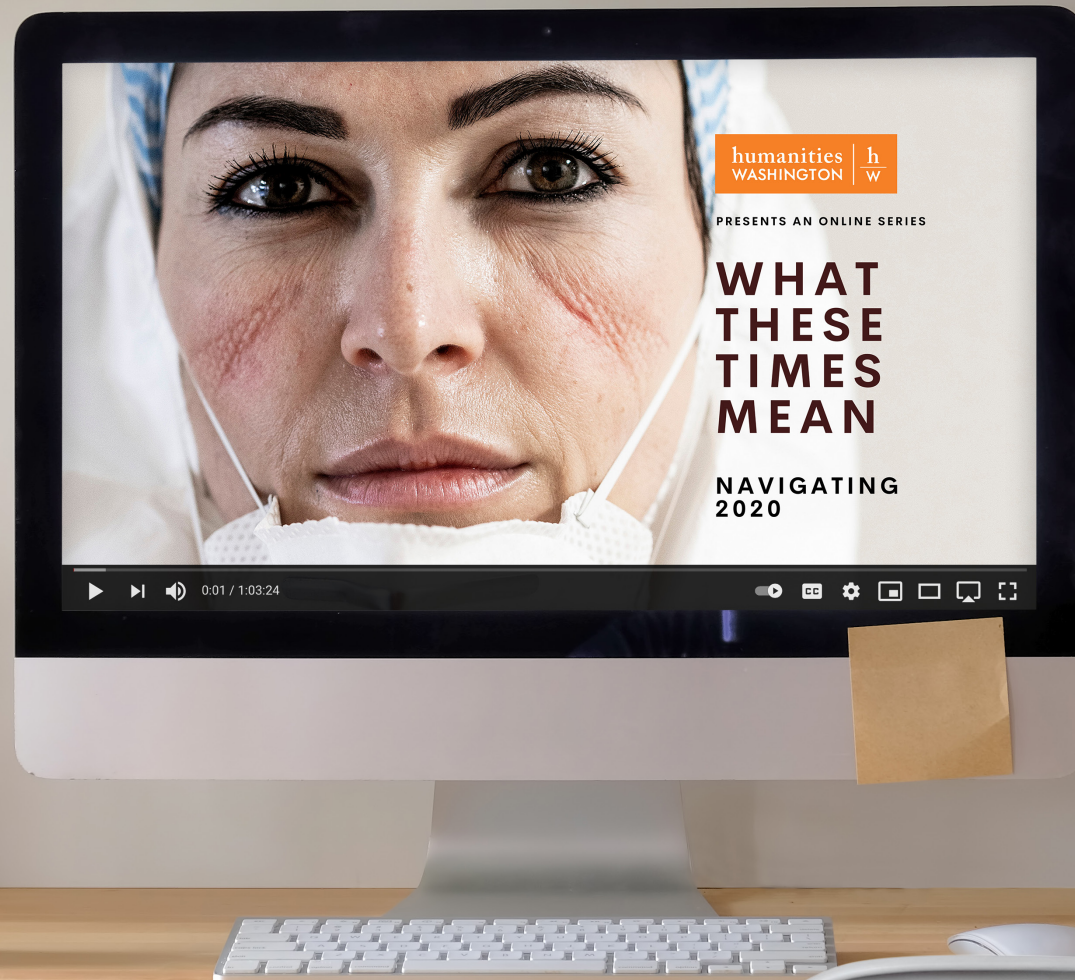


humanities
WASHINGTON | $\frac{h}{w}$

20 ANNUAL 20 REPORT

humanities.org



A message from the Executive Director...

The year 2020 was a difficult one, with pain, loss, and disruption serving as the backdrop of the collective human experience. It was one of those rare periods where everyone shared varying versions of the same anxiety and grief.

As a humanities organization we provide Washington's communities with opportunities to find common ground through shared experiences. COVID-19 was an unprecedented shared experience and, just as the world was beginning to understand the enormity and duration of the pandemic, our nation also began to reckon with, deeply and on a massive scale, the degree to which racial inequality still affects Black and Indigenous peoples as well as other people of color. Our programming last year responded to these dual concerns, helping people find meaning, context, and solace in the humanities.

To all of our donors and partners who helped us during such a hard time: we are grateful for your support. As we continue to find a path forward through uncertain times, I can look back on 2020 knowing that, with your help, Humanities Washington met head-on the challenges that our communities faced. Thank you.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie". The script is elegant and cursive.

Julie Ziegler

2020 In Review: Cabin Fever Questions

Washington was the first state in the United States to be affected by COVID-19, and as one of 56 state and territorial humanities councils all sharing similar missions, we knew we had a unique opportunity to lead—to show how a council can help its communities through a crisis using the humanities. To help people process what was happening, Humanities Washington created Cabin Fever Questions.

Distributed several times per week on social media and email, Cabin Fever Questions provided humanities-based discussion topics and resources for our lives in quarantine. We asked such questions as, “How do you define happiness?” and, “How do we remain informed without feeling overwhelmed?” Each question was paired with readings to expand the discussion. For parents struggling to keep kids engaged and occupied in the absence of school, we created Cabin Fever Kids, which featured deep questions about children’s books that parents could discuss with their kids.

The response was tremendous, and the project was awarded a Schwartz Prize from the Federation of State Humanities Councils—the highest honor a council can receive. But the reaction to Cabin Fever Questions is perhaps best summarized in one reader’s feedback: “Now THIS is the kind of email I want to get in these challenging times.”



Examples of Cabin Fever Questions.

2020 In Review: CARES Act Humanities Relief Grants

Not long into the pandemic, Washington State's cultural sector became mostly empty seats and locked doors. For a sector already used to operating on a shoestring, COVID-19 caused huge losses of revenue and grave uncertainty.

But in the summer of 2020, Humanities Washington, via the National Endowment for the Humanities and the CARES Act, provided \$522,000 in grant relief to 108 cultural institutions around the state serving over two million people. We were among the first humanities councils in the nation to distribute the funds, and because of the urgency of the moment, we worked hard to make the process as fast and easy for applicants as possible. We also prioritized racial and rural equity, and nearly half of grants were given to BIPOC-led or centered organizations and/or those located in rural areas.

"This was the best hour I've spent in a month."

—Speakers Bureau event attendee

CARES GRANT RECIPIENTS

206 Zulu
9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers Museum
ADEFUA Cultural Education Workshop
Arbutus Folk School
Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Autism Empowerment
Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
Benton County Museum & Historical Society
Blue Earth Alliance
Celtic Arts Foundation
Center for Religious Humanism
Center for World Indigenous Studies
Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas
Children's Museum of Skagit County
Children's Museum of Tacoma
Chinook Indian Nation
Coastal Interpretive Center
Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum
Confluence
Densho: Japanese American Legacy Project
Duwamish Tribal Services
East Benton County Historical Society
El Centro de la Raza
Entre Hermanos
Filipino American National Historical Society
Foothills Historical Society
Fort Nisqually Foundation
Fort Walla Walla Museum
Friends of Mukai
Friends of Skamokawa Foundation
Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
(continued)

2020 In Review: CARES Act Humanities Relief Grants

Harbor History Museum
Hedgebrook
Highline Heritage Museum
Holocaust Center for Humanity
Huong Viet Performing Arts Group
Island County Historical Society
Issaquah History Museums
Jack Straw Foundation
Jefferson County Historical Society
Key City Public Theatre
Kitsap County Historical Society Museum
KYRS Thin Air Community Radio
Lewis County Historical Museum
Living Voices
Look, Listen and Learn
Lopez Island Historical Society
Lynden Heritage Foundation
Makah Cultural & Research Center
Maple Valley Creative Arts Council
Maryhill Museum of Art
Mason County Historical Society
Meaningful Movies Project
Methow Arts Alliance
Methow Field Institute d/b/a Methow
Valley Interpretive Center
Native Arts and Cultures Foundation
Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery
New Dungeness Light Station Association

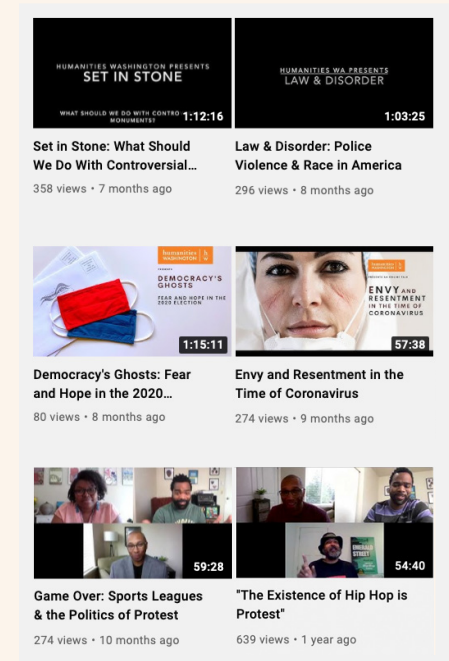
Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington
Northern Kittitas County Historical Society
Northwest African American Museum
Northwest Railway Museum
Okanogan County Historical Society
Olympia Film Society
Orquesta Northwest
Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
Pickford Film Center
Pioneer Farm Museum
Poetry Northwest
Polson Park & Museum Historical Society
Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation
Poulsbo Historical Society
Rainier Avenue Radio
Redmond Historical Society
Regional Theatre of the Palouse
Salish School of Spokane
San Juan Historical Society and Museum
Scarecrow Video
Seattle Latino Film Festival
Shakespeare Uncork'd Walla Walla
SIFF
Skagit County Historical Museum
South Sound Reading Foundation
Spokane Valley Heritage Museum
SpokaneFAVS
Squaxin Island Museum Library & Research Center

Steilacoom Historical Museum Association
Steilacoom Tribal Cultural Center & Museum
Stonerose Interpretive Center
Tacoma Historical Society
The Historic Trust
Thorp Mill Town Historical Preservation Society
Three Dollar Bill Cinema
Tieton Arts and Humanities
Touchet Valley Arts Council
University Beyond Bars
Upper Valley Historical Society
Wa Na Wari
Washington Museum Association
Washington State Historical Society
Washington State Jewish Historical Society
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center
Westport South Beach Historical Society
Whatcom Literacy Council
Whatcom Museum Foundation
White Bluffs Quilt Museum
White River Valley Museum and Mary Olson Farm
Whiteswan Environmental
Window Seat Media
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific
American Experience
Word Travels
Write Place
Yakima Valley Museum

2020 In Review: Online Programming

As an organization that loves bringing people together, it's hard to be asked to keep people apart. In a typical year, we hold more than 400 events with our partners, and the pandemic required us to leave the in-person connections we value behind. Challenging though it was, we leaned in to the opportunity. For the first time, anyone, anywhere could attend a Speakers Bureau event or panel discussion. Further, the year's struggles, from the pandemic to protests to a contentious election, provided fertile ground for discussion and connection. In addition to events on race and equity (detailed in our "Equity" section), Humanities Washington also organized important discussions including, "Envy and Resentment in the Time of Coronavirus," "Democracy's Ghosts: Fear and Hope in the 2020 Election," "Set in Stone: What Should We Do with Controversial Monuments?" and "Is the Internet Making Us Miserable?"

In total, we pivoted to presenting over 150 online events in 2020. This format presented an opportunity: for the first time, people from different areas of the state and different walks of life came together over important conversations to share unique experiences. It's a format we are excited to continue to offer.



Engaging our community with compelling content available on YouTube and other social media platforms.

"This was fascinating, informative, helpful. Really opened my eyes to my own lack of understanding, fear, and prejudice. Thank you!" – Speakers Bureau event attendee

Equity

Our country was founded on the ideal that all are created equal, but equality and justice have been tragically absent for many throughout our country's 400-year history. In 2020, the murder of George Floyd prompted an overdue reckoning with our country's long history of racial injustice and violence.

In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, Humanities Washington made three promises that clarified and expanded upon our previous equity efforts.

- ▶ *Continue investigating the privilege we have access to as individuals and as an organization in order to further embed racial equity into our work.*

In the summer of 2020 we enlisted the help of FutureWorkDesign, consultants who recognize that organizations are built on outdated structures, to help us understand our own strengths and weaknesses as we work toward being a more inclusive organization. We consulted with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee on how best to show our support for the protests. Also, in preparation for the search for our next Poet Laureate, Humanities Washington and ArtsWA re-examined the program's guidelines and structure through an equity lens. After seeking feedback via focus groups, surveys, and interviews we made significant adjustments to the application process and clarified expectations for future Laureates. The result was a much more racially and geographically diverse pool of applicants for the Poet Laureate program than in any other application cycle in the program's history.

- ▶ *Further amplify the voices and projects of Black scholars, tradition bearers, journalists, and activists.*

We held livestreamed and recorded events in the summer and fall addressing questions of racism, equity, and protest, featuring various Black, Indigenous and People of Color scholars and activists, including "Law and Disorder: Police Violence and Race in America," "Game Over: Sports Leagues and the Politics of Protest," "Hip Hop and Protest," and "Harm and Healing: An Online Community Gathering about Race, Health, and Protest," all of which helped audiences grapple with the commonality of racism and the urgency and meaning of the summer's events.

Equity

- ▶ *Utilize the power of the humanities, through accurate representation of history and culture, to foster justice and equity in our communities.*

The programs we bring across the state must embody our state, and be presented by a variety of voices to ensure that we are accurately depicting our history in all its complexity. To that end, we expanded our efforts to recruit more BIPOC speakers for our 2021-2023 Speakers Bureau roster. While BIPOC representation on Speakers Bureau increased from 39% to 46% over the previous roster, we have pledged to continue recruiting diverse speakers even during the roster's cycle to ensure more of Washington's voices are represented.

We also revamped our Prime Time Family Reading program to include books from a wider variety of perspectives to help more children see themselves and their cultures in the stories they were reading. We also presented more bilingual Prime Time programming, with one in every four Prime Time Family Reading sessions being presented in Spanish and English before the pandemic.

This work, important though it was, is only the beginning for Humanities Washington as we re-envision our organization's anti-racism efforts in the light of 2020's world-changing calls for racial justice.

By the Numbers

2020 Humanities Washington Stats

Program Attendance:

15,152



2,866

people attended
in-person or livestreamed
Discussion Events

119

cities and towns
hosted events



1,372

people attended
40 Prime Time
Sessions

Number of
programs
and events:

257

Serving Washington Communities from

Aberdeen *to* Yelm



541

people attended
29 Poet Laureate
Events

Number of
partners and host
organizations:

183



113

organizations received
CARES grant support,
serving a total of
1,990,461
Washingtonians

STAFF & BOARD

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PROGRAMS



FAMILY READING uses storytelling and discussion to explore cultural and ethical themes in children's literature and emphasizes the importance of families reading together.



GRANTS assist local organizations in creating opportunities for their community to come together to discuss important issues using the humanities.



SPEAKERS BUREAU draws from a pool of leading cultural experts and scholars to provide free conversational lecture events for community partners to offer local audiences throughout the state.



THINK & DRINK brings hosted conversations on provocative topics and new ideas to pubs and tasting rooms around the state and online in 2020.



WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE builds awareness and appreciation of poetry – including the state's legacy of poetry – through public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations throughout the state. Managed in partnership with ArtsWA.



CENTER FOR WASHINGTON CULTURAL TRADITIONS amplifies our state's rich, diverse living cultural treasures through research and special programming. Managed in partnership with ArtsWA.

“This program enabled us to discuss issues related to cultural differences and immigration with a broader audience than we typically have in attendance at our programs.” – Speakers Bureau event host

Financials

Humanities Washington is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Washington State.

2020 Total Expenses:
\$2,080,647

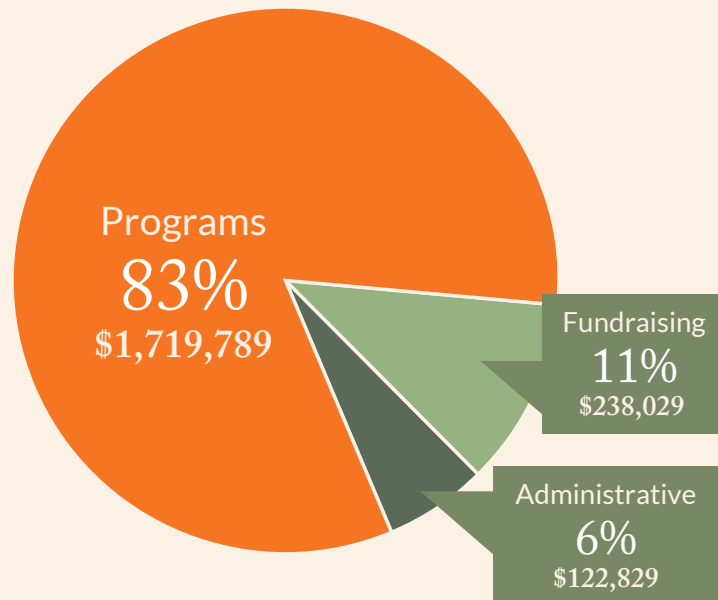


Photo: In February before the shutdown, we had our largest Think & Drink audience yet with our partners Town Hall Seattle and the University of Washington Information School.



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“These are especially challenging times of conflict in the world. This talk provided a reason for people to come together as a community, learn, become inspired by others that have gone before us – faced adversity – and come through stronger on the other side.”

— Speakers Bureau event host



Photo: In addition to events exploring the pandemic and racial justice protests, we held an event addressing the 2020 election.



“Excellent presentation in all respects.
[The speaker] brought a fresh, thought-provoking
approach to considering this complex topic.”
—Speakers Bureau event attendee

Photos: (left) A conversation with professors Eric Davis and Daudi Abe on the history of hip hop in the Northwest. Moderated by Langston Collin Wilkins, director of the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions. (right) Addressing racism and equity in our livestreamed and recorded events.

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Diane MacFarland
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Tod Marshall
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Photos: (Top) A free book, "Cabin Fever Kids," was offered to help kids explore deeper questions in children's literature. (Bottom) Before the COVID shutdown we made it to D.C. to share our perspectives with Washington's Senators and Representatives.

2020 PARTNERS *Across the State*

206 Zulu
9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Buffalo
Soldiers Museum
AAUW – Lewis County
AAUW – Olympia
AAUW – Seattle
ADEFUA Cultural Education Workshop
America's Car Museum
Anacortes High School
Anacortes Museum
Anacortes Public Library
Arbutus Folk School
Archbishop Murphy High School
Arts & Humanities Bainbridge
Asia Pacific Cultural Center
Asian/Pacific Islander Law
Student Association
Asotin County Libraries
Association Montessori International
of the United States
August Creative
Autism Empowerment
Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
Bainbridge Island Rotary
Bellevue College –
TELOS Student Organization
Bellevue Library
Benton County Museum & Historical Society
Bipartisan Work Group
Blue Earth Alliance
Bravo Concerts Northwest
Camas Public Library
Casa Latina
Cascadia Art Museum
Cascadia College
Celtic Arts Foundation
Center for Religious Humanism
Center for World Indigenous Studies
Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas

Central Skagit Library District
Central Washington University –
Museum of Culture & Environment
Centralia College
Centralia College Foundation
Chase Lake Elementary School
Chehalis Library
Children's Museum of Skagit County
Children's Museum of Tacoma
Chimacum Elementary School
Chinook Indian Nation
City of Bellevue – Cultural Conversations
City of Federal Way Surface Water Division
Civil Survival
Clarion West
Coastal Interpretive Center
Columbia Basin College
Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum
Columbia Riverkeeper
Columbia Springs
Confluence
Coupeville Library
Covington Library
Cowlitz County Historical Society & Museum
Crestwood Elementary School
Custer Elementary School
Delta High School
Densho: Japanese American Legacy Project
Des Moines Senior Activiy Center
Duvall Library
Duwamish Tribal Services
East Benton County Historical Society
Eastern Washington University
Africana Studies Program
Eastside Catholic High School
Edmonds Library
El Centro de la Raza
Elliott Bay Book Company

Endless Opportunities
Entre Hermanos
Evergreen Elementary School
Evergreen State College
Faith Action Network
Filipino American National Historical Society
First United Methodist Church of Bellevue
Foothills Historical Society
Fort Nisqually Foundation
Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries
Fort Walla Walla Museum
Freeland Library
Friends of Mukai
Friends of Skamokawa Foundation
Friends of the Puyallup Public Library
Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
Gig Harbor Poetry Collective
Granite Falls Library
Grays Harbor Out and Proud
Greater Maple Valley Community Center
Green Hill School
Green River College
Greenwood Senior Center
Hagan Center for the Humanities at
Spokane Community College
Harbor History Museum
Harstine Island Community Club
Hearing and Speech Center
Hedgebrook
Heron's Key
Highline Heritage Museum
Holocaust Center for Humanity
Huong Viet Performing Arts Group
Island County Historical Society
Issaquah History Museums
Jack Straw Cultural Center
Japanese American Citizen's League –
Seattle Chapter

Jefferson County Historical Society
Jefferson County Library
Kenmore Library
Kennewick Library
Key City Public Theatre
King County Library System
King County Water and Land
Resources Division
Kingsgate Library
Kitsap County Historical Society Museum
Kitsap Regional Library System –
Kingston Library
Kittitas County Historical Museum
KYRS Thin Air Community Radio
Lacey Library
Lakewood / Smokey Point Library
Lakewood Library
Langley Library
Leadership Without Borders
Leonard M Jennings Elementary
Lewis County Historical Museum
Liberty Lake Municipal Library
Liberty Middle School
Living Voices
Longview Public Library
Look, Listen and Learn
Lopez Island Historical Society
Lopez Island Library
Lynden Heritage Foundation
Lynnwood Library
Makah Cultural & Research Center
Maple Valley Creative Arts Council
Mariner Library
Maryhill Museum of Art
Mason County Historical Society
Meaningful Movies Project
MediaLab at Pacific Lutheran University
Methow Arts Alliance

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Mid-Columbia Libraries
Mirabella Seattle
Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women
Moses Lake Museum & Art Center
Mountlake Terrace Library
Murano Senior Living
Museum of Northwest Art
Narrows Glen Retirement Community
National Park Service
National Parks Conservation Association
Native Arts and Cultures Foundation
Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery
NEST (North East Seattle Together)
New Dungeness Light Station Association
Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington
North Central High School
North Central Regional Library System
North Olympic Library System
Northern Kittitas County Historical Society
Northwest African American Museum
Northwest Folklife
Northwest Railway Museum
Oak Harbor Library
Okanogan County Historical Society
Okanogan Land Trust
Olympia Film Society
Orquesta Northwest
Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection
Pickford Film Center
Pioneer Association of the State of Washington
Pioneer Farm Museum
Poetry Northwest
Points Northeast Historical Society
Polson Park & Museum Historical Society

Port Angeles Main Library
Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation
Port Townsend Public Library
Poulsbo Historical Society
Progress Elementary School
Puyallup Public Library
Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Rainier Avenue Radio
Redmond Historical Society
Redmond Senior Programming
Regional Theatre of the Palouse
Renton History Museum
Richland Public Library
Richmond Beach Library
Ridgefield High School
Ritzville Library District #2 – Ritzville Public Library
Salish School of Spokane
San Juan Historical Society and Museum
Scarecrow Video
Seattle Central College
Seattle Latino Film Festival
Seattle Public Library
Sedro-Woolley Library
Senior Services for South Sound
Sequim Senior Services, dba Shipley Center
Shakespeare Uncork'd Walla Walla
Shoreline Library
SIFF
Skagit County Historical Museum
Skagit River Poetry Foundation
Skyline Retirement Community
Sno-Isle Libraries
Sno-King School Retirees
Sno-Valley Senior Center
South Sound Reading Foundation
Southwest Seattle Historical Society

Spokane County Library District
Spokane Public Library
Spokane Public Library – East Side Library
Spokane Valley Heritage Museum
Spokane Valley Library
SpokaneFAVS
Spruce Street School
Squaxin Island Museum Library & Research Center
St. John's Episcopal Church
Steilacoom Historical Museum Association
Steilacoom Library
Steilacoom Tribal Cultural Center & Museum
Stonerose Interpretive Center
Sumner Library
Tacoma Historical Society
Tacoma Public Library
The Historic Trust
The Steamer Virginia V Foundation
Thorp Mill Town Historical Preservation Society
Three Dollar Bill Cinema
Tieton Arts and Humanities
Touchet Valley Arts Council
Town Hall Seattle
Tumwater Library
University Beyond Bars
University of Washington – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Upper Skagit Library
Upper Valley Historical Society
UW Bothell – School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Vancouver Community Library
Wa Na Wari
WAGRO Foundation
Washington Museum Association
Washington State Arts Commission

Washington State Historical Society
Washington State Jewish Historical Society
Washington State Parks
Washington State Senate
Washington State University
Washington State University – Tri-Cities
Washougal Community Library
Washougal High School
Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center
Wesley Homes
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Westport South Beach Historical Society
Whatcom County Library System
Whatcom Literacy Council
Whatcom Museum
Whatcom Reads
White Bluffs Quilt Museum
White River Valley Museum and Mary Olson Farm
Whiteswan Environmental
Whitman County Library – Colfax Branch
Window Seat Media
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience
Woman's Century Club
Woodinville Library
Word Travels
Write Place
WSU Common Reading Program
Yakama Nation Library
Yakima Coffeehouse Poets
Yakima Valley Libraries – Yakima Central Library
Yakima Valley Museum