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April 6th, 2013

YA Authors and Los Angeles Teens Make Fiction Come Alive WriteGirl Workshop Hosted at The Petersen Automotive Museum on April 6th

LOS ANGELES – Amidst the style and splendor of vintage cars and motorcycles, WriteGirl teens conjured imaginative stories with the help WriteGirl mentors, and notable YA Authors, on April 6th at the Petersen Automotive Museum.

During the two-hour workshop, teens developed characters and stories surrounded by brightly colored hot rods, retro futuristic concept cars, and famous rides like the Batmobile and Herbie the Love Bug. Guest authors Katie Alender (*Bad Girls Don't Die*) and Francesca Lia Block (*Weetzie Bat*) helped girls explore fiction writing and story prompts inspired by the Petersen – *Recall the last faces you saw in cars passing by – Describe your ideal passenger – If you could go on a road trip in any car here, what car would you choose and where would you go?*

“For our 12th annual Fiction Workshop, we wanted to take girls on a journey to spark their creativity,” said Keren Taylor, WriteGirl’s Executive Director. “The Petersen Automotive Museum was the perfect place to let fiction come alive, and Katie and Francesca were the perfect authors to encourage and inspire the girls.

Throughout the past 12 years, WriteGirl has successfully helped **100% of participating seniors to not only graduate from high school but also enroll in college, many on full or partial scholarships**. This past fall, WriteGirl teens headed to Harvard, CSU Fullerton, UCLA, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Grinnell, Macalester, Azusa Pacific University, and CSU Channel Islands, just to name a few.

More than 350 girls participate in WriteGirl annually — an enormous increase from WriteGirl's initial group of 30 at its inception in 2001. Over the past decade, WriteGirl’s success can be measured by the achievements of its alumnae who continue to study, work and contribute their unique voices around the world.

Event Sponsors included: City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles Unified School District Beyond the Bell Division, Paper or Plastik, Superior Nut Company, International Arrivals, Rock Scissors Paper and Paperblanks.

WriteGirl 12th Annual Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Saturday, April 6th, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Petersen Automotive Museum
6060 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

About WriteGirl

www.writegirl.org

WriteGirl is a creative writing and mentoring program for at-risk girls in Los Angeles. WriteGirl pairs professional women writers with teen girls for weekly one-on-one mentoring, monthly full-day creative writing workshops, public readings and publishing opportunities. Through its *Bold Futures* program, WriteGirl provides college and job preparedness skills building, individual guidance through the college application process and leadership development opportunities. WriteGirl also brings workshops to schools in Los Angeles County serving critically at-risk teens, including incarcerated teens in Santa Clarita at the Roads to Success Academy. WriteGirl is a project of nonprofit organization Community Partners. WriteGirl was honored as the 2010-2011 California Nonprofit of the Year.

WriteGirl publications, available nationwide, online and at local bookstores, have collectively won 46 national and international book awards.

For more information, visit www.writegirl.org

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