



CITY of NORTHAMPTON
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Premiere of Documentary About Women Who Write to Overcome Experiences with Incarceration and Addiction ***A Partnership between Arts Equity Group and the City of Northampton***

NORTHAMPTON - [Finding the Words: The Story of Voices from Inside](#), a new documentary about women who write to overcome experiences with incarceration and addiction will premiere January 28, 2023, at the Academy of Music. The premiere is a partnership between Arts Equity Group and the City of Northampton's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Community Care (DCC), and Prevention Division. *Finding the Words* is a documentary about the creativity, joy, and resilience of women in western Massachusetts who overcome adversity through writing. Following the screening, the filmmakers and the women featured in the documentary will participate in a public dialogue and question and answer period. The entire program will also be [live streamed by Northampton Open Media](#).

"This film presents a powerful opportunity for the public to learn about the experiences of people in its community who have been incarcerated and are in recovery," says Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra. "We are happy to help the production team amplify the stories of the amazing women featured in the documentary and bring the community together for this special program."

In addition to collaborating with DHHS, the filmmakers have built partnerships with several local community organizations surrounding this event. "We want this film to have a positive impact on as many people as possible. It felt natural for us to partner with local organizations who are doing the day-to-day work of advocacy and providing support services for people who are incarcerated and in recovery," says Executive Producer Alex Wagman. Sponsors and partners include Community Action, HampshireHOPE, the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region, and Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

State Senator Jo Comerford, long-time supporter of the rights of women, incarcerated people, and people in recovery will also attend the premiere and help introduce the film. "I'm honored to speak at this event and raise awareness for the rights of incarcerated people and those in recovery," says Senator Comerford. "We do policy work related to these issues on a regular basis, but this film breathes life into our work by telling the stories of the real people impacted by incarceration and addiction."

The community premiere will take place Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Academy of Music. Tickets are **free** and open to everyone, but should be reserved in advance. To learn more and reserve a ticket, please visit [the Academy of Music website](#).

This event is made possible thanks to generous support from MassHumanities, Northampton Open Media, Northampton Arts Council, Mass Cultural Council, the Opioid Task Force of Franklin County

and the North Quabbin Region, Western Mass Area Labor Federation, Five College Realtors, Bridget Goggins with Coldwell Banker, Greenfield Savings Bank, Holly Young with Delap Real Estate, Taylor Real Estate, Cohn & Company, Esselon Coffee Roasters, Florence Pie Bar, Noodle Northampton, Aspect Six Architectural Photography, and Arts Equity Group.

To watch the teaser and learn more about the film and related statistics, please visit finding-the-words.com.

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