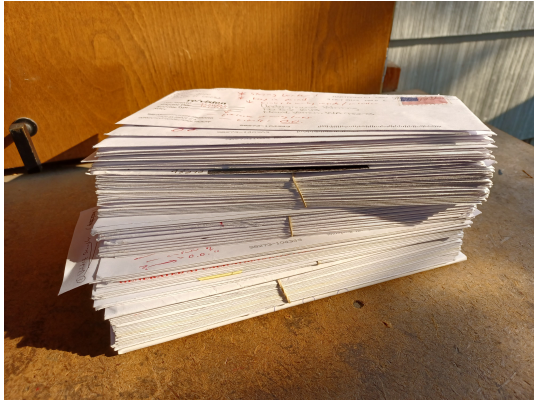


Underground Writing - Newsletter

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—some of the inquiry letters received this year

re/vision, beauty, and growth

Matt Malyon

Greetings, Friends.

The old phrase has it that the real work of writing happens through the process of revision, and that this real work has a multitude of iterations. It's a bit the same in the life of organizations as well.

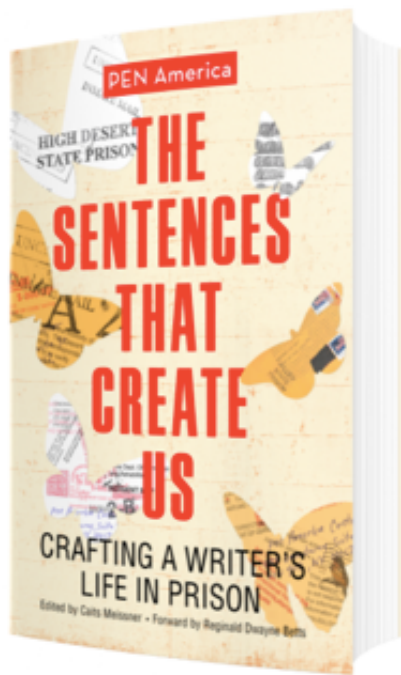
Our first draft, as it were, occurred in the first four years of our existence as a program. In early 2020, a few months after becoming a 501c3 arts nonprofit, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Like most arts organizations, we've spent the last 2-3 years pivoting, experiencing Covid-era losses, applying for grants, assessing how we might strengthen our programming and collaborative work, and constantly planning for a future that has seemed more uncertain than ever. Yet amidst these times of uncertainty, it is through such adjustments that beauty surprisingly bursts forth and our work continues to grow.

One of the more externally visible growth points we've experienced this year is the expansion of **re/vision**, our one-on-one, year-long creative writing mentorships offered to people experiencing incarceration.

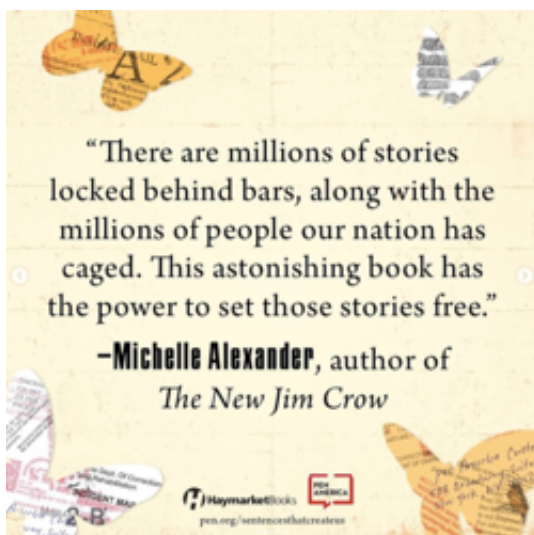


[Order our](#)

anthologies of student writing.



In late January this year, Pen America and Haymarket Books published *The Sentences That Create Us*. Edited by Caitis Meissner, one of our Advisory Board members, the book is a beautifully deep and exploratory anthology of essays and writing practices devoted to “crafting a writer’s life in prison.” At the back of the book, in the Resources section, our **re/vision** program was honored to receive a mention. The week after it was published we also received word that Carnegie Mellon had provided a special grant to get 70,000 free copies of the book to sites of incarceration throughout America.



DONATE

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

By March the letters to **re/vision** began to arrive. Multiple letters, daily. All of the letters expressed interest and hope, like the note crafted on an old school typewriter from K.A., an inquirer from Texas, who begins, “I write for more reasons to breathe. I write because I don’t catch feelings—I usually give them away . . . I want to be an author so bad my toes hurt.”

As the desire from around the country for **re/vision** mentorships was made increasingly evident in our mailbox, our desire to serve the need began to increase as well. And while we continue to prioritize our own local students, we began to expand the mentorships to a wider group of people as well. Such mentoring relationships, in fact, open the door to real transformation. To quote our mentoring manual: “We recognize this exchange as a connective experience where reciprocal learning occurs. As much as we rely on our Mentor’s expertise to help deepen the self-expression and literary skills of our Mentees, we also believe in the positive, often transformative, impact of the Mentee’s work, ideas, and correspondence on the Mentor.”



—some of the letters we’ve mailed to mentees and inquirers

And we’re excited to let you know that after months of scaling up, developing communication flows and a mentoring manual, and onboarding a great group of mentors, we’ve launched our first full cohort of **re/vision** mentorships as of this month. Our mentees include our own local students, as well as writers experiencing incarceration in Virginia, New Mexico, Kentucky, California, Michigan, Texas, and Ohio.

In addition to selecting our first full group of mentees, we’ve also developed a packet of information for the nearly 150 inquirers (so far) for whom we cannot provide mentorships at this time. The packet includes two pages of other writing/publication opportunities—including *One Page*, a new publishing opportunity we’re offering exclusively for **re/vision** inquirers.



—onboarding packets for new mentors

We hope you'll stay in touch with us as **re/vision**—and our other programs—continue to develop. You can read more about *One Page*, follow us on social media, and share our work with others you know who might be interested. If you live locally and are interested in a more hands-on / currently-in-development volunteer opportunity with **re/vision**, please reach out to us for further information.

Finally, we invite you to learn more about the **re/vision** program and our mentors. Please see the news item below.

In these “post-Covid” times, we’d like to thank you all for your continuing support, your words of encouragement, and your donations that help us keep the lights on. Through your goodwill toward us you are like co-editors helping us as we continue to revise and improve our ongoing work.

Shout outs and deep gratitude to each of you!

News & Updates



Meet our team!

We are excited to begin our first full cohort of **re/vision** mentorships this month! [You can learn more about *One Page* and our **re/vision** program here.](#) In addition to our longtime team members, we're grateful to have recently added five new mentors to the crew. [To learn more about the entire **re/vision** team \(as well as our Teaching Writers\), click here.](#)



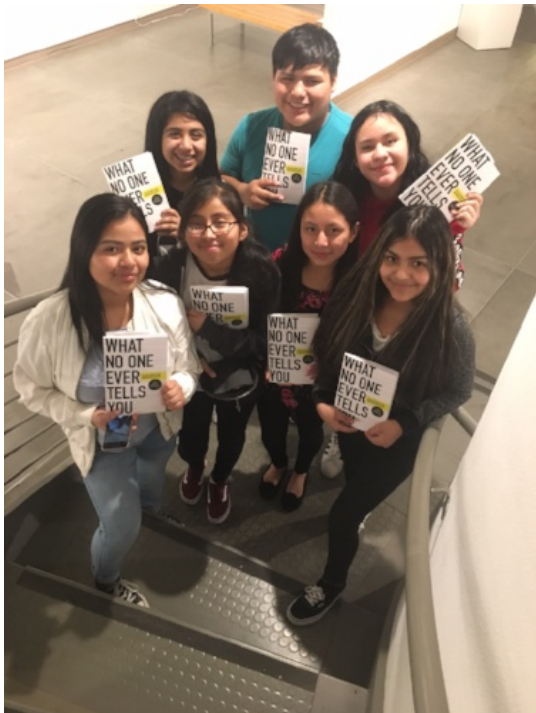
Thanks and shout outs!

We were surprised, honored, and grateful to announce that the Seattle Foundation—via a wonderful anonymous donor—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.](#)

COVID-19 ERA UPDATE

We continue to prioritize student safety by adhering to the state-required Covid-19 precautions. Currently, we are doing in-person workshops at some of our sites, and fewer in-person workshops overall. We also continue to create e-deliverable workshops for sites not meeting in person. In addition to the programs mentioned above, we are publishing students on social media via student writing highlights from our workshops, as well as 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 Oasis Daylight Center

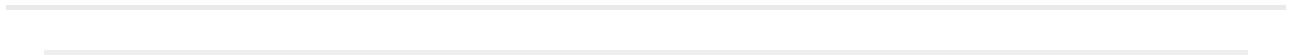
Youth | Monthly workshop site

Skagit Co. Community Justice Center

Adults | Weekly workshop site

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