

At PJP, we believe in the power of journalism to effect meaningful change in the criminal legal system. PJP's Theory of Change demonstrates how we aim to support writers so their voices and experiences contribute to discussions about the criminal legal system. Our goal is to shed light on the issues of incarceration by providing the training, newsroom support and publication opportunities that in turn lead to more opportunities for our writers during and after incarceration.



I used to believe that writing from prison was pointless, that no one cared about what we go through because of our past. Now, I know my life has value, and my journey has purpose. PJP helped me discover myself behind these walls, transforming my life.”

— C.R. Addleman, incarcerated in California



Photo by Peter Merts

ENSURING WRITERS' SAFETY AND DIGNITY

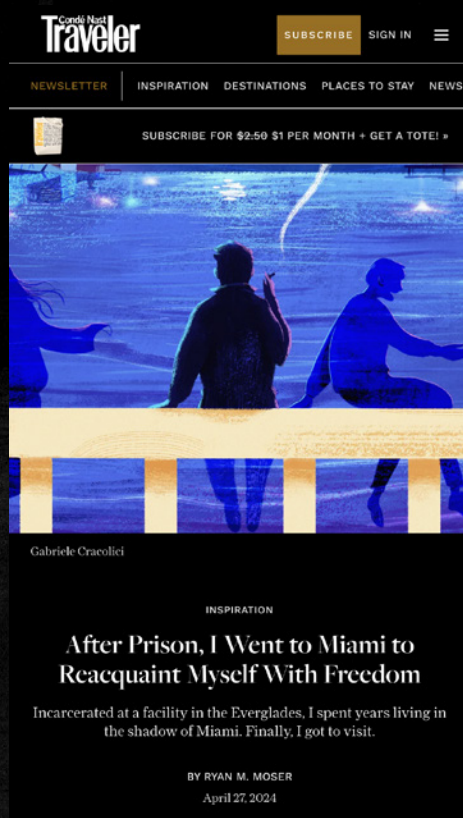
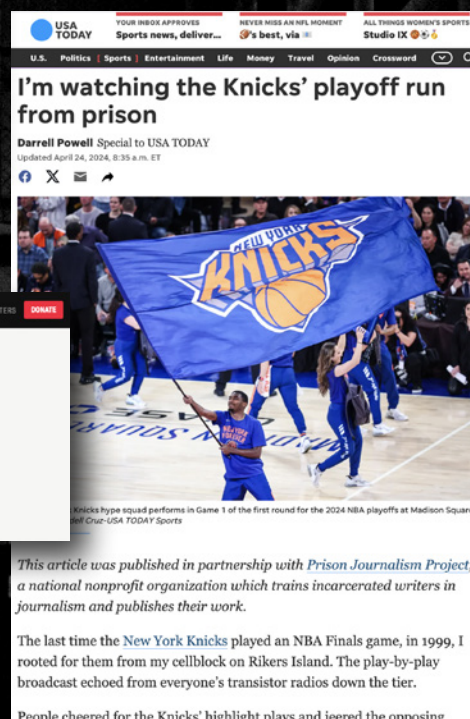
We recognize that we are creating space for telling true stories largely in restricted environments where people do not have the same rights and protections as citizens and journalists on the outside.

We are cognizant that the biggest risk of our work is borne by our writers.

We are committed to providing our writers with the knowledge and training they need to fully understand the risks their work can entail. Our duty of care practices are informed by staff members who have themselves been incarcerated.

PJP's duty of care extends to all of our writers regardless of convictions, past misdeeds or current struggles. Judging crimes is the court's job, not ours.

EDITORIAL PARTNERSHIPS



Co-published 13 stories with 15 partners in 2024 and assisted on two stories that were exclusively published respectively by Condé Nast Traveler and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

IMPACT

TOP 10 STORIES

These were the most-clicked stories on Prison Journalism Project's website in 2024.



1



2



3



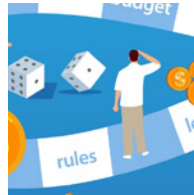
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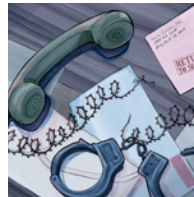
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6



7



8



9



10

186

Stories published in 2024

Because of you, incarcerated writers were able to tell their own stories. Help us publish more stories like these.

BY THE NUMBERS

Writers published



STATES
(incl. D.C.)

COUNTRIES

PRISONS

WRITERS

STORIES

Cumulative Impact (2020-2024)

digital messages
between PJP
staff and writers

pieces of
physical mail

Newsletter subscribers

**Increase in
subscribers,
February to
December 2024**

Writers enrolled in PJP's certification program

IN 25 STATES

WHEN I WRITE FOR PJP,
I FEEL LIBERATED.

MY VOICE TRAVELS BEYOND
THESE CONCRETE WALLS
AND BARBED WIRE FENCES.

BEING A VOICE FOR
A MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY
GIVES MEANING AND PURPOSE
TO MY LIFE.

— Shakeil Price, incarcerated in New Jersey

LOOKING BACK

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



"Faded Decay Of Confinement," 2024 by Alvin Smith. Acrylic on canvas. Painted in a day room of the Muskegon Jail, in Michigan.



PJP Special Projects and Features

1

Summer Heat in Prison: Just How Hot Are Our Nation's Prisons?:

PJP collaborated with The Marshall Project on a national effort highlighting the dangerous impact of heat on incarcerated populations.

2

Locked Out: On Voting, Politics and Democracy Behind Bars:

As part of Democracy Day, we participated in a nationwide reporting collaboration that focused on civic disenfranchisement and voter access in prison.

3

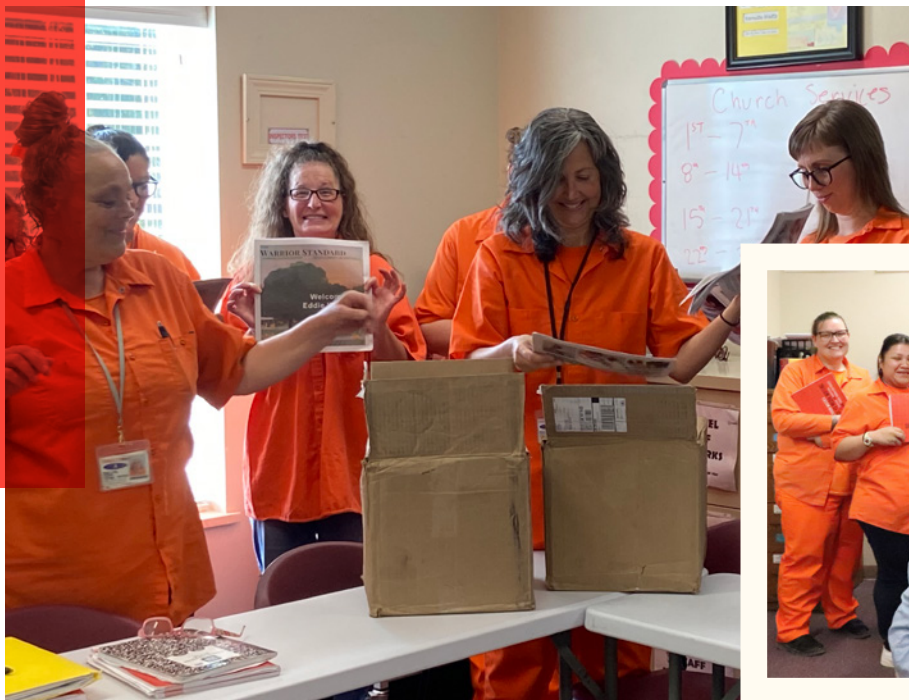
Holidays After Prison:

A series of short essays from writers on their relationship to the holidays after being released.

4

I'm Watching The Knicks' Playoff Run From Prison:

This sports essay earned national attention for its insight and originality and was chosen to be part of "The Year's Best Sports Writing 2025" anthology (published by Triumph Books).



"In prison, where it is so easy to become invisible ... journalism has given me the hope that I can reach a greater audience and that I can bring forth a greater perspective about the idea of justice and its impact on women."

Tulsa Summer of Journalism participant at Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center

PJP Partnerships

1

Stillwater prison journalism awards: Partnered with the Society of Professional Journalists to establish the [SPJ-PJP Stillwater Awards](#), a national program that honors excellence in one of the most challenging fields of journalism. Twelve PJP journalists and artists won prizes in the first inaugural contest.

2

Tulsa launch: Enrolled 19 writers in a summer journalism training program at Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center and Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in Oklahoma led by local prison writing program [Poetic Justice](#) in partnership with PJP. Two new prison publications were established at the end of the course. All of the writers are able to continue

their journalism training through the PJP handbook certification course, underwritten by Langeloth Foundation.

3

A first-of-its-kind handbook: Published "[A Prison Writer's Guide to Media Writing](#)," by PJP co-founders Yukari Kane and Shaheen Pasha, and launched a new certification program. Initial partners included: The Marshall Project, Open Campus, PEN America, Empowerment Avenue, Northwestern Prison Education Program, and Poetic Justice.



PJP Press + Appearances

1

On "[Representation and proximity: changing the storytellers of record](#)" at the International Journalism Festival (March 2024)

2

"Breaking Barriers: Media Strategies for Prison Rehabilitation & Empowerment" at [Media Impact Forum](#) (May 2024)

3

"Criminal Justice in America: The Fight for Freedom and Reform" at [The Atlantic Festival](#) with MacArthur Foundation criminal justice senior program officer Bria Gillum. (September 2024)

4

"[How to Use Empathy to Build Better Editors and Newsroom Leaders](#)" at the Online News Association, a workshop on PJP's empathetic editing approach (September 2024)

5

PJP's work was featured by media organizations, including [NPR's Morning Edition](#), [It's All Journalism](#), [Tulsa World](#), [The Oklahoma](#) and [Oklahoma Watch](#).



PJP Wins

1 Stillwater Awards: PJP contributors took home 12 awards, including Most Impactful Journalism, Best Collaboration and runners-up for Prison Journalist of the Year.

2 LION Publishers' 2024 Product of the Year finalist for "A Prison Writer's Guide to Media Writing."

3 Asian American Journalists Association Changemaker of the Year awarded to Yukari Kane in recognition of her work at PJP.

4 Poynter's Punch Sulzberger Prize for Journalism Innovation: PJP and The Marshall Project's extreme heat series was a finalist for the project, which was also included in The Marshall Project's "Some of Our Best Work for 2024."

5 North American Travel Journalists Association Excellence in Travel Journalism: Ryan Moser, a PJP correspondent, won third place in the long-form personal essay category for a story about his first trip to Miami after leaving prison published by Condé Nast Traveler with PJP's support.



LOOKING ➔ AHEAD



2025-2026

STRATEGIC PLAN

It's all about **women, narrative shift, workforce readiness and literacy.**



Women first: PJP is prioritizing programs for incarcerated and incarceration-impacted women. Given that the rate of incarceration for women is growing at twice the pace of men, that the majority of incarcerated women are mothers, and that they are more likely to be the sole caretakers of minor children, we see an urgency to prioritize their needs to help them achieve economic mobility and break the cycle of incarceration while they also learn how to tell their stories.



Head Start on Second Chance: We aim to restructure our learning curriculum to firmly ground it in literacy and workforce development. We are developing a training course for educational platforms on prison tablets as well as assessments to track our writers' progress.



Stories for the community, by the community: We are redesigning our online publication to focus on how people navigate the prison system to better serve incarceration-impacted families.



Diversity and accessibility: In order to expand the number of people who can participate in PJP's programs, we are incorporating innovative approaches to reporting and writing in a way that takes literacy levels into account, so we can further diversify our base of writers in terms of gender, race, ethnicity and geography.



Community building: We are strengthening our community support so writers feel more connected to society, each other and to PJP.



"I KNOW HOW VITAL
IT IS TO REVEAL
REALITIES OF MASS INCARCERATION.

AS THE SISTER OF SOMEBODY IN PRISON,
PJP OFFERS ME AN INSIDE GLIMPSE
OF MY LOVED ONE'S LIFE.

— PJP Member

FINANCIALS

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$553,278
Accounts Receivables	\$383,037
Prepaid expenses	\$21,941
Total Assets	\$958,256

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$11,422
Accrued Payroll and Paid Time Off	\$15,302
Total Liabilities	\$26,724
Net Assets, Without Donor Restrictions	\$931,532
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$958,256

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT + REVENUE

Donations and Grants	79.2%	\$1,042,650
Program	20.8%	\$274,282
Interest Income	<1%	\$31
Total		\$1,316,963

EXPENSES

Programs	65.9%	\$922,879
Management and general	17.4%	\$244,154
Fundraising	16.7%	\$234,044
Total		\$1,401,077

Note: The financial report is a draft. The audited financial report will be provided once it is finalized.



OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Because of you, we have been able to train more writers and help bring more stories from behind prison bars to the outside world. Your support has strengthened our programs, expanded our reach, and provided our writers with the tools they need to connect with outside readers through their stories.


We're grateful for your belief in the power of journalism to drive change, build understanding and remind us of our shared humanity.

In our 2024 end-of-year campaign, we raised over \$50,000 from more than 300 individuals, underscoring the impact of our broad community.

Your support does more than fund a project — it contributes to strengthening democracy, supporting economic mobility, and creating a more inclusive and just society.

**Because of you, incarcerated writers
made a real difference in 2024.**

We're deeply grateful to every donor who
invested in our mission — you lit the path
toward a more inclusive and empathetic
society. If you'd like to invest in this mission
in 2025, please consider making a gift.

[Make a gift here](#) 

Our Supporters

Prison Journalism Project is grateful to all
the donors who support our work to train
incarcerated writers and publish their
stories. The following have contributed
\$1,000 or more since January 1, 2024.

Amanda Weitman
Annemarie Dooling
Ari Weinstein
Cindy and Devin Wenig
David Hiller
Davis Weinstock
Deborah Santana
Diana Kapp and David B. Singer
The Emerson Collective
Emily Kaiser
Esther Fein
The Eugene M. Lang Foundation
Fabio Dias
Fred Vogelstein and Evelyn Nussenbaum
The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation
Jennair Rennie
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
Foundation
The Just Trust
Kappana and Nancy Ramanandan
Kate Lombardi
Kate Myers and Eric Benson
Keller Family NY Community Trust
Kevin Homiak
Lee Cruceta
Louise Story
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Megan Hull
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Sara Malone
Stenkirke Family Foundation
Steve and Karen Kreider Yoder
Steve Seleznow
Sturley Family Fund
Susan Crown Exchange
Susman Godfrey LLP
Wesley Lowery
Yukari and Patrick Kane

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Media Inquiries

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Collaborate


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Receive Prison Journalism Project's weekly newsletter [The Inside Story](#) that highlights our writers' best work.

Support Incarcerated Writers

PJP is an independent nonprofit organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to Prison Journalism Project are tax-deductible (EIN 87-3805290).

We retain full authority over editorial content to protect the best journalistic and business interests of our organization. We maintain a firewall between news coverage decisions and sources of all revenue. Acceptance of financial support does not constitute implied or actual endorsement of donors or their products, services or opinions.

For questions or to make changes to your membership, contact Austin Lukasik, development associate, at austin@prisonjournalismproject.org, or check out our [FAQ page](#).

For more information about our policies and business practices, visit our [Policies](#) page.