



Friday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center, 285 Livingston St.

The Northwest Arkansas Prison Story Project is a storytelling/creative writing project benefiting incarcerated women and men in Arkansas since 2012. Inmates share their stories, inspired through the use of poetry, creative writing, literature and songwriting. Their work is edited into a staged reading, initially performed by professional actors inside the prison and then outside for the community.

From May through October 2016, the Prison Story Project was given unprecedented access to the men on Arkansas' Death Row at Varner Supermax Prison. There were 34 men on the row at the time and 11 of those men chose to participate in the project. The inmates met with a volunteer team once a month in person on death row to explore writing and storytelling concepts, and followed up by U.S. Mail between visits.

A staged reading of their work, ON THE ROW, was developed and performed for the men on Death Row on October 8, 2016. The production was subsequently performed four times in Northwest Arkansas and was staged in Boulder, Colorado, on October 19, 2017.

The Asheville performance features local actors, **including three current UNC Asheville students**. It will be only the second performance of this piece ever outside of Arkansas. The performance is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted and will benefit the Wesley Grant Center. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis.