



## 2018 Opportunity Grants

### **Asotin County Library**

*A Journey through Poetics Written and Spoken (October 2018)*

A Journey through Poetics, Written and Spoken was a student-focused writing experience with nationally recognized poet and speaker Myrlin Hepworth. Following a writing workshop, Hepworth discussed students' experiences writing poetry and spoken word, and students had the opportunity to perform and reflect on the work they created.

### **Blue Sky Education Project**

*Mayor of Tateyama, Japan Visits Japanese Language Students at Bellingham High School (September 5, 2018)*

As part of the Bellingham Sister Cities Association's Global Dialogue for Community Solutions 2018 Summit, Kenichi Kanamaru, the mayor of Tateyama, Japan, visited Bellingham in September, 2018. Bellingham and Tateyama have been sister cities since 1958. Mayor Kanamaru spent the day with Japanese language students at Bellingham High School. His presentations focused on both Japanese language and culture, including the written languages of Japan, demonstrations of pronunciation, and discussion of cultural topics.

### **Central Washington University**

*Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series (Fall 2018 to Spring 2019)*

Central Washington University (CWU)'s Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series invites critically acclaimed writers to come and read from their own works at educational events for CWU students and community members. Each program focuses on a specific theme or topic, and the theme of the 2018/19 program was inclusivity, diversity, and social justice. The Humanities Washington-funded event featured poet and young adult writer Erika L. Sanchez.

## **Confluence Gallery & Art Center**

*Coyote Winked - Native Art from the Indigenous Plateau (June 15, 2018)*

Dr. Laurie Arnold, Director of Native American Studies at Gonzaga University, presented "Indigenous Columbia Plateau Art: Historical and Contemporary Contexts" at the Confluence Gallery and Art Center as part of the exhibit, "Snk' lip Nc' aps: Coyote Winked - Native Art from the Indigenous Plateau." The Columbia Plateau has been an Indigenous space for at least 10,000 years. For the last 200 years, it has been a co-occupied space, a region shared by descendants of ancestral Plateau peoples and the settler society which grew during the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, Native American communities throughout the Columbia Plateau engage in cultural revitalization campaigns ranging from language restoration to writing tribal histories to creating both traditional and modern art. This talk provided a framework to contextualize the Columbia Plateau, leading to a better understanding of the art on display.

## **Job Carr Cabin Museum**

*Pioneer Days Festival (September 8, 2018)*

Pioneer Days Festival provided an entertaining and engaging opportunity to learn about the pioneer era of Tacoma through a series of hands-on activities and period games. Attendees could also visit the Job Carr Cabin Museum and chat with one of Carr's descendants. This family-friendly event was free. Heritage craft demonstrations, storytellers and period musicians added to this homespun event that sparked imaginations and inspired an interest in local history.

## **Kent Sister City Association**

*Kent International Festival (June 2, 2018)*

Inspired by the theme "Learn from Each Other", the Kent International Festival (KIF) is an annual celebration of the cultures and diversity represented in Kent and South King County. Over the past two decades, the city of Kent has become a minority-majority city and is one of the most diverse cities in the country.

## **Kuntz and Company**

*Dialog(s) (May, 2018 - April, 2019)*

Occurring *in* the community and *with* the community, "Dialog(s)" is a series of performance pieces intended to bring individuals of vastly different backgrounds together

to engage in an exchange. Two individuals perform a "dialog", which is then followed by facilitated conversations with audiences.

### **Lopez Island Historical Society**

*Lopez Living Legends (October 13, 2018)*

Lopez Island is home to a rich storytelling tradition. The purpose of Lopez Living Legends was to inspire islanders to record and share stories of their lives there: how they arrived, how they were challenged by living in an isolated community, and how they continue to thrive.

### **Methow Valley Interpretive Center**

*United by Water: A Film Screening (March 4, 2018)*

Methow Valley Interpretive Center screened a new film titled *United by Water*, directed by Derrick LaMere, produce by Upper Columbia United Tribes and narrated by Sherman Alexie. This film, for the first time in 80 years, documented the journey local tribes took up the Columbia River to their ancestral fishing site in Kettle Falls. It is a film about reconnecting with tribal traditions and with the river that is so integral to their way of life. The director was present for this screening and answered questions following the film.

### **Mirror Stage Company**

*Expand Upon: Incarceration (October 6 & 14, 2018)*

Mirror Stage's Expand Upon series initiates community conversations about topical issues through staged readings, with discussions following every performance. For this round, the Mirror Stage community chose the theme "Incarceration". Dr. Dan Berger (University of Washington, Bothell) presented pre-show lectures on the history of mass incarceration in the U.S. with a question-and-answer period before both the October 6th and October 14th performances.

### **Omari Amili**

*Formerly Incarcerated Authors Discussion (May 5, 2018)*

At this event, local formerly incarcerated authors engaged in a panel discussion and book signing. The purpose of this discussion was to help combat stigma related to formerly incarcerated people. Through hearing the stories of these individuals, the community

received inspiration and a new lens through which to view the world. The stories and featured experiences served to combat stereotypes and misconceptions in addition to changing the narrative regarding potential outcomes of incarceration.

### **Penn Cove Water Festival**

*Native American Oral Histories and Stories (May 11, 2018)*

This event included free Native American oral history and storytelling performances during the 2018 Penn Cove Water Festival. Lou LaBombard, a highly respected international teller of Native American oral traditions, served as storyteller.

### **Seattle Repertory Theatre**

*IBSEN IN CHICAGO: Community Conversations About Immigration (February 18 & 21, 2018)*

In conjunction with the world-premiere production of David Grimm's *IBSEN IN CHICAGO*, Seattle Repertory Theatre presented two opportunities for community engagement around key themes in the play: a conversation with longtime Nordic Heritage Museum docent Mari-Ann Kind Jackson about Nordic immigration to the Pacific Northwest, and a discussion surrounding immigration in Seattle, past and present, with University of Washington scholars Dr. Jang Wook Huh and Dr. Ann-Charlotte (Lotta) Gavel Adams.

### **Seattle Sihanoukville Sister City Association**

*The ART of Survival (April 7, 2018)*

This event used art as a medium to tell the story of Cambodian American heritage, and to preserve, showcase, and celebrate its symbiotic relationship with Washington State. It also served to provide a platform for the community to address issues of access and equity by engaging the public at large.

### **Sno-Isle Libraries - Oak Harbor Library**

*The Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series (May 4 & 5, 2018)*

The third annual Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series focused on women who have impacted America's history. Some of the featured women were well-known, and some had been largely forgotten and ignored by historians. The presenter was Jill Tietjen, author of the bestselling, award-winning book, *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women who changed America*.

Jill blogs for the Huffington post, speaks nationally on the accomplishments of women, nominates women for awards, and continues to write books.

### **South Sound Reading Foundation**

*Oly Lit Festival of Books (September 20 - 22, 2018)*

The Oly Lit Festival of Books is an annual celebration of books featuring 10 acclaimed authors from the Northwest and beyond. The three day event in downtown Olympia included interviews, panels, and readings for all ages. Attending authors included Maria Semple, Jess Walter, Nancy Pearl, and Jim Lynch.

### **SPLAB Organic Poetry**

*Becoming Cascadian (June - August, 2018)*

As part of SPLAB's (SPoken word poetry LAB) "Becoming Cascadian" poetry retreat, keynote poet Andrew Schelling lead a session and spoke about poetry and bioregionalism. He was then interviewed by SPLAB founder Paul Nelson, and attendees were engaged in conversation about poetics and the Cascadia bioregion, as well as bioregionalism in general.

### **Spokane Is Reading**

*Spokane Is Reading 2018 (September 27, 2018)*

Spokane is Reading... *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart. Ms. Stewart presented two programs on Thursday September 27, 2018. Each presentation included a reading and discussion of the themes of the book. This regional reading program promotes a love of literature through conversations and connections with other readers of the same book.

### **Tasveer**

*Tasveer's 4th South Asian International Docufest (SAID) (April 21 & 22, 2018)*

The 4th South Asian International Docufest (SAID) showcased high-quality, thought provoking documentaries that directly target issues relevant to the South Asian Community. The films were accompanied by post-screening conversations between filmmakers, audience members, and community leaders.

### **Three Rivers Folk Life Society**

*Tumbleweed Music Festival 2018 (August 31 – September 2, 2018)*

The 2018 Tumbleweed Music Festival featured over 100 acoustic music performing acts and workshops. Most attendees were from the Pacific Northwest, but the festival also attracted performers and visitors from more distant places such as California, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Orleans, Nashville, and Pennsylvania.

### **Tieton Arts & Humanities**

*Dia de los Muertos Community Celebration (October 31 – November 2, 2018)*

The 2018 Dia de los Muertos Community Celebration emulated the traditional Mexican celebration of honoring loved ones who have passed. This annual event included music, dancing, poetry, altars, arts and crafts activities like decorating sugar skull and masks, and art installations, all presented in a community-centric, vibrant, and educational environment.

### **WAGRO Foundation**

*First Great Contest of Day of the Dead Altars, Calavera (Skulls Poetry), and Catrinas (November 3, 2018)*

The WAGRO Foundation invited the entire regional community to join and participate in the First Great Contest of Day of the Dead Altars held in Snohomish County. This event included a contest and exposition of Day of the Dead altars, literary calavera (skulls poetry), and Catrinas. The purpose of the event was to preserve and share a cultural celebration, through art and tradition, with everyone.

### **Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center**

*Beyond the Frame: Inland Bounty; The work of Edward S. Curtis in the Columbia River Basin (October, 2018 – February, 2019)*

The Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center hosted an exhibit of photographs from Edward S. Curtis in coordination with a broader initiative, focusing on the tribes of the interior region and their relationship to the environment. Displays from the collection and special programs brought depth and discussion to engage the community and increase its understanding of the role and presence of the Columbia Plateau Indigenous Peoples. It opened with a Humanities Washington-funded lecture to kick off a series of exhibit related programs.