



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Taproot Theatre

Address:
208 N 85th St
Seattle, WA 98103

Mailing Address:
PO Box 30946
Seattle, WA 98113

Contact:
(206) 781-9705
<http://taproottheatre.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Taproot Theatre creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope. It is now Seattle's largest mid-size theatre company. Today, Taproot Theatre serves over 150,000 people annually throughout the Pacific Northwest with its Jewell Mainstage season, Isaac Studio Theatre season, Touring programs and Acting Studio.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Taproot Theatre.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

July 15, 2020

Marilyn Sheldon
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Scott Nolte
Producing Artistic Director

Re: Final Report Letter Q3 2019 14.2

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 30946
Seattle, WA 98113

Dear Marilyn,

Administrative Office
Kendall Center
208 N 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98103

On March 6, 2020, our Road Company team was finishing up their week-long tour of bullying prevention plays for schools in Yakima County. Excited and energized by the welcome they had received from teachers and by the great questions that students had asked after each show, our actors were tired and happy and ready for the long drive home. Then, as they traveled back over the mountains, it felt like they were entering a new world. Gradually, the news they were hearing became all about COVID-19. One of our actors said you could almost feel the heaviness grow as they got closer to Seattle.

Phone: 206.781.9705
Fax: 206.297.6882
info@taproottheatre.org

Over the next week our Road Company actors and the Taproot staff were in constant contact with schools, making alternate plans and listening avidly for Governor Inslee's announcements regarding statewide COVID-19 measures. One by one the Washington school districts closed and by



mid-March it became clear that our 2019-2020 Road Company tour had come to an end...two and half months early. With heavy hearts our five Road Company actors packed away their sets, props and costumes and parked Vincent Van Go (our faithful touring van) in his "summer spot" behind Taproot Theatre Company.

Box Office
204 N 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98103

Phone: 206.781.9707
Fax: 206.297.6882
box@taproottheatre.org

taproottheatre.org

A THEATRE OF HOPE

Taproot Theatre Company creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope.

We value faith.
We respect people.
We celebrate theatre.

At this point, all of Taproot's staff were working from home and communicating via Zoom, but we made sure to host a special Zoom "happy hour" in order to celebrate this amazing Road Company team. Even though their tour ended sooner than expected, it was important to acknowledge the work they had done and the impact that their performances had on so many students from September 2019-March 2020. And it is in that spirit that I am writing this letter to you with our Final Report, celebrating the moments of impact made possible by Taproot's 2019-2020 Road Company school tour.

We are so grateful for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund and your generous grant of [REDACTED] to support the Road Company this year. It was our honor to partner with you once again to bring bullying prevention plays to elementary and secondary schools throughout Washington State. Thanks to your support, the Road Company reached 81,788 students in 165 schools in 11 counties. While the total numbers reached are less this year due to the truncated touring schedule, we know that every child's story is significant. If the Road Company's bullying prevention plays can teach social/emotional skills and strategies for bullying prevention that improve the life of just one student, we count that as success.



The Road Company's 2019-2020 tour featured three plays teaching the bullying prevention strategies and Social/Emotional Learning concepts highlighted in Committee for Children's *Second Step* bullying prevention curriculum.



Team Player Mode (a new elementary school play) uses the world of online gaming to teach students how to make friends and stand up for others when they see bullying behavior happening. Back for a second year of touring, our elementary school play, **Super School**, is about young super heroes who are learning how to manage their emotions and how to use their powers in positive ways. Our play for middle/high school students this year is, **The Social Network**, a story that addresses issues of cyber-bullying, body shaming, body positivity and the misguided social norms that often don't allow young men to express their emotions.



It is your generous support that helps keep these important plays consistently accessible for schools throughout Washington State. In 2019-2020, the Road Company served 72 low income schools (44% of all schools served this year) and was able to bring bullying prevention plays to schools in Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom and Yakima Counties.

This year, in our surveys sent to school contacts, 98% of schools reported that the messages of the Road Company's plays were clear and relevant to their students. 96% of schools indicated that they planned to book another Road Company performance in the future. These are important statistics for us because we know that a key factor in the Road Company's success as a touring program is their ability to have a consistent impact on a school's culture as they return year after year-- becoming a regular part of a school's calendar, supporting the bullying prevention lessons already taught in classes and addressing issues that are particularly relevant to students.

In the final part of our Final Report, we wanted to let our Road Company actors speak in their own voice. Here are just a few stories that we received from them in their daily reports throughout this year:

9.16.2019. *The second school that we visited today certainly needed us, when Byron [a Road Company actor] went out between shows quite a number of students told him about situations of them being bullied. 😊 As we were packing up a student ran up to Byron and said, "At recess, I'm gonna be you!"*

10.25.2019. *We had the sweetest class of kindergarteners in the front row today. When the character of Ben was being bullied during the show, **Team Player Mode**, they kept calling out things like "Don't be mean to him!" and "Are you okay?" They cheered very enthusiastically when the characters completed their mission altogether in the game. We may have shed a tear or two backstage.*

11.14.19. *It is always nice to return to schools that we've obviously made an impact in. Like today, my favorite thing is when the kids who are passing by as we set up say, "OH! It's the Taproot show! That's my favorite part of the year!"*

11.22.19. *After our play, **The Social Network**, one girl asked, "When did it start that boys can't cry and give hugs?" A great question that we suggested she discuss more in depth with her teachers, but so awesome to hear the deep thoughts that are prompted by this show.*

2.10.20. *The principal came up after the show today and told us that during the show, **Super School**, one of their students with autism had a major breakthrough. He had never been able to sit through an assembly before, and yet today he was engaged and responsive the whole time with us--especially the point where we were talking about managing emotions. The principal wanted to make sure we knew our impact because otherwise we'd never know the full backstories of the students we see in the audience.*

3.4.20. *Granger High School is one of the best audiences we've ever had! They had so many great questions after, **The Social Network**. And during the dismissal, the principal became very emotional while reminding her students how great they are and said she wanted to tell them that more often. One student came up to Ashleigh [a Road Company actor] after the show and shared that because of cyberbullying, her friend died by suicide. Ashleigh was able to have a wonderful impactful conversation with the student about leaving a legacy of kindness in honor of her friend.*

These are just a few of the MANY moments of impact that your support is making possible for students throughout Washington State. We are truly honored by your faithful partnership that helps keep the Road Company on the road year after year. We look forward to many more years of helping empower students to change the culture of their schools for the better. *Thank you for being a part of this work!* If you would like to learn more about the Road Company program or would like to see a performance at a school near you, then please feel free to contact Sonja Lowe at 206.529.3672.

With deep gratitude,



Scott Nolte
Producing Artistic Director
Taproot Theatre Company