



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Hugo House

Address:

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Seattle, WA 98122

Contact:

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<https://hugohouse.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Hugo House is a place where people can read words, hear words, and make their own words better. Hugo House is a place for writers, with a concentrated focus on helping anyone who wants to write. We offer readings, classes, book launches, workshops, teen programs, consultations with professional writers, and much more.

Date of Award:

2019 Q1

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

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

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE FUND 2019 YOUTH EDUCATION GRANT FINAL REPORT

The primary goals of Hugo House's Youth Education Program are to create spaces for young writers to feel safe and welcome, foster their creative energies, and support their artistic projects as they begin to navigate the literary world around them.

At Hugo House, young writers have the opportunity to explore, consume, and create great writing. Our classes encourage students to read as writers, to critique established work and the new work of their peers, and to take risks with their writing while exploring voice and language. In our open writing circles, mentorship program, open mics, writing camps, and literary events, we strive to create an innovative creative-writing space for all youth. All Hugo House programs, workshops, and field trips are taught by professional, published writers who are also experienced teachers of the craft. All programs are FREE unless otherwise specified, and scholarships are available for those in financial need for our writing camps and field trips.

In our new home with double the classroom space (six varying sized classroom), we are able to serve more youth and expand our Youth Education Program by 50%, serving 1,000 students. This requires continued financial support to enable us to maintain the budding literary community of kids and teens throughout the Seattle area.

Young Writers Cohort: Through a highly competitive process, Hugo House selects a dedicated group of excellent teen writers to participate in the school-year **Young Writers Cohort** program. In both the Poetry Cohort and the Prose Cohort, these teens are seeking an intensive literary education. Within their cohort, they build community as they workshop each other's work with meticulous care, learn how to submit their stories for all to read, and organize a monthly open mic event—**Stage Fright**—to encourage other local teens to share their voices.

Our weekly youth writing circle, **Write Time** which is led by renowned local poet Anastasia Renee and young adult writer Karen Finneyfrock, is an opportunity for teens to carve out time to write with others and receive feedback, simultaneously building friendships that will last well into their adult writing lives. This youth writing circle allows more students to participate, even adding an additional facilitator to assist with teens.

What sets the Hugo House youth programs apart from other offerings in the community? Our focus is on offering a number of different options to provide teens of any background an opportunity to write and engage with a shared community. Our free Young Writers' Cohorts are designed to mentor those teens who self-identify as writers and will probably go on to higher academics and MFA programs. Possibly, in the near future, one of our young writers will be a Pulitzer Prize winner or Poet Laureate or New York Times best-selling author.

Our monthly youth open mic nights **Stage Fright** are free of charge, as well as our popular weekly drop in **Write Time**. The success of our Youth Education Program is due much in part to the strength and experience of the instructors. The camps also featured guest artists—Elisheba Johnson, Ebo Barton, and Christa Bell—providing a diverse instruction experience. The well-attended community readings held at the end of each session showcase the work and confidence of the students, and include both individual and collaborative pieces.

The **2019 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. Teaching Artists 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 2019, we produced ten sessions of Scribes, which include eight camps for high school students and two for middle school for a 25% growth in the program over 2018. The growth factor of the program is also directly related to the programming. Additionally, Hugo House offered \$11,500 in scholarship to those in financial need of which 75% of the scholarships were awarded to students of color. This year, Scribes programming included: Creative Writing, Fiction, Screenwriting, Poetry and Science Fiction. In addition to holding the Scribes sessions in the new Hugo House, we held two sessions at our partner locations: MOHAI and the Henry Art Gallery, which were each two week sessions for high school students. Field trips included: **Seattle Underground** for the history of where we live and **Wa Na Wari**, which creates space for Black ownership, possibility, and belonging through art, historic preservation, and connection in Seattle’s historically redlined Central District neighborhood

Scribes Summer Writing Camps invites middle and high school students for a 1-2 week experience that will change the way they think about writing. Whether it is crafting a stage play, developing a short story, or spilling their lives out on page in a poem, these students learn new skills with gifted, well-known writers as their teachers. Beginning in 1998, our Scribes writing camp has grown year after year, admitting additional students with scholarships so everyone has an opportunity to write and be heard. With additional funding, we can invest in more thorough outreach in new communities and offer more scholarships to teens new to Hugo House who may not be able to afford the camp otherwise.

2018 SUMMER SCRIBES CAMPS	2019 SUMMER SCRIBES CAMPS
8 Sessions	10 Sessions
70% of the Scribes students were new	78% of the Scribes students were new
30% were returning	22% were returning
Average 15 students per sessions	Average 14 students per sessions
91 total Scribes	181 total Scribes

Our Scribes summer camps, in addition to our other youth programs, are all shared with local schools and libraries in an effort to reach more teens. As we grow in our new facility, evolving from three classrooms to six, expanding our youth programs to include more teens outside of Seattle is one of our primary goals.

Other agencies addressing similar needs, and a description of your program’s role or particular expertise: Two other local organizations which hold youth literary programs include the Seattle Arts & Lectures’ Writers in the Schools and The Bureau of Fearless Ideas’ publishing projects and workshops. SAL’s Writers in the Schools program brings local writers into public schools to help improve their writing skills. The Bureau of Fearless Ideas’ youth programs focus on after-school tutoring for academic writing, as well as workshops for teens working on creative projects.

Increasing Diversity Efforts: Hugo House offer avenues for young writers of all ages and backgrounds, including those in underserved and underrepresented communities, to explore the writing craft, attend high quality events, and connect with each other and the larger literary world. Our programming values equal representation by fostering young writers from underrepresented communities, including Native American, African American, Asian American, Latino, and LGBTQ* writers. These voices are an integral and vital part of our city and we are making every effort that they are heard.

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South End Stories is a new program at Orca K-8 school that celebrates the arts and the importance of playful learning. Led by Principal Donte Felder, Orca K-8 received a grant from the King County-wide Best Starts for Kids initiative to improve trauma-informed practices in public schools. Hugo House has been selected to participate as a partner organization.

Starting in 2019, Hugo House offered an after-school writing group to explore identity and develop confidence as writers at Orca K-8. The drop-in writing group served middle-school students, every other Wednesday, and was taught by our Writer-in-Residence Amber Flame. Hugo House does not receive any Best Starts for Kids King County grant funding.

Method for measuring success of the program: For all of our youth programming, we record and analyze attendance, audience demographics, reach of online traffic, and qualitative comments collected in post-event/class surveys. Data is recorded, which enables analysts to query programs and specific events. From there we can use the information to strengthen our classes tailored to what teens need in a writing program.

Exposure to the arts, as an essential and *every day* part of their lives, enables youth the opportunity to realize their fullest potential. As our region continues to grow, writing skills in public schools are declining rapidly, which makes our youth programs more necessary than ever. Having confidence in one’s own critical thinking and writing ability is a vital part of education and becoming an adult. It is important in expanding creativity endeavors to performing any writing tasks, from formatting an email to establishing a platform of expression and self-discovery.

Words are a powerful force for change—whether spoken or written. Words help us find meaning and are how we shape our world. Hugo House strives to be the central hub to support young writers, who have something to say.

