



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Hugo House

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2017 Q1

**ADDRESS:** 1021 Columbia St., Seattle, WA 98104

**CONTACT:** (206)322-7030, <https://www.hugohouse.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** Hugo House is a place to read words, hear words, and make your own words better.

**SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

This award went to supporting programs and operational expenses.

For more information please read the attached report from Hugo House.



## 2017 YOUTH EDUCATION GRANT FINAL REPORT

### ARTISTIC GOALS AND PROGRAM SUCCESS

The 2017 Scribes program met and exceeded the intended artistic goals, including engaging in every aspect of the writing process, reading the work of literary models, talking critically about others' writing as well as their own, and learning new literary concepts, forms, and vocabulary. Participants read and reflected upon the work of historical and contemporary poets and writers. Readings were integrated into directed group and individual writing activities, prompts, and constrictions. Scribes guided students to reflect upon their environment and to use it in their writing, with field trips. Participants developed their performance skills which led to a community reading at the end of each Scribes camp session.

In 2017, we produced six sessions of Scribes this summer at Hugo House and our partner locations that included MoPOP, MOHAI and the Henry Art Gallery.

The success of Scribes is due much in part to the strength and experience of the instructors. The camps also featured several guest artists providing a diverse instruction experience. The well-attended community readings held at the end of each session showcased the work and confidence of the students, and included both individual and collaborative pieces.

### EXPERIENCES AND CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

2017 Scribes summer camps was a year of expansion, increased outreach, and revamped program evaluation. We look forward to Scribes 2018 with a plan of what we need to do to strengthen the program in all areas. In addition to Scribes camps at Hugo House, we expanded the programs to partner sites that included: MoPOP, MOHAI and the Henry Art Gallery. These -partner sessions followed two different models: the MOHAI and the Henry sessions were built on a true partnership model. The MOHAI team provided the space, on-site staff time and energy, as well they contributed to promotional efforts, while Hugo House oversaw administrative work, including registration, instructor and intern hiring, and program support. The result was an incredibly strong program that not only scored highly in evaluation, but had a student waitlist. The MoPOP session was strictly a rental.

Scribes field trips: Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Pioneer square, Hotel Sorrento Ghost Tour, Frye Museum, Burke Museum, Volunteer Park Conservatory, SAM-Yayoi Kusama Exhibit, St. James Cathedral History Tour, Mile Post 31, The Stranger Offices, KEXP, Cal Anderson Park, Gasworks Park, MOHAI archives library, Mad Art Gallery, Olympic Sculpture Park, Pike Place . Strong and strategic partnerships

will enable us to provide stronger programming to a wider and more diverse audience, something we experienced through our partnerships. Not only do we plan to hold Scribes at the partner venues next summer, but the program directors are expanding the partnership into the school year and are brainstorming about how to create more access to underserved young people.

We plan to develop our recruitment efforts by improving school year-round communication (via social media and electronic communication) to both past participants and their parents/guardians, to strengthen partner recruitment efforts with current partners (and to expand school-year round programming).

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT**

Scribes engages young people who are at different stages in their development as writers, and students regularly go through a great metamorphosis of literary understanding, connectedness to their teen peers, and confidence level. While Scribes is an inclusive learning space, students are pushed to engage literary art in ways they don't normally and to read work that is rarely taught in schools. They are encouraged to begin a daily discipline of writing, whether that means listing out details in any room they find themselves in or to craft short stories about strangers they witness in a public space.

Most Scribes students don't begin camp already knowing each other. Scribes students represented 47 zip codes and 62 different schools, with both returning and new students. Students quickly bond not only because the group is small and they are learning the same concepts, but because they learn how to engage each other's' writing, gaining confidence and developing articulation by formally workshopping as a group. One instructor described her class as "quite cohesive and close to each other (a literary cult!)," and also reflected upon the leadership qualities she observed in the group.

At the community reading at the end of each session, students are confident and excited to share their revised work, and their final reading reveals the performance work they've done. After the end of each session, every student submitted up to five pieces of revised new work (of prose or poetry), and their writing will be showcased in Hugo House's online youth anthology.

## **A BOY'S STORY**

There was a boy who participated in our session at The Henry. He was a bit younger than the rest of the kids in the group, and at first, didn't seem to want to be there. His mom also contacted me expressing her concern about his ability to fit into the group and engage with his writing. I got reports from the teachers saying that he got antsy during class, and while at times was disruptive, they were determined to figure out how to harness his creativity and speak to his life. For the final reading, he surprised everyone by reading a poem he wrote about Syria, the country from where he and his family fled a few years back. His mother and father were in the audience, and while he read, I watched them hold hands, crying. Everyone was so moved by this boy's life, and surprised by how much he'd blossomed throughout the two weeks. He demonstrated great courage, and contributed uniquely to the group.