

Underground Writing - Newsletter

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Reply letters written by volunteers | re/vision program

Community in Writing

May 2023

Greetings, Friends. We hope this finds you doing well.

As the world around us begins to renew itself in the season of spring, we'd like to share a few updates and news items with you. As always, we'd love to connect you more with the work we're doing - feel free to reach out any time with questions about how to get involved.

With the increasing interest in our **re/vision** program ([detailed in our October 2022 newsletter here](#)), we decided to start a regular volunteer day to help with the administration of various program tasks. On March 30th in Burlington, WA, we launched the volunteer day with a small group of people. The day included a brief overview and orientation regarding the **re/vision** program, the digital scanning of letters / writings / permission forms for our record keeping, and each volunteer writing personal letters to congratulate and affirm women and men who submitted



writings to be published via our *ONE PAGE* publication opportunity.



The three hours we were together moved quickly in one sense. In another, time seemed to expand as we settled in to write the reply letters. What was a small group of volunteers gathered together in a public library in the northwest corner of Washington seemed to expand as our pens moved across the lines of notebook paper, as each member of our crew encountered the words of another writer. Even more--another human being, writing from a place of confinement in locations such as Texas, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky, and California. The human connection with the words mailed to us, and with the writer behind them, seemed immediate and varied--laughter was present in the room, and the admiring of well written lines, and pauses, too, to grab the box of tissue nearby.

The letters written during this first session have been organized, dated, and will be paired with our official publication letter of acceptance when we inform each incarcerated writer of their forthcoming publication via *ONE PAGE*.

We'd love you to be part of this. If you'd like to get more involved with our work, please consider joining us at the next **re/vision** volunteer day:

Thursday, May 18, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Burlington Public Library
820 E Washington Ave
Burlington, WA 98233

News & Updates



Order our [anthologies of student writing](#).



DONATE

**You make a difference.
Your donation changes lives.**



Thanks and shout outs!

We're very grateful to announce that we are a recipient of a Community Accelerator Grant funded by the [Paul G. Allen Family Foundation](#) and awarded by [ArtsFund!](#) This gift will accelerate our organization's efforts as an arts and cultural organization in Skagit County, Washington and beyond. Among many things, philanthropist Paul Allen was the co-founder of Microsoft, owner of the Portland Trail Blazers and Seattle Seahawks, and founder of the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle. Allen had a huge heart for the Pacific Northwest and its people, and we're honored to be a part of this grant program.



Letters to a Young Inmate

Later this year we're planning to launch the *Letters to a Young Inmate* initiative, a writing curriculum that takes shape as a series of letters in booklet form. The letters are written by older people experiencing incarceration to youth in juvenile detention, offering wisdom, advice, empathy, and hope. Delayed through the Covid-19 era, we're looking forward to the initiative making its way out into the world. [We're also pleased to announce that the initiative now has a brief promo film trailer, viewable on our website here.](#)



SEATTLE
FOUNDATION

Thanks for the grant!

We are surprised, honored, and grateful to announce that the Seattle Foundation—via a wonderful anonymous donor, for a second time—has given us a large, unrequested grant for our continuing work. **Thank you so very much!** The **Seattle Foundation** strengthens the health and vitality of our community by connecting generous people with well-informed philanthropic strategies. Their mission is to ignite powerful, rewarding philanthropy to make Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all. They are one of the largest community foundations in America. [More information about their important work can be accessed here.](#)



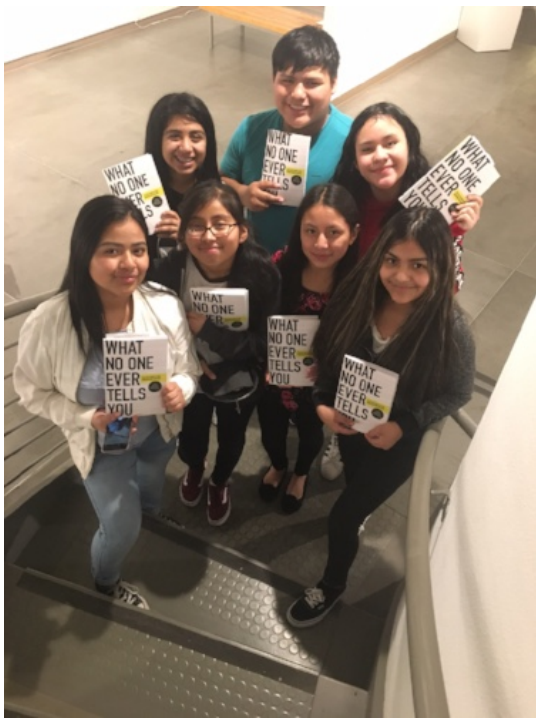
The Change

We gather in our workshops to explore, generate, and amplify voices from our communities, hoping always to assist in transformation. THE CHANGE, our book donation pipeline, is one of our three programs, and provides a tangible way to enrich lives—supplying books to our workshop sites and partner facilities (e.g., the Academic School Library of Green Hill School). **Photo:** March 2023 batch of books mailed to the Academic Library of Green Hill School in Chehalis, WA (Washington's maximum security youth detention facility). Thanks, Lopez Island community and Pam & James Hoyle, for your donation of books.

Have books you want to donate? [Consider donating to THE CHANGE - details on our website here.](#)

"POST" - COVID-19 ERA UPDATE

We're prioritizing student safety by adhering to our workshop sites' required Covid-19 precautions. Currently, we're facilitating in-person workshops at some of our sites, and continuing to create e-deliverable workshops for sites not meeting in person. In addition to our three core programs, we are publishing students on social media—student writing highlights from our workshops, as well as writings submitted to the [One Page](#) publication opportunity for **re/**vision inquirers.



[Students | Migrant Leaders Club]

Unlocking creativity through writing workshops and voice amplification for at-need and underrepresented students, to assist in the restoration of communities, the imagination, and individual lives.

* We serve migrant, incarcerated, recovery, and other at-need communities in Washington.

* We focus on making an impact inside our local community, and inspiring outside it.

Our sites:

Skagit Co. Juvenile Detention

Youth | Weekly workshop site

Mount Vernon Migrant Leaders Club

Mount Vernon School District

Youth | Collaborative projects site

Skagit Valley Recovery Community

Adults | Monthly workshop site

YMCA Sedro-Woolley Recreation Center

Youth | Monthly workshop site

Skagit County Community Justice Center

Adults | Weekly workshop site

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