



# Funds Distribution Report

## Recipient Organization:

**Whatcom Peace & Justice Center**

## Address:

1220 Bay Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

## Contact:

(360) 734-0217  
<https://www.whatcompjc.org>

## Organization's General Goals:

The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center calls on our government and society to disavow policies of violence and seek a culture of peace.

## Date of Award:

2018 Q2

## Level:

\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from  
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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## **Q2 2018 14.2**

Grant report: Whatcom Peace & Justice Center

whatcompjc.org

May 20, 2019

The Whatcom Peace and Justice Center's (WPJC) education and outreach programs had an excellent year. Through workshops, study groups, lectures, school visits, and other community events, we had direct contact with over 1,200 community members, and reached an additional 3,000 through online communications. We are so grateful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund, which enables us to support our community's health and sustainability by ensuring the inclusion of deaf community members at our meetings and events.

In fall 2018, a few major educational events helped bring tools and messages of peace and social justice to hundreds of people in Whatcom County:

- Our key event, International Day of Peace, was a success with over 350 people attending some portion of the evening. The keynote speaker Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz had to cancel her appearance a month in advance, but we were able to book Naomi Wachira, an Afro-folk singer/songwriter from Seattle, to perform and speak as the keynote. Lummi poet Rena Priest opened the evening with a reading of one of her poems. The audience also heard about the 2019 Canoe Journey and opportunities to support the Lummi Nation in hosting it. There is a video of the event online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FYwu3Hp\\_8k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FYwu3Hp_8k). Overall, the feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly positive, and people appreciated the way the program got to the heart of painful realities while also bringing people together around peaceful visions for the future.
- WPJC hosted Honduras journalist Jennifer Avila in October. Ahead of her visit, we organized a screening of her film, which brought out about 30 people, including a van of students from the TRiO program at Northwest Indian College's Lummi campus. During Avila's visit the following week, we accompanied her to meet with Rep. Rick Larsen's local office and organized a speaking appearance for her at a local congregation, Christ

the Servant Lutheran Church. A potluck ahead of her speech gave community members a chance to connect her Avila and with each other.

- WPJC co-hosted talk on the trauma and aggression of settler-colonialism by Israeli-American psychologist Yoav Litvin in November. Held at Garden Street Methodist Church in Bellingham, the audience for this talk about Israeli and Palestine including people from our local veteran, Jewish, and indigenous communities who are involved in K-12 education and psychology, among other sectors. There is a video online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bATyYZS-umQ/>.
- WPJC also co-hosted Bread and Puppet Theater in October. This was well-attended by wide range of community members, including many families with small children, with over 500 people in attendance. There is an article here: [http://www.cascadiaweekly.com/cw/currents/paper\\_mache\\_and\\_politics](http://www.cascadiaweekly.com/cw/currents/paper_mache_and_politics)

One-on-one conversations and small group learning are much of the transformative work of WPJC takes place. In the 2018-2019 school year, our Alternatives to Military Service program made a total of 30 school visits to public schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties. During school visits, our volunteer team made up of veterans and other community members had 135 conversations with young people about their post-high-school options other than military enlistment. This exceed our goal of reaching 100 teens. We also shared this information with youth at community events, including the orientation for the Lummi Youth Summer Employment Program, the Northwest Washington Fair, a minor league baseball game, the Bellingham Farmers Market, Bellingham Technical College, the Fellowship of Reconciliation Northwest Conference, and the Concrete College and Career Fair.

We facilitated two study groups this year: one on active nonviolence, and the other on emergent strategy, using the book by adrienne maree brown. Our office also hosted quarterly workshops on implicit bias, and three letter-writing workshops that showed participants ways to be civically engaged and contact their representatives. Together, these workshops and groups reached 140 people.

The [REDACTED] awarded to WPJC from the Tulalip Cares fund went toward the cost of American Sign Language interpretation at our Board of Directors meetings, Board retreat, and International Day of Peace.

