



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Jack Straw Foundation

Address:
4261 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6999

Contact:
(206) 634-0919
<http://www.jackstraw.org>

Organization's General Goals:

A community-based resource since 1962, Jack Straw Cultural Center exists to foster the communication of arts, ideas, and information to diverse audiences through audio media. We provide creation and production opportunities in audio media—including radio, theater, film, video, music, and literature.

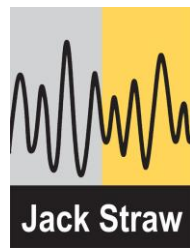
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| Date of Award: | Level: |
| 2018 Q4 | \$500 to \$2,500 |

For more information, please read the attached report from Jack Straw Foundation.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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November 26, 2019

Marilyn Sheldon
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
2018 Q4: Final report

Dear Marilyn,

We are very grateful for your support, which has helped Jack Straw Cultural Center to provide accessible hands-on cultural and educational activities for blind and visually impaired youth in Washington State. Between March and October 2019, we provided music, radio theater, and technology programs for elementary, middle, and high school students; an Orientation to Blindness for new teaching artists and interns, sighted guide training, and audio description and Braille as needed; and accessible gallery tours and hands-on workshops for youth and families in the Jack Straw New Media Gallery. We also held our second year of our Social Skills through the Arts workshop series. All workshops were produced in conjunction with our partner organization Arts & Visually Impaired Audiences (AVIA).

With your support, we completed the following activities:

Social Skills through the Arts, March 23 and 30, 2019: We implemented our Social Skills workshops with 7 youth, 2 counselors, several parents, and 7 artists. Youth shared stories of difficult social situations they had experienced and with help from our artists, came up with new ways of handling them in the future. In the second workshop, students worked together to create radio plays based on some of the experiences they had shared.

Jack Straw New Media Gallery tours and sound art workshops, May 4, 2019: We held an accessible workshop and an audio described gallery tour in conjunction with Erin Eyse Burn's new installation *To Take the Shape of the Container*, with 8 youth, 10 counselors and parents, and 5 artists. The installation combined sculpture, video, and sound effects created in the studio to emphasize minute details one might fixate upon when the noise of city life is absent. The accessible workshops, based on Erin's installation, were designed to engage students and families in both creating and experiencing art. The workshop gave students a hands-on introduction to different aspects of the installation by creating both audio and tactile visual artwork of their own.

Blind Youth Audio Project, July 11-August 8, 2019: 6 elementary, 19 middle, and 32 high school blind and visually impaired students from 22 Washington state school districts participated in radio drama and music workshops in the Jack Straw studios. Elementary through high school students in three different programs, working with a team of 10 artists (musicians, writer, vocal coaches, and audio engineers) and 8 counselors/other adults, created, performed, and recorded radio drama, soundscapes, PSAs, and music.

Blind Youth Elementary school workshop, August 7: Visually impaired elementary school students from Mt. Vernon and surrounding area wrote and recorded an original composition focused on the themes and challenges of blindness and things they would like others to know about them.

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Blind Youth Middle school/early high school workshop: July 11: Our middle and early high school students from the Washington State School for the Blind split into two groups to write and record original compositions around the theme of common misconceptions of blindness.

Blind Youth High School students from throughout Washington State, July 16-August 8: Older high school students participated in a series of 8 workshops during which students created, performed, and recorded their own radio theater or music piece. Our high school students began with an evening of creating flash dramas, "Eye Contact" and "Handshake Translator." They then worked in two groups to create and record "Age Is Just a Number," an original radio play, and "My Cane is My North Star," an original song. They shared their final projects on August 8, 2019.

Gallery and Sound Art Workshops:

September 14: Sound Art Workshop, Pig & Ram. In September 2019 Jack Straw and Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences (AVIA) presented an accessible art workshop at Jack Straw with Jack Straw Artists Rachel Green, Daniel Salo, and Susie Kozawa to create sound and tactile art inspired by the Aesop's Fable "The Sheep and the Pig." First Rachel, Salo, and Susie performed the story in the studio with music and sound effects. Then, working with vocal coach Meg McLynn, writer Jesse Minkert, and engineer Ayesha Ubayatilaka, the students wrote and recorded their own version of the story with narration and sound effects. At the end of the day, artist Kerry Itami led the group in creating their own plasticine sculptures of characters from the story to take home with them.

October 18: Spooktacular 2019! Jack Straw, Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences (AVIA), and Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) presented an accessible workshop at Jack Straw with AVIA writer and drama coach Jesse Minkert and Jack Straw artists vocal coach Alyssa Keene and engineer Daniel Guenther, to create an original radio story based on an Irish folk tale: "The Fairie Greyhound," as told by traditional Irish singer and storyteller Joe Heaney for a KRAB-FM Halloween program. While participants and the Jack Straw artist team created radio theater in the studio, WTBBL hosted a craft area for everyone to make their own spooky and magical objects to take home.

Following is some feedback from parents, partners, and teaching artists:

Social Skills through the Arts:

Janet Jeng, Boon: Thanks so much for making Boon feel so special. I hope you don't mind that I read your last email to him. I can't remember if I told you that Boon has been recently diagnosed with autism so we've been talking a lot about 'autism stuff', sometimes to Boon's dismay, so it's especially nice for him to receive such a warm welcome and to feel so valued. He had so much fun with Jesse last time! We'd love to have Boon continue his involvement with Jack Straw. In light of the diagnosis, we're trying to focus on social skills (reciprocal conversation, joint attention, etc.) so the writing and performing of radio plays and the collaborative story-telling is perfect! Thank you so much for this!

Sherry Dione, Tramell: I really appreciate the feedback. Communication skills is what we are working on with him. If we are able to make it, I will send Tramell on his own because he may focus his attention on me and not social skills.

Jesse Minkert, Blind Youth Summer Program: The biggest success happened almost immediately. The group of radio theater students demonstrated cohesion, offered assistance and support, and through the project, grew, learned, and expanded their skills as performers and producers. I could feel a desire from them to not just do the project, tell the story, but to understand what it meant to do this work. Jason wanted to know about techniques of performance; he asked specific questions and turned the answers into guiding principles. Klaira overcame her paralyzing fear of being ridiculed to contribute

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creative moments that were not in the original script. Edward worked beside Daniel in the control room. He seemed excited to have a chance to use Jack Straw's state-of-the-art audio equipment.

Bill Horist, Blind Youth Summer Program: The principal success of this year's program was that we worked with kids that, for the most part, didn't have much - or even any - experience playing or writing music, yet between our guidance and their dedication and hard work, we were able to make a very good song. By setting reasonable goals that were attainable yet challenging enough, the kids truly did make music – each participant having moments, not just to contribute, but to shine.

The program affords and challenges these kids with the opportunity to open up artistically and emotionally to create. Not simply as isolated individuals but rather as a community of collaborators, supporters and productive critics. A large degree of success is attributed to the support these kids lend to each other as, not only creators, but citizens of the world in which they live.

Another reward is to watch the participants build confidence with risk-taking and presenting their authentic selves to their peers – and perhaps most importantly - even in the face of critique when the kids arrive at varying aesthetic and technical conclusions. The ability to see beyond the initial joy of creation and into the difficult realm of how to improve upon what has been started is a huge benchmark.

Daniel Guenther, Blind Youth Summer Program: An educational highlight that I observed during the YES 2 drama production involved students starting to understand the possibilities of digital audio technology. Many of our students don't have much exposure to professional audio before participating in the Blind Youth Audio Project. By the end of the program however, students have a much deeper understanding of how modern TV, film, games, podcasts, and music are created. Exploring foley and sound effects is a great example of a "behind the scenes" element of media that many are not aware of. I believe many of this year's students left us feeling inspired by what they can accomplish with technology and their creativity.

Bill Horist, Blind Youth Summer Program: The main unanticipated outcome for me, as a teaching artist, is how much I learn about collaboration, bravery and support from watching and interacting with this community. They are able to step outside of their comfort and experience zones; they can access creation as play and they can consistently critique both themselves and others in a supportive fashion which elevates the quality of, not only the work but of their lives as they continue to apply these skills to whatever it is that they do in life. I hope they are even slightly as transformed by our time together as I am at the conclusion of each year.

Jack Straw Cultural Center is very grateful for your support of our accessible arts and education programs for blind and visually impaired youth. Please let me know if you would ever like to observe a workshop. We would be delighted to have you visit us!

All my best,



Joan Rabinowitz, Executive Director
Jack Straw Cultural Center

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