

Just Buffalo Literacy Center & InsideOut Literary Arts Case Study

Nonprofit

Consulting

Customized Thought Partnership



Just Buffalo Literacy Center (JBLC) at a glance:

Just Buffalo Literacy Center is a nonprofit organization with a mission to create and strengthen communities through the literary arts.



InsideOut Literary Arts (IOLA) at a glance:

Through creative writing, InsideOut inspires and equips young people to think critically, create bravely, and share their voices with the world.

About the Program

Both organizations provide a variety of programming aligned to their missions. For example, Citywide Poets cultivates youth-driven narratives for the future of Detroit, rooted in creativity and artistry.

With funding from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, IOLA and JBLC collaboratively participated in trainings and the engagement with VIA.

OVERVIEW

JBLC and IOLA were in need of a thought partner to help them determine the most effective approaches to measure and assess program outcomes. By collaborating with an external partner, they hoped to gain fresh perspectives and insights that would lead to more accurate and meaningful evaluations of their program.

NEED

Both organizations wanted to clarify how the purpose, activities, and goals of their programs align, and how to measure progress. They sought an evaluation thought partner to help determine creative ways to assess key outcomes and develop effective data systems for tracking within their environments.

RESPONSE

In partnership with the organizations, VIA walked them through the process of developing, articulating, and solidifying each organization's theory of change as well as their flagship programs' logic models. This helped identify what key outcomes they wanted to focus on measuring to demonstrate what their programs are doing and what outcomes they hope to achieve.

It also clarified what data needs to be collected. In-depth evaluation plans were created to guide future data collection and assessment aligned to the logic models.

DELIVERABLES



Evaluation Plans Logic Models (6) Theory of Change (2) Data Tracking Tools

RESULTS

The organizations now have a well-defined assessment strategy that empowers them to quantify and track those desired outcomes and efficient data systems that facilitate assessment without imposing a massive workload.

Are you collecting the data you need? Contact VIA to create a tailored solution for your program.