

THE SYRACUSE HUMANITIES CENTER PRESENTS AS PART OF THE SYRACUSE SYMPOSIUM

# IS WRITING ENOUGH?

## CREATIVITY, INCARCERATION, & TRAUMA



JOHNNY PAGE, DIRECTOR OF REENTRY FOR  
THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



MOIRA MARQUIS, MANAGER OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIPS AT THE PETEY GREENE PROGRAM

### 29 JANUARY 2026

7:00-8:30 PM

SHINDER THEATER, DOWNTOWN YMCA,  
340 MONTGOMERY ST AND VIA ZOOM

Conventional wisdom says that creative self-expression is a path to healing and recovery for those who have experienced harm, particularly when that harm is compounded by the criminal legal system. Many of us can recall the power and poetry of prose and verse penned by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. But is this power sometimes overstated? While creativity is a human impulse that empowers and can facilitate healing, many justice-impacted people have experienced harms through systems that cannot be surmounted simply through the act of creative self-expression. Moira Marquis and Johnny Page begin with conversation on the complexities of creativity for justice-impacted people before sharing examples of creative expression. ASL provided on site.



**ATTEND VIA  
ZOOM**

**30 JANUARY 2026 THE SENTENCES THAT CREATE US 304 TOLLEY HALL  
9:30 A.M. - NOON**

In this workshop facilitated by Johnny Page and Moira Marquis, participants will be guided through writing exercises, interspersed with conversation, designed to help them find their voices and tell their stories. Space is limited. To request a spot and to request accommodations, use the QR code on the right.



**REQUEST  
A SPOT**

These events are supported by the YMCA of Central New York - Downtown Writers Center, the Center for Community Alternatives, the Engaged Humanities Network, Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition. Humanities New York, and Project Mend. Queries: Contact Patrick W. Berry at [pwberry@sy.edu](mailto:pwberry@sy.edu).

**creativity**

Syracuse Symposium 25/26  
Syracuse University Humanities Center

**PROJECT MEND**

**S** Syracuse University  
Humanities Center