



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Hugo House

Address:

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Seattle, WA 98122

Contact:

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<https://www.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:

2021 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 2021 Youth Education Grant: Final Report

Organization: Hugo House

Report code: Q1 2021 14.3

The primary goals of the youth programs 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. Keliko Adams, our Youth Programs Coordinator, has been teaching and working with kids and teens for over two decades, with a focus on equity in education. She is in charge of every youth program we offer, and has been single-handedly working to make every class and camp more accessible and welcoming for every student. Youth Education Programs include:

The **Young Writers Cohort**, our year-round program, in which we select a dedicated group of teens who are seeking deeper literary engagement. 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 **Stage Fright**, a biannual open mic event, to encourage other local teens to share their voices.

Our bi-weekly youth writing circle, **Write Time**, led by renowned local poets and young adult authors, is an opportunity for teens to carve out time to write with others, work on new projects, and receive feedback.

In January 2020, we began offering quarterly **workshop classes** geared toward teens looking to expand their understanding of what is possible with creative writing. With classes like slam poetry, flash fiction, and intro to comics and graphic novels, teens have another opportunity to work with some of the strongest writers in the city. Classes are \$60 to cover teacher costs, but scholarships are available for students in need. **At the start of the pandemic, we implemented a pay-what-you-can model to remove financial barriers and invite more teens to participate, which has been very popular.**

Our primary youth program is our **Scribes Summer writing camps**. Offering one-week or two-week camps, students can gain in-depth creative skills with classes on fiction, poetry, spoken word, screenwriting, comics, and a Spanish fiction course. Due to overwhelming interest and need in the community, we've also added camps for 5th and 6th graders, as previously we only hosted camps for junior high and high school youth. The season begins June 2021 and finishes end of August 2021.

Due to the pandemic and how many families were impacted, we implemented a pay-what-you-can model for the summer camps, in addition to the scholarship fund, and saw an increase in the number of students enrolled.

In response to the growing demand and the need for increased access, this year we expanded our Scribes from thirteen to nineteen camp sessions. To facilitate increased capacity, raise the public profile of this program, and highlight other groups doing strong work in our communities, we're fortunate to partner with several local organizations. This program impacts different areas of the community through camp partnerships. Partners include: Northwest African American Museum (South Seattle), Northwest Film Forum, Totem Star (West Seattle), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (Central District), and Seattle Escribe (Spanish-language class). We're bringing the craft of creative writing out of our own neighborhood and into the communities we desire to reach and support.

"This was a great camp introduction. The HUGO HOUSE has made me feel at home safe and ready to take on more writing in the future. Just a week has given me a larger view of what I really want with writing and I'm excited to participate in future classes."

–Scribes student, 2021

With support from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, our youth programming had its best year yet.

We had 205 youth students join us for our summer Scribes writing camps, the highest number we've ever seen, with 19 camps offered. Camp focuses included fiction, nonfiction, poetry, screenwriting, science fiction & fantasy, screenwriting, spoken word poetry, and more. These camps served kids and teens from 5th grade up to 12th grade. The increase in enrollment is in large part due to a bigger marketing outreach, partnering with local organizations on camps in new neighborhoods, and offering the pay-what-you-can option to increase access.

36% of our 2021 Scribes summer camp students identified as LGBTQ+, and 62% of students identified as a student of color.

“I really enjoyed the community Hugo House created, no matter if you were new (like me) or had done camps before, there was always a positive energy that inspired me to keep expanding myself as a writer and try new things.”

–Scribes student, 2021

We have 31 students enrolled in our yearlong writer's cohort program, an increase from 23 students last year. This is also the first year we added a third cohort to be completely digital so more students outside of Seattle can be involved. This program is 100% free for youth students and provides them many opportunities to learn from talented instructors and build a supportive literary community of their own.

We saw over 100 kids and teens (another program high) participate in our bi-weekly free Write Time sessions, which are facilitated by professional writers. We anticipate this number will increase in 2022 as we partner with more nonprofit organizations and schools around the Puget Sound area, while also continuing to offer meetings virtually to accommodate all who wants to join. A new youth program in 2021 was a free kids write-in session specifically geared toward grades kindergarten through 5th grade. In the first year we had 76 young students join us!

In total, and thanks to the generous support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, we served over 400 youth students since the spring throughout all our youth programs, with more coming this fall in new workshops and write-ins.

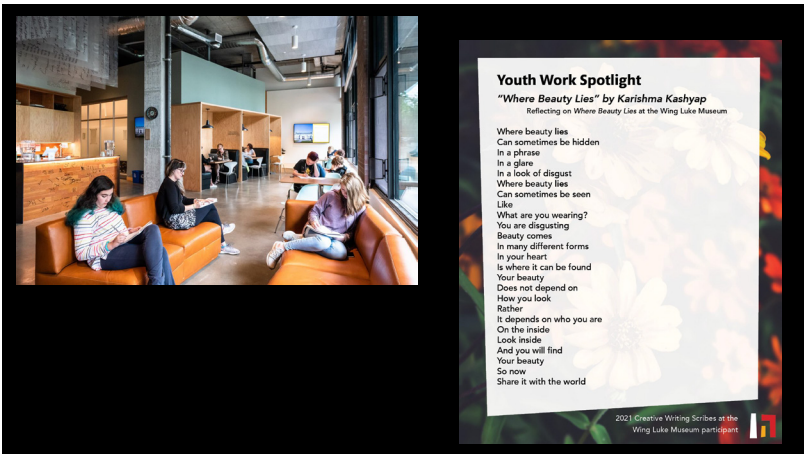
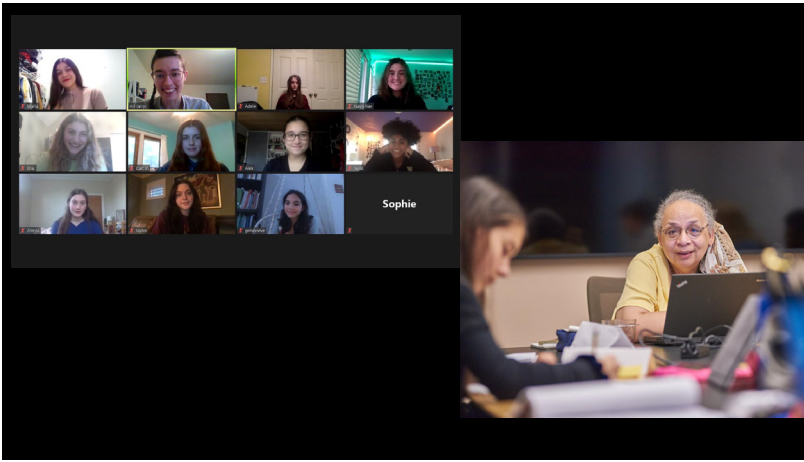
Our vision for the future of youth programming is growing, much like the talented young voices in our classes. In addition to the third digital cohort of writers to increase accessibility, we plan on making quarterly workshops available both in-person and online, with some occurring in neighborhoods we haven't yet reached. We would bring our knowledgeable instructors into the community spaces where youth feel comfortable and safe to express themselves.

With support from generous funders like you, we can continue to offer sliding scale enrollment pricing for the Scribes summer camps and quarterly workshops, which will help allow more students to gain access to quality creative writing programming.

“This camp affected me, personally and as a writer, because I felt like someone believed in me, for me that's a big deal because I'm not the most confident person. I also picked up a lot of skills from this camp.”

–Scribes student, 2021

Through words we make the world, and we're honored to partner with you as we elevate and foster the many talented young voices in our communities.



Youth Work Spotlight

"Where Beauty Lies" by Karishma Kashyap
 Reflecting on Where Beauty Lies at the Wing Luke Museum

Where beauty lies
 Can sometimes be hidden
 In a phrase
 In a glare
 In a look of disgust
 Where beauty lies
 Can sometimes be seen
 Like
 What are you wearing?
 You are disgusting
 Beauty comes
 In many different forms
 In your heart
 Is where it can be found
 Your beauty
 Does not depend on
 How you look
 Rather
 It depends on who you are
 On the inside
 Look inside
 And you will find
 Your beauty
 So now
 Share it with the world

