



Writer's Block Ink, Incorporated,  
[www.writersblockink.org](http://www.writersblockink.org); (860) 442-5625; [writersblock2@gmail.com](mailto:writersblock2@gmail.com)  
Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change

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**Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change**

*Music is the salvation of my life and any creative thing is the cornerstone of my existence. – Morgan J. Penn*

**About the Block**

**The Writer's Block Ink**, founded in 2003, is a 501c3 non-profit organization that empowers youth to advance key skills through all aspects of theatre. Our primary mission is *to arm young voices with the power of pen and prose, reinforcing teamwork, accountability, and responsibility to ignite social change on the page and stage*. Here youth create and perform original, socially-conscious work running the full spectrum of creative arts (writing, dancing, singing, visual arts, etc.).

We establish an environment that invites and nurtures individual and collective creativity. We engage youth from all walks of life to use all aspects of visual and performing arts as tools to address personal and social challenges. At the Block, we invite and encourage youth to open up, speak up, create and perform. We find, feed, and launch young leaders.

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***Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change***

The Writer's Block Ink, Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change honors founding member, Morgan J. Penn, who passed away in 2011.

Morgan was an eloquent poet who showed her passion for hip hop, social change and lifelong learning through her work as an artist, performer, student, and educator. As a senior at New London High School she, along with a small group of talented and passionate youth, inspired a community leader to establish the Writer's Block. Morgan came up with the organization's name and contributed her talent as an artist—dancer, writer, poet, rapper—and her passion as a youth leader. Morgan grew as the Writer's Block grew, evolving from performer, to acting and writing Instructor, Assistant Director, Director and Assistant Producer—working on stage and behind the scenes. She helped the organization grow, leading hundreds of youth in the creation of several original productions over a nine year time span. Morgan's last role, one month before her passing, was Assistant Producer of the 2011 Writer's Block Ink Summer Program—*In This House*-- an exploration of the history of racism and slavery in New London. At that time, she was the only founding youth member of the Writer's Block to advance to the role of Assistant Producer—fully evolving as a young leader from instructor and



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director roles to program administration. In this capacity, she came full circle from student participant, to a key leader and entrepreneur responsible for securing funding, sponsors and promoting the program.

From the age of 17 through the rest of her young adult life, Morgan was constantly and consistently engaged with youth, education, and the arts. In addition to contributing to the growth of the Writer's Block, Morgan was deeply involved with youth, youth programs, and education in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states. She graduated with a B.A. in Education from Howard University and began graduate studies in Education at Brown University. The recipient of numerous academic and achievement scholarships, Morgan was committed to advancing her life and the lives of others through teaching and the arts. She worked with youth designing, launching and leading creative youth programs in Southeastern Connecticut; Washington D.C.; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Providence and Woonsocket Rhode Island.

In recognition of her dedication to her craft of writing and her passion for education evidenced by her undergraduate and graduate studies, and her teaching and youth leadership career—the Writer's Block Ink has created the Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change.

The Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change is a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 that **will be awarded annually**. The funds of The Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change are to be used as payment assistance in any opportunity, activity and/or organization intended to further the recipient's involvement in the fields of performing arts, youth leadership, education, or youth-focused entrepreneurial business ventures.

### **Scholarship Eligibility**

**The Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change** recognizes one winner annually. Please read below to see if you are eligible to apply as well as the criteria needed for a complete application.

**Application Deadline: December 15, 2015**

#### **Scholarship Eligibility:**

Individuals are eligible to be considered for the Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change if they are:

**A** Young adults ages 16-25

**B** A citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the United States with a personal, professional or academic residence (including private schools) in ***New London County***



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**C** If attending high school or college, have a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale

**D** Possess and provide proof of at least one of the following attributes:

- Demonstrated work in youth leadership or community activism
- Pursuing a degree in Education, Business Administration or the Arts
- Actively pursuing or intend to pursue performing arts, education and/or business focused on youth empowerment or community activism
- Talent in the performing arts (including but not limited to poetry, creative writing, visual arts, playwriting, singing, acting, or dance)
- Currently participating in performing arts clubs and/or performing arts organizations in school and/or in their community OR teach/work with youth or youth programs in these areas

### Scholarship Criteria

#### **Scholarship Criteria for Complete Application:**

Individuals applying for the scholarship MUST have all the following components for a complete application to be considered:

**A.** Completed Application Form

**B.** Letters of Recommendation & Supplemental Materials

- **Student Applicant** must produce 2 letters of recommendation and 2 creative supplements (i.e. poems, stories, video etc.) with the application.
- **Youth Leadership/Educator Applicant** must provide a syllabus submission and letters from 2 students
- **Entrepreneur Applicant** must provide a business plan submission and letters from 2 community partners

**C.** All applicants must answer 2 of the application questions in essay format in a minimum of 500 words each per question.

\*We ask that all application documents be sent in together by the deadline



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**Application Form**

**Step 1: Read Guidelines**

- A. All information relating to this application is confidential.
- B. Please be sure to complete all sections of this application truthfully and fully.
- C. If chosen to receive this scholarship you will be awarded \$1,000.00.

**Step 2: Contact Information**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Gender (circle one): Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3: Educational Information**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

High school address: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

College Address: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

List of performing and/or visual arts, youth leadership, educational, or youth-focused entrepreneurial affiliations  
(name of affiliation, position, and years of involvement)

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Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Step 4: Essay Questions (500 word minimum per essay)**

**Please type both essays on a separate piece of paper and include them with your application.**

***Essay 1 (required):*** How will this scholarship help you meet your educational and/or career goals?

***Essay 2: Please pick and answer ONE of the following questions:***

- 1 How has the performing arts and/or education affected your life?
- 2 Why is important, in your opinion, to give back to your community? Provide examples on how you have done so.
- 3 Describe the goals you have for yourself and what your plan is to achieve these goals.
- 4 What is your favorite novel, movie, song, or work of art? How do you apply it to your life?
- 5 What piece of original work or achievement are you most proud of and why?

#### **Step 5: Letters of Recommendation and Supplemental Materials (Applications without the appropriate supplemental material and recommendations will not be reviewed.)**

The funds of the Morgan J. Penn Scholarship for Leadership in Social Change are to be used as payment assistance in any opportunity, activity and/or organization intended to further the recipient's involvement in the fields of performing arts, youth leadership, education, or youth-focused entrepreneurial business ventures. Applicants are required to prove their involvement as follows:

1. ***Student Applicant*** must produce 2 letters of recommendation and 2 creative supplements (i.e. poems, stories, video etc.)
2. ***Youth Leadership/Educator Applicant*** must provide a syllabus submission and letters from 2 students
3. ***Entrepreneur Applicant*** must provide a business plan submission and letters from 2 community partners

#### **Step 6: Review Application Checklist**

- Completed Application Form
- Letters of Recommendation and Supplemental Materials



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**Student Applicant** must produce 2 letters of recommendation and 2 creative supplements (i.e. poems, stories, video etc.)

**Youth Leadership/Educator Applicant** must provide a syllabus submission and letters from 2 students

**Entrepreneur Applicant** must provide a business plan submission and letters from 2 community partners

- Must answer 2 of the application questions in essay format in a minimum of 500 words per question.

**Step 7: Application Submission** (*Only completed applications received by December 15, 2015 will be considered*)

Option 1: Mail your complete application in one envelope postmarked by deadline December 15, 2014 to:

Writer's Block Ink,  
12 Masonic St  
New London, CT 06320

Option 2: Email your complete application with your application form, essays, recommendations and supplemental materials as attachments to [writersblock2@gmail.com](mailto:writersblock2@gmail.com) include in the subject line:

**First Name Last Name\_ Morgan J. Penn Scholarship Application**