



115 E. Liberty Street / Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

**June 16, 2015**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact Information:**

**Amanda Uhle, Executive Director**

**Phone: (734) 761-3436**

**Email: [Amanda@826michigan.org](mailto:Amanda@826michigan.org)**

**826MICHIGAN NAMED A KNIGHT ARTS CHALLENGE DETROIT FINALIST**

***Focused on fostering a love of writing in youth at the forthcoming Detroit Robot Factory***

**Detroit, MI**—[The Knight Foundation](#) announced 826michigan as one of seventy finalists in the Knight Arts Challenge Detroit. Intended to “drive revitalization by investing in places that accelerate talent and advance opportunity,” Knight Arts Challenge dollars support innovative ideas that capitalize on the rich community, culture, and artistic legacy of Detroit.

For 826michigan, that means fostering a love of writing in youth at our own “robot factory” where Detroit students help humanize the bots by creating stories for them to tell. Now in its tenth anniversary year, 826michigan has done just that throughout Washtenaw County from its Liberty Street Robot Supply and Repair in downtown Ann Arbor. Just beyond the red curtain of the whimsical robot repair store (which attracts students, donors, and volunteers), 826michigan operates a bustling writing and tutoring center and reaches more than 3,000 students each year.

In 2013, the celebrated writing and tutoring center expanded its services from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti into Detroit. Having successfully served nearly 1,000 Detroit students in just two years, the literacy nonprofit is finally moving forward to fully scale its services and special brand of creative writing magic to students and families in the city of Detroit.

826michigan’s programs are free and open to all students ages six to eighteen, and they include: In-school Residencies, After-school Tutoring, Field Trips, Drop-in Writing, and Professional-grade Publishing opportunities. Each program gives students one-on-one attention from a caring adult and offers community members an opportunity to do meaningful volunteer work in the arts and public education.

Executive Director Amanda Uhle states, “We are honored to be named one of seventy finalists in the Knight Arts Challenge Detroit. More than 1,000 incredible ideas were submitted in support of this great city, and we celebrate the originality and commitment to Detroit extended from each person and organization represented. With the support of the community, we hope to build upon this great news for the benefit of Detroit’s students. More than anything, we’re excited to get started.”

The Knight Arts Challenge Detroit is a three-year, \$9 million initiative of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. It seeks the most innovative cultural ideas to engage and enrich Detroit communities. More information on the foundation and its giving initiatives can be found at [www.knightarts.org](http://www.knightarts.org).

###

826michigan is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around our belief that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success. For more information, please visit [www.826michigan.org](http://www.826michigan.org) or call (734) 761-3463.