FWI Funding Statement and Report
May 31, 2016

Please summarize how the FWI funds have been spent:
Printing and design costs for the Hamilton Youth Anthology: $1344.77
Cookie tray and fruit for book launch: $24.93
Pizza for book launch: $63.10
Gift basket for Bryan Prince Bookseller for hosting book launch: $64.20
Total: $1497.00

Balance remaining:
$3.00

Project summary:
Ink Movement is a national, youth-led nonprofit organization that empowers youth to engage in creative expression. Founded in Mississauga in 2012, Ink Movement has since raised nearly $25,000 and provided experiential arts programming for over 1000 youth, while also expanding to Montreal and Hamilton. Our signature initiative is the Mississauga Youth Anthology, a print book that showcases the literary, visual, and photographic works of talented young artists in the municipality. With the generosity of the McMaster Forward with Integrity (FWI) grant program, Ink Movement’s Hamilton chapter aimed to translate the anthology initiative to the Hamilton-Wentworth area.

The Hamilton Youth Anthology, Volume I (ISBN 978-0-9940524-0-7), was an interdisciplinary and collaborative project to showcase youth expression. The anthology represented a partnership between Ink Movement Hamilton, McMaster University’s Forward with Integrity grant program, Hamilton Arts Council, Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Wolsak & Wynn, and Bryan Prince Bookseller Ltd. The project team involved 25 McMaster students coming from diverse educational backgrounds, including English, Arts & Science, Health Sciences, Engineering, Theatre and Film, Physics, and other programs.

The anthology was an innovative initiative because youth are rarely given a voice in the field of literature. Youth face notable barriers to publishing, including cost, age, and experience. As a result, talented young poets and writers may not be able to publish their work. The Hamilton Youth Anthology, Volume I, aimed to shift the paradigm by putting youth at the forefront in the creation, design, and content of a published book. Besides the students on the organizing team, approximately 30 Hamilton youth were included in the final anthology. They are poets, short storytellers, essayists, photographers, visual artists, and more. Many of these young artists were McMaster students, and thus the anthology cements the school’s reputation as a student-centered institution.

Collaboration between faculty members and students was a key component of the project’s success. We collaborated with Ms. Margaret Secord, Assistant Clinical Professor in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (B.H.Sc.) program, as well as Ms. Sarah Glen, a community-based participatory researcher who teaches in B.H.Sc., to collect informed consent from our young artists in a thorough and thoughtful manner. With their input, we gave participants the ability to discuss consent through a face-to-face meeting in order to account for potential language barriers. Since the participants were all below the age of 24 and the book will be in circulation indefinitely, obtaining informed consent was an important priority for our team.

Our project succeeded in meeting the two primary deliverables. The first deliverable was
the book itself, which was published in July 2015 by Wolsak & Wynn. The book was 60 pages with 8.5” x 5.5” dimensions and printed in black and white with colour covers. The second deliverable was a book launch held at Bryan Prince Bookseller in Westdale Village on Monday, September 21, 2015 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The launch was an opportunity to celebrate the contributors to our inaugural anthology in Hamilton, featuring author readings and book signings. We measured the success of our project in terms of the number of submissions to the anthology (142), the number of artists featured in the book (30), the number of author readings at the book launch (7), and the number of attendees at the book launch (60). On all fronts, our project achieved a high level of success. The photos from the launch can be found at http://www.inkmovement.org/hamilton-youth-anthology-vol-1-book-launch.

Now that initial FWI funding has been exhausted, we are hoping to continue the impact of the Hamilton Youth Anthology into the future. We have collected a record number of submissions (205) for the Hamilton Youth Anthology, Volume 2, and we are currently in the process of having our student editorial board review the submissions. We are aiming to fund the second anthology using the sales from our first anthology, in addition to community grants and sponsorships from local businesses. Already, we have received $150 from the McMaster Undergraduate Student Initiatives Fund (USIF) in order to organize the book launch for the second anthology.

Book cover:
Photos from book launch: