

File No. 110253

Committee Item No. _____
Board Item No. 32

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date March 8, 2011

Cmte Board

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth Commission Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form (for hearings) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MOU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Grant Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ethics Form 126 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subcontract Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Correspondence |

OTHER

(Use back side if additional space is needed)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Completed by: Andrea Ausberry Date March 2, 2011

Completed by: _____ Date _____

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document is in the file.

1 [Accept and Expend Grant - WritersCorp - \$10,000]

2 **Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Arts Commission to retroactively accept**
3 **and expend a grant from the Friends of the San Francisco Library in the amount of**
4 **\$10,000 a federal pass-through grant from the President's Committee on the Arts and**
5 **Humanities' National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (formerly Coming**
6 **Up Taller) for general operating support for WritersCorp.**

7
8 WHEREAS, WritersCorp, a joint program of the San Francisco Arts Commission and
9 the San Francisco Public Library, celebrates its 17th anniversary in 2011 teaching creative
10 writing to more than 500 San Francisco at-risk youth each year in public schools, detention
11 facilities, libraries and after-school programs by placing professional writers in these
12 community settings; and,

13 WHEREAS, WritersCorps was one of 50 organizations across the country which
14 received the 2010 President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' National Arts and
15 Humanities Youth Program Award among more than 200 semifinalists; and

16 WHEREAS, this award is the highest national honor bestowed on youth
17 development programs in the United States, and,

18 WHEREAS, A WritersCorps staff and student were flown to the White House in fall
19 2010 to receive the award from First Lady Michelle Obama in a special ceremony; and;

20 WHEREAS, No grant cycle is designated with this award, however the Arts
21 Commission will spend it between 7/1/2010 and 6/30/2011, and,

22 WHEREAS, WritersCorp does not require an ASO amendment; now, therefore, be it

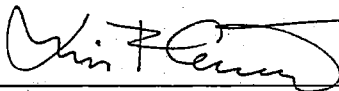
23 **RESOLVED**, That the Board of Supervisors allows for the retroactive accepting and
24 has expending of this President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities award, a federal
25 pass through to the San Francisco Arts Commission from the Friends of the San Francisco

FILE NO.

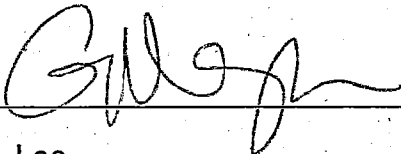
RESOLUTION NO.

1 Public Library, waiving the inclusion of indirect costs in the grant budget and, be it

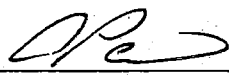
2 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Arts Commission's request, which
3 be carried out in accordance with all grant requirements and may be spent and reported
4 upon accordingly.

5
6 Recommended:  _____

7 Department Head: Luis R. Cancel, Director of Cultural Affairs

8
9 Approved:  _____

10 ~~10~~ Mayor Edwin M. Lee

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12 Approved:  _____
13 Controller

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FORM SFEC-126:
NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT APPROVAL
(S.F. Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code § 1.126)

City Elective Officer Information <i>(Please print clearly.)</i>	
Name of City elective officer(s): Mayor Edwin M. Lee; Members, SF Board of Supervisors	City elective office(s) held: Mayor, City and County of San Francisco; Members, SF Board of Supervisors
Contractor Information <i>(Please print clearly.)</i>	
Name of Contractor: Minna Dubin	
Minna Dubin is a teacher and a professional writer.	
Address: 43 Cole Street #2 San Francisco, CA 94117	
Date that contact was approved: October 4, 2010 Arts Commission Resolution No. 1101-10-298	Amount of contract: Minna Dubin \$10,000 Total: \$10,000
Describe the nature of the contract that was approved: Teaching creative writing to at-risk youth	
Comments	

This contract was approved by (check applicable):

- the City elective officer(s) identified on this form (Mayor, Edwin M. Lee)
- a board on which the City elective officer(s) serves _____
Print Name of Board
- the board of a state agency (Health Authority, Housing Authority Commission, Industrial Development Authority Board, Parking Authority, Redevelopment Agency Commission, Relocation Appeals Board, Treasure Island Development Authority) on which an appointee of the City elective officer(s) identified on this form sits

Print Name of Board

Filer Information <i>(Please print clearly.)</i>	
Name of filer: Rachelle Axel	Contact telephone number: (415) 252-2564
Address: San Francisco Arts Commission 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94102	E-mail: Rachelle.axel@sfgov.org

Signature of City Elective Officer (if submitted by City elective officer)

Date Signed

Signature of Board Secretary or Clerk (if submitted by Board Secretary or Clerk)

Date Signed



GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR

LUIS R. CANCEL
DIRECTOR OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PROGRAMS

CIVIC ART COLLECTION
CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW
COMMUNITY ARTS
& EDUCATION
CULTURAL EQUITY GRANTS
PERFORMING ARTS
PUBLIC ART
STREET ARTISTS LICENSES

ARTS COMMISSION GALLERY
401 VAN NESS AVENUE
415.554.6080

WWW.SFARTSCOMMISSION.ORG

ARTSCOMMISSION@SFGOV.ORG

TO: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Luis R. Cancel, Director of Cultural Affairs

DATE: February 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Accept and Expend Resolution for Subject Grant

GRANT TITLE: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library Pass-Through Award from the President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities' National Arts & Humanities Youth Program

Attached please find the original and 4 copies of each of the following:

Proposed grant resolution; original signed by Department, Mayor, Controller

Grant information form, including disability checklist

Grant budget

Grant application

Grant award letter from funding agency

Other (Explain): Ethics Form 126

Special Timeline Requirements:

There is no grant period. This Coming Up Taller Award will be expended in FY 2011.

Departmental representative to receive a copy of the adopted resolution:

Name: Rachelle Axel

Phone: 415.252.2564

Interoffice Mail Address: 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 240

Certified copy required Yes

No

(Note: certified copies have the seal of the City/County affixed and are occasionally required by funding agencies. In most cases ordinary copies without the seal are sufficient).



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

File Number: 110253
(Provided by Clerk of Board of Supervisors)

Grant Information Form
(Effective March 2005)

Purpose: Accompanies proposed Board of Supervisors resolutions authorizing a Department to accept and expend grant funds.

The following describes the grant referred to in the accompanying resolution:

1. Grant Title: **Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (federal pass through grant from the President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities)**

2. Department: **San Francisco Arts Commission**

3. Contact Person: **Rachelle Axel** Telephone: **415-252-2564**

4. Grant Approval Status (check one):

Approved by funding agency Not yet approved

5. Amount of Grant Funding Approved or Applied for: **\$10,000**

6a. Matching Funds Required: **None**

b. Source(s) of matching funds (if applicable)

7a. Grant Source Agency: **Friends of the San Francisco Public Library**

b. Grant Pass-Through Agency (if applicable): **President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities**

8. Proposed Grant Project Summary:

The San Francisco WritersCorps professional writers in public schools, libraries, detention centers and after school to teach creative writing to 500 at-risk youth per year. Approximately 88% of students will improve their writing skills. Final projects include chapbooks, anthologies, multimedia presentations and public performances. Since its inception in 1994, WritersCorps has helped more than 16,000 youth improve their literacy and increase their desire to learn. This award from the President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities will help offset the salary of one teaching artist.

9. Grant Project Schedule, as allowed in approval documents, or as proposed:

Start-Date: **7/1/10** End-Date: **6/30/11 (not specified by funder)**

10a. Amount budgeted for contractual services: **\$10,000**

b. Will contractual services be put out to bid? **Yes**

c. If so, will contract services help to further the goals of the department's MBE/WBE requirements? **Yes**

d. Is this likely to be a one-time or ongoing request for contracting out? **One-time.**

11a. Does the budget include indirect costs? Yes No

b1. If yes, how much? \$

b2. How was the amount calculated?

c. If no, why are indirect costs not included?

Not allowed by granting agency

To maximize use of grant funds on direct services

Other (please explain):

c2. If no indirect costs are included, what would have been the indirect costs? **Overhead expenses.**

12. Any other significant grant requirements or comments:

****Disability Access Checklist****

13. This Grant is intended for activities at (check all that apply):

Existing Site(s)

Existing Structure(s)

Existing Program(s) or Service(s)

Rehabilitated Site(s)

Rehabilitated Structure(s)

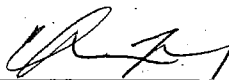
New Program(s) or Service(s)

New Site(s)

New Structure(s)

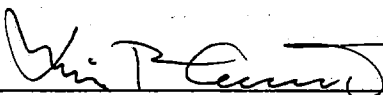
14. The Departmental ADA Coordinator and/or the Mayor's Office on Disability have reviewed the proposal and concluded that the project as proposed will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other Federal, State and local access laws and regulations and will allow the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, or will require unreasonable hardship exceptions, as described in the comments section:

Comments:

Departmental or Mayor's Office of Disability Reviewer:  ELEANORE SAN SAN WONG
DIR of HR
(Name)

Date Reviewed: _____

Department Approval: Luis R. Cancel Director
(Name) (Title)


(Signature)

Coming Up Taller Award Budget

Income	
Coming Up Taller Award	\$10,000
Total Award Income	\$10,000
Expense	
Contracted Teacher / Minna Dubin	\$10,000
Total Award Expenses	\$10,000
Balance	\$0

INDEX CODE NUMBER:28CAG 003

GRANT NUMBER:ARG003

Writers Corps

January 28, 2010

Coming Up Taller Awards
President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 526
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Coming Up Taller Review Panel,

We are pleased to submit this application to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities Coming Up Taller Awards for San Francisco WritersCorps, a joint program of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the San Francisco Public Library.

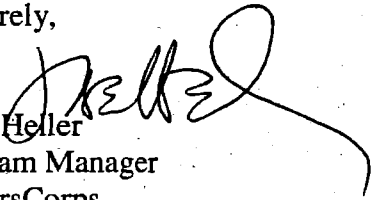
WritersCorps is 16 years old this year, and since its inception has served more than 15,700 young people throughout San Francisco, increasing their desire to learn and improving their overall literacy. Through weekly workshops and relationship building over many years, WritersCorps teachers are able to share their deep commitment to creative writing, inspiring the next generation of writers and helping these young people mature into thoughtful, engaged citizens. It is a point of pride that numerous awards have been received along the way for the program.


We hope this proposal begins to illustrate the nature of this unique and extraordinary program. The WritersCorps publications are perhaps the best evidence of the program's integrity, professionalism and meaning to the young people of San Francisco. While not included in the application packet, we would be happy to provide copies of them upon request.

If there is any additional information you would like to facilitate the review process, please contact rachelle.axel@sfgov.org or 415.252.2564.

We look forward to hearing from the committee.

Sincerely,


Janet Heller
Program Manager
WritersCorps


Rachelle Axel
Development Director
San Francisco Arts Commission

*"Poetry...I started off by putting it in the WritersCorps book.
Then I gave it to a couple of my friends, and sent it to my family.
It keeps growing and growing, but the head and the brain are always with me."*

Dubb, Age 17

2010 Coming Up Taller Awards Nomination Application Coversheet



Contact Person: AMY SOLLINS

Title: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Official IRS Name of Organization: FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tax Identification Number (9-digit number): 94-6085452

Nominated Program(s) within Organization (if relevant) and the founding date(s). (When nominating a program (or programs) within an organization, give the program's information not the organization's years of operation):

Program Name: SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CORPS Founding Date: 1994

Address: SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION, 25 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 240

City: SAN FRANCISCO State: CA Zip Code: 94102

Telephone: (415) 252-4655 Fax: (415) 252-2595

E-Mail: melissa.hung@sfgov.org Web Site: SFARTSCOMMISSION.ORG/WC

1. Prior Coming Up Taller Nominee: Yes No

2. Prior Coming Up Taller Semifinalist: Yes Year(s) 2009 No

3. Primary Cultural Discipline(s): (Check all relevant categories on the line after the category)

Archaeology Crafts Dance Design Folk & Traditional Arts History
Humanities Literature Media Arts (audio/film/video) Music Musical Theater
Opera Photography Reading and Discussion Theater Visual Arts
Interdisciplinary (projects integrating more than one discipline)

None of the Above (Please specify) _____

4. Organizational Description: (Check one category on the line after the relevant category)

501(c)(3) Nonprofit Unit of State/Local Gov't Federally Recognized Tribal Community/Tribe

Also: (Check one category on the line after the category.)

Arts Center (multi-purpose arts facility) Arts Council/Agency College or University
Community Service Organization (non-arts/humanities service organization, e.g., youth center, Boys and Girls Club, etc.) Government Historical Society Humanities Council Library Media Organization Museum Performance Facility or Group School School of the Arts

None of the Above (Please specify) FSFPL is the non-profit arm of the library.

5. Annual Number of Participants in the Nominated Program(s): (2010) 475-500

6. Annual Budget for Nominated Program(s): (2009) \$418,400 (2008) \$559,030 (2007) \$511,475

San Francisco WritersCorps Application to the Coming Up Taller Awards

Program Summary

WritersCorps, one of the most venerable, successful organizations serving at-risk youth in San Francisco through creative writing, just celebrated its 15th year of bringing professional writers into libraries, after-school programs, community centers, immigrant immersion programs and juvenile hall facilities. WritersCorps works with hundreds of students annually, targeting the most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods so youth may experience firsthand the power of writing and expressing their own stories. With 90% of students improving their literacy skills, they become excited and engaged learners.

WritersCorps' team of professional teaching artists has helped more than 15,700 students improve writing, public speaking, communication skills and confidence using the written and spoken word. WritersCorps transforms and strengthens individuals and their communities through instruction, mentoring, performances and award-winning publications. Intensive weekly workshops allow for in-depth connections and relationship building, and the selection of sites enables the voices of chronically underrepresented youth to grow in strength, creativity and clarity.

Evidence of high-quality programming in the arts and/or humanities

Evidence in Student Data

WritersCorps is a joint program of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the San Francisco Public Library and achieves high-quality programming by helping young people—ages 6 to 22— increase their language arts skills and develop their creative voices.

***Of 480 youth served [in FY 2007-2008],
88% demonstrated improvements in writing.
From WritersCorps 2007-2008 Evaluation***

WritersCorps publications—anthologies of student writing—have received numerous awards and public recognition. These include: Best Book for Teens from the NY Public Library (2009); Book of the Year from *Foreword Magazine* (2004); the Allende Foundation's Espiritu Award for Peace and the Written Word (2003); and Best Book for Teens from the Young Adult Library Services Association (2003).

Positive coverage has appeared on numerous regional and national media outlets including: *The New York Times Book Review*; *Washington Post*; *San Francisco Chronicle*; *Poets and Writers* magazine; NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Talk of the Nation".

Evidence in Partnerships

WritersCorps' has established long-term relationships with the facilities. These schools, libraries, community centers and other sites request our services year-after-year based on palpable and quantifiable evidence that WritersCorps helps San Francisco's youth develop into thoughtful, confident, engaged and creative adults. WritersCorps has been at some sites for more than ten years. We also believe being accessible to the most marginalized students, so all WritersCorps programs are free.

Evidence in Teaching Artists

Because the corps of teaching artists is a key to student success, WritersCorps believes in supporting the artists as well as the students, so a strong peer network and extensive teacher training benefits everyone in the program. The corps is made of accomplished published writers with extensive teaching and community arts experience. Our teachers do not work from a predetermined curriculum, but design lessons that address the needs and realities of the youth and staff at their sites.

While our teaching artists are independent at their sites, they find support through regular meetings and trainings with their fellow teachers and staff. San Francisco WritersCorps is committed to providing professional development to our teaching artists, including all-day trainings once a month. Teachers are also fairly compensated with pay and benefits, including planning time. Their long-term commitment to WritersCorps—as teachers first, then later as volunteers, mentors and editors—attests to the program’s high quality.

Evidence in Visibility

Finally, San Francisco WritersCorps is committed to sharing the work and voice of youth with the public. We create high-quality books written by youth receiving numerous awards (see above); produce events featuring youth; and create partnerships with publishers, bookstores, literary arts organizations and community-based nonprofits. Noted literary figures have read with San Francisco WritersCorps youth at our intergenerational readings, including Sherman Alexie, Isabel Allende, nikki giovanni, Robert Pinsky, and Luis Rodriguez. We’ve also worked with publishers such as City Lights and Wiley/Jossey-Bass to produce books. One of our student anthologies, *Paint Me Like I Am*, published by HarperCollins, has sold over 35,000 copies.

Evidence that experiences provided are of sufficient intensity, consistency and duration as to reasonably expect a positive impact on the skills, development and resiliency of youth

WritersCorps is structured so that long-lasting relationships are built—among teaching artists and students and the after-school sites, as well. Over the years it has become apparent that the commitment to the WritersCorps program, that those we engage stay connected and invested in the work we do.

San Francisco WritersCorps provides weekly creative writing workshops to youth during school and after-school in five public schools and three libraries. Monthly workshops are also taught at a juvenile detention facility.

Our teaching artists work an average of 15 hours per week for 8 ½ months at their sites. We work with each student a minimum of 10 sessions, though many remain in our program for the entire school year or longer. Teachers are typically on site two days each week to teach classes and workshops, participate in meetings with English language faculty, provide tutoring services in language arts for classroom assignments, and to have unscheduled hours available so students can drop by and visit the WritersCorps teaching artists. (As students advance in grade levels and move out of the program, many still regularly visit their WritersCorps teachers when they have open hours after school.) WritersCorps believes that long-term connections between young people and artists are needed to build strong relationships — and strong writers — so we are

typically at a site for this long duration and for many years. This long-term approach to ensure meaningful impact on students is part of our organization's core values.

Additionally, WritersCorps runs an after-school apprenticeship program for youth who seek more advanced writing and performance instruction, and who desire to be part of a community of young writers. Apprentices also work with one of the teaching artists on projects like creating chapbooks, a CD of poetry. (This year they are making a travel poetry guidebook for San Francisco, brainstorming some of their places to visit and writing about them. The book will include maps with chapters divided into neighborhoods. These projects are 100% student-driven.)

Since our teaching artists are in long-term contact with students as they grow up, lifetime bonds are established and reinforced. These are the creative mentorships that many WritersCorps students count on to help them navigate successfully through the many challenges of inner-city life, a new country, a new school, peer pressure, poverty, or even friends and families.

The best evidence that our work positively impacts students is through what they share in student surveys. ***Students report that they not only feel in better command of grammar and vocabulary, but that they feel more confident-- in what they have to say and in themselves.***

"Poetry changed my life," says Eric Foster, a student at Ida B. Wells High School who began writing seriously in WritersCorps.

"Without poetry, I wouldn't be as confident in front of other people, or even as confident in myself. When you're alone -- thinking and writing -- you really get to know who you are.

"I learned that I don't need to have so much negativity in me," says another student. "I could just write it down.

Having at least one time per week to express my feelings is something good to have."

Evidence that the program registers children's learning through stated outcomes

San Francisco WritersCorps has a comprehensive approach to determine its impact on youth and the site. At the beginning and the end of the school year, teachers submit student writing samples with confidential rubric scores. These scores represent participants' progress in writing mechanics, voice and style.

WritersCorps also collects in-depth surveys from 1) youth; 2) site representatives; and 3) WritersCorps teachers. The information collected is synthesized and used to make program improvements and inform our in-depth teacher training.

These assessment tools also help identify youth who are falling behind so that we can work with the sites to offer them supplementary support to increase their literary arts achievement.

All of these processes are linked to the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards and will insure that youth are meeting their educational goals for success within the public school system. **From 2000 to 2008, our rubric data shows that 86% of our youth demonstrated improvements in writing.**

Other evidence of student learning is apparent through the numerous literary awards received and press coverage (please see page 1) and the often “filled-to-capacity” springtime performances when WritersCorps students read their works at professional presenting venues and libraries.

Less easy to quantify are the many students that San Francisco WritersCorps has helped encourage and mentor to pursue higher education, careers and a writing life. WritersCorps teachers and staff help students through their college application process, provide letters of recommendation, and take students on college campus visits. In so many ways, WritersCorps teachers become mentors, coaches and positive influences for life.

The program’s focus on fostering child and youth development, including information on the youth who participate in the program

WritersCorps has worked with more than 15,700 children and youth (ages 6 – 22) over the past 16 years. We serve mostly immigrant, low-income, and incarcerated youth whose voices have historically been underrepresented or ignored. Our data shows the majority of our students are attending “underperforming schools” and are therefore below grade level standards.

WritersCorps serves 475-500 youth each year. Demographic data from the past two school years shows that our most of our youth (88%) are aged 14 to 22; evenly split between genders; and come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds:

42% Latino	22% African American	16% Asian American
7% Multiracial	4% Pacific Islander	3% White 6% Other

More than half our students speak a language other than English at home.

In addition to helping our students develop the critical skills of writing and vocabulary that will help them in school and life, WritersCorps strives to create safe places and creative outlets for youth, so that they can share their experiences, perspectives, vulnerabilities and strengths. WritersCorps youth grow personally as they become more self-aware and confident through creative expression, public readings and also from being published.

We survey our youth and sites at the end of the school year. Youth survey results from 2000 to 2008 show that a majority of our students feel more confident in expressing themselves.

- 89% felt they were better able to express themselves after participating in WritersCorps
- 80% feel more able to communicate with their peers
- The sites reported that 84% of the youth in WritersCorps increased their learning opportunities
- 71% increased their public speaking skills
- 71% improved their interpersonal skills

“I like being able to express my feelings,” shares a student in our most recent survey. “It makes me feel like I’m giving back and being able to communicate with others.”

“My best memory of being in WritersCorps is reading my poem aloud in a bookstore,” reports another youth. “I had never read my poems in front of people.

It made me feel like I’m going to be stronger.”

In addition to the various bookstores and libraries, students read their own writing publicly throughout the spring. Every May, all students from each site gather at the San Francisco Main Library for an evening of readings. The audience of peers, friends, teachers, parents and community members engenders enormous respect and pride among youth and is an experience that emboldens them for their futures.

The teachers WritersCorps hires are experienced writers and community advocates. They are accomplished poets, fiction writers, and performers, and work in communities in this long-term and in-depth way to build lasting relationships. In addition to teaching creative writing, the WritersCorps work together as a team producing special projects (for examples, see information about apprenticeships on page 3), and support each other as individuals and as resources in the field of community arts while serving as positive role models for young people.

I write plays that paint characters in full dimensions, toward the full truth of a community and its stories...WritersCorps helped set me on the path...

Will Power, actor, performer, playwright, former WritersCorps teacher

The integration of support services (homework help, counseling, job training) and/or prevention strategies (mentoring) with arts and humanities programming — the way the disciplines and services work together to address program goals

In addition to providing weekly writing workshops, San Francisco WritersCorps teachers provide mentoring to our youth. Our teaching artists set up poetry clubs and have office hours during lunch and during after-school hours so that youth may drop by to receive extra instruction, counseling, support and advice.

Our teachers regularly take students on field trips to literary readings, museum exhibitions, events on college campuses and theatre performances. In many of our sites, teachers provide homework assistance as a way to strengthen relationships and strengthen academic performance.

When our teachers work with incarcerated youth, they meet with other counselors, classroom teachers and mental health providers at staff meetings to offer student progress updates and submit student writing as a part of their official treatment plan file. Teachers work with parents or guardians to help students work through hard times, always making writing available as a way to process feelings.

Sites rely on WritersCorps teachers to be positive adults in their students' lives. All WritersCorps teachers distribute journals to each student. These journals are shared, for the most part, with teachers. Students develop close, trusting relationships with their WritersCorps teachers who are able to help find resources at the site or within the city should students ask for help or support.

I was changed...by working with the many homeless youth, young women, teen moms and first-generation immigrant children. With each poem they struggled to create, they showed me honest examples of what it really means to own the power of language, to be socially engaged writers—and I thank them for that.

Maiana Minahal, poet and WritersCorps teacher

The professional background of the educators, historians, librarians, artists, curators, museum professionals, and other scholars working with young people and/or managing the program

WritersCorps teaching artists are selected through a competitive application process. Criteria include their literary accomplishments, teaching experience, cultural literacy and familiarity with urban youth populations. Eligible applicants must have a minimum of two years teaching experience in language arts; one year service with communities in need; evidence published writing; and a BA or experiential equivalent. Many of our teachers have graduate degrees.

Our administrative staff brings over 45 years of experience in arts education to the program. The manager and founder of San Francisco WritersCorps has taught writing in a variety of community settings and co-founded a creative writing program for homeless youth. The training coordinator of our program is a well-known speaker on prison arts and arts education, the author and editor of several books, many articles, and has also taught in many settings. Our teaching artists are valued by students, who share their opinions of their WritersCorps teachers in our surveys.

“In many ways my teacher has shown me how to put my thoughts into words that I thought I would never be able to do,” says one student from the Main Library.

“She’s a big inspiration to me,” writes another student of a San Francisco WritersCorps teacher at Downtown High School. “She’s taught us a lot, especially with building my confidence level higher.”

Organizational stability and commitment. Include information about important partnership and their functions; reliability of funding sources; efforts taken to diversify revenue, continuity of staff

One of the most important partnerships to ensure the success of our program is the one we have with our sites. Before they become a part of the WritersCorps program, and throughout their involvement, sites are required to demonstrate their investment in WritersCorps. Sites are annually evaluated for their commitment to the program. They are required to attend meetings, participate in activities, and evaluate student and teacher performance. We also ask sites to integrate the San Francisco WritersCorps teaching artist into their organization through inclusion of the teacher in staff meetings, and other site-wide activities. Our training coordinator also checks in continuously with the sites and with the teachers to ensure progress.

WritersCorps, as a program of the City and County of San Francisco, receives funding from the the San Francisco Public Library and other City agencies. We have a 10-year history of renewed funding with these agencies. We receive support from local foundations and from the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council. We also earn income from the sale of our publications, and receive support from individual donors. WritersCorps maintains an advisory board comprised of communications consultants, writers and funders.

The individuals of the WritersCorps staff are dedicated to the program’s mission of bringing literary arts to youth, and have served in the program for many years. The founder has been directing WritersCorps since its inception and trainings for teaching artists has been managed by the same staff for over a decade. Teaching artists are contracted to serve in WritersCorps for

three years. WritersCorps has been a part of the San Francisco Arts Commission for 16 years. The Arts Commission considers WritersCorps to be one of the City's most valued programs.

Key Program Staff

Administrative Staff

Janet Heller, project manager, is the founding director of the San Francisco WritersCorps. She has taught English in high school, colleges and community settings in Louisiana and Florida. She is the co-founder of Runaway with Words, a creative writing program for runaway and homeless youth in Florida. Janet graduated with a MA in creative writing from Florida State University and is the recipient of an Arts Administration Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Judith Tannenbaum, training coordinator, has served on the training staff of WritersCorps since the program's inception. She is a keynote speaker and panelist on prison arts and education, with more than 35 years experience teaching. She has taught in urban, rural and suburban public schools through California Poets in the Schools, and at San Quentin and other state prisons through Arts-in-Corrections for 35 years. Her books include *Teeth, Wiggly as Earthquakes: Writing Poetry in the Primary Grades*; *Disguised as A Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin*; and *By Heart: Poetry, Prison, and Two Lives* (New Village Press, April 2010).

Melissa Hung, program associate, is an award-winning writer and editor. A graduate of Northwestern University's creative writing and journalism programs, Melissa has written for newspapers, magazines and literary journals. As a journalist, she wrote stories about people, social issues and culture. She is the founding editor of Hyphen, a magazine about Asian American culture, and a frequent speaker on the topic of independent media. She also founded Slant, a festival of short films in Houston, now in its 10th year.

Teaching Artists

Neelanjana Banerjee is a writer and editor whose poetry and fiction have appeared in the *The Literary Review*, *Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Nimrod*, *A Room of One's Own*, and the anthology *Desilicious*. She received an MFA in creative writing from San Francisco State University in 2007 and was a Hedgebrook Fellow in 2008. She has worked in mainstream, ethnic and independent media for the past 10 years. She is co-editor of *Indivisible: An Anthology of Contemporary South Asian American Poetry* (University of Arkansas Press, 2010).

Rick D'Elia is a Massachusetts native now residing in San Francisco and completing his MFA in poetry at San Francisco State University. He is the co-curator of the Living Room Reading Series and has been most recently published in *Switchback*. Prior to attending SFSU, Rick attended Elmira College in Elmira, New York, where he played on the men's hockey team.

Aracely Gonzalez earned an MA in English from San Francisco State University and is co-founder of Fish Soup, an all-women cross genre writing workshop. She has more than eight years of experience teaching youth of all ages, from elementary school to college level. Her

writing has appeared in various journals, including *Suspect Thoughts: A Journal of Subversive Writing*.

Myron Michael Hardy is a poet, recording artist, and teacher. He is a Cave Canem fellow and earned an MFA in writing from California College of the Arts. His work has been published in several journals and he was a finalist for the Blue Light Poetry Prize Chapbook Competition. He has recorded two albums: *Songs of Experience* and *Masters Thesis*.

Cindy Je was born in Korea and moved to the United States as a child. She earned her BA at University of California, Riverside, and her MFA in writing at the University of Oregon. She has been a mentor and case manager for homeless youth and has taught students from a range of backgrounds and ages, from middle school students to university students. She is the recipient of the Ina Coolbrith Memorial Prize and the Roy T. Thompson Poetry Award.

Carrie Leilam Love is a writer based in Oakland. She has an MFA in fiction from San Francisco State University and has been published by Drunk N Sailor Press and Intersection of the Arts. She has worked in education for more than 10 years, teaching students from preschool to college.

Milta Ortiz is a writer, performer and arts educator. She earned her creative writing degree from San Francisco State University. She wrote, produced and performed *Scatter My Red Underwear*, a hybrid play funded by the City of Oakland Cultural Arts Department and the Zellerbach Family Foundation. Milta has been published in *Coyolxuahqui*, *Cipatli* and the anthology *Days I Moved Through Ordinary Sounds*. She is one third of the spoken word group Las Manas Tres and a founding member of HYPE theater troupe.

January 28, 2010

Coming Up Taller Awards
President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 526
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Coming Up Taller Review Panel,

I am pleased to submit this nomination letter for the San Francisco WritersCorps, a joint program of the San Francisco Arts Commission and the San Francisco Public Library.

For more than 15 years, WritersCorps has been a model for sound literary arts programs that develops young people's confidence, sense of identity and language arts skills—all through the written and spoken word. It is unique for a number of reasons:

- 1) WritersCorps works with children and teenagers over long periods of time. Some WritersCorps youth have been in the program for many years, their language and writing skills improving vastly over time.
- 2) WritersCorps works on an in-depth level, with teachers having multiple lessons each week with students, so relationships develop that last a lifetime.
- 3) WritersCorps is not just an important complement to learning inside and outside the school environment. Each year, every site produces a book, a tangible product of their poetry skills. In fact, in 2009, *Tell the World* was reviewed in the New York Times Book Review and awarded the Best of Teen Books Award from the New York Public Library; in 2004, WritersCorps' anthology *City of One* received the Book of the Year Award from *ForeWord Magazine*; and the Allende Foundation's Espiritu Award for Peace and the Written Word was bestowed on WritersCorps (2003); and another WritersCorps publication received Best Book for Teens from the Young Adult Library Services Association (2003).
- 4) WritersCorps believes that the success of student learning must start with well-trained teachers. WritersCorps teachers meet monthly and participate in all-day trainings to ensure that their work with students is the best it can be.

WritersCorps is the real deal. The program truly transforms and strengthens individuals and communities through the written and spoken word. The experienced teachers—published poets, fiction writers, and performers—are exceptional mentors and are deeply committed to working long-term and in-depth in communities to build lasting relationships and serve as positive role models for young people.

And above all, the young people come first. The care and attention given to the WritersCorps students – in public schools, community settings and detention centers – are all the best evidence of the success of this program. Not only do these young writers blossom in their literary talent, the process of having their own voices and stories heard and nourished helps them become motivated, strong, engaged and proud adults.

On behalf of the California Arts Council, I am pleased to wholeheartedly offer my recommendation for San Francisco WritersCorps to receive the 2010 Coming Up Taller Award.

Sincerely,

Muriel Johnson
Director



COMING UP
TALLER
YOUTH • ARTS
HUMANITIES



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

June 15, 2010

Ms. Amy Sollins
San Francisco WritersCorps
Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library
25 Van Ness Ave., Ste.240
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Sollins:

Congratulations! It gives us great pleasure to inform you that the San Francisco WritersCorps at the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library has been selected as a 2010 Coming Up Taller Award winner. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its partners, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, are pleased to acknowledge your program's extraordinary work in making a remarkable difference in our nation's youth.

In celebration of the outstanding programs selected this year, we will host an awards ceremony in Washington, DC, in the late fall-early winter. As event plans unfold, Traci Slater-Rigaud, the Coming Up Taller Director, will contact you. You should plan on sending (at no cost to your organization) two people – one program representative and one youth program participant – to Washington for the awards ceremony. As part of the ceremony, your organization will receive a special plaque and a \$10,000 award. This financial award is unrestricted, and we trust the funds will be used to enhance your excellent work.

Please note your award is currently confidential. Prior to the Washington ceremony, you will receive an official award letter from the National Endowment for the Arts Grants & Contracts Office. While we know you are eager to share this news with many people, it is important you do not make any public announcement of your selection until the awards event. However, we do encourage you to share the news with your board and staff.

To help you prepare for increased interest in and funding for your program, we are hosting a Leadership Enhancement Conference, scheduled for August 4-6 in Washington, DC, for this year's Coming Up Taller Award winners. This conference will help you to address public relations, marketing, and capacity-building issues for your organization. Expenses for this conference are partially covered by the Coming Up Taller program. Traci Slater-Rigaud will follow up with you about your attendance.

Competition for the award this year was especially high. We hope the Coming Up Taller Award will bring your superb work additional recognition, provide new opportunities, and energize others to use the power of the arts and the humanities to inspire young minds and nurture their imaginations.

We also want to let you know that there are some very significant and exciting developments taking place with the Coming Up Taller program and we are looking forward to sharing these changes with you in the weeks to follow.

Sincerely,

Rachel Goslins
Executive Director
President's Committee on the
Arts and the Humanities

Marsha Semmel
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Rocco Landesman
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

Jim Leach
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities

May 12, 2010

Ms. Amy Sollins
San Francisco Writers Corps
Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Pub Lib.
25 Van Ness Ave., Ste. 240
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear:

Congratulations! Your program has been chosen for recognition as a 2010 Coming Up Taller Semifinalist by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its partner agencies, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are highly impressed with the successful work your organization and the other semifinalists have accomplished in youth after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities learning.

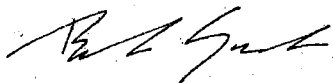
We reviewed 459 nominations from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Your program's selection as one of the 50 semifinalists distinguishes it as one of the top arts- and humanities-based programs in the country.

Your nomination is currently being reviewed for a Coming Up Taller award by a national jury composed of field experts. We expect to notify this year's award recipients by the end of June. If your program is selected to receive a Coming Up Taller award, you will receive a plaque and a \$10,000 award at a ceremony in the fall/winter. Your organization will also have the opportunity to participate in the sixth annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference, August 4-6, 2010, in Washington, DC.

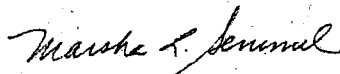
At this time, you may share your selection as a semifinalist with the media, your board, staff, and supporters. To recognize your selection as a semifinalist, you will receive a Coming Up Taller Certificate of Excellence before the end of the year. Your program and organization will be listed in this year's Coming Up Taller awards national publication and in the press kit announcing the award recipients.

We value your important work and thank you for your organization's time, energy, and expertise devoted to our America's youth. Expect to hear from us by the end of June and in the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Traci Slater-Rigaud, Coming Up Taller Director, at 202-682-5409.

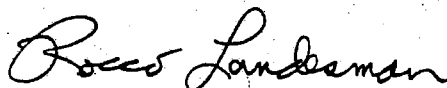
Sincerely,



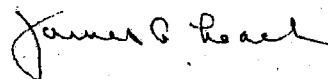
Rachel Goslins
Executive Director
President's Committee on the
Arts and the Humanities



Marsha Semmel
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services



Rocco Landesman
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



James A. Leach
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities



COMING UP
TALLER
YOUTH • ARTS
HUMANITIES



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS



To: Melissa Hung <melissa.hung@sfgov.org>

Dear Melissa,

Congratulations on the great work you are doing at WritersCorps. We are very pleased to support your work.

This message is to confirm that Friends of the San Francisco Public Library authorizes the award of \$10,000 to WritersCorps (the City) for winning the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

Please feel free to contact me or direct any questions regarding this authorization to me.

Best regards,

Donna Bero

Donna Bero

Executive Director

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library

391 Grove Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 626-7512 x 118

donna.bero@friendssfpl.org

INTRODUCTION FORM

By a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time Stamp or
Meeting Date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction:

- 1. For reference to Committee:
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.
- 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee
- 3. Request for Committee hearing on a subject matter.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor _____ inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call file from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File Nos.
- 9. Request for Closed Session
- 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small-Business Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspection Commission | |

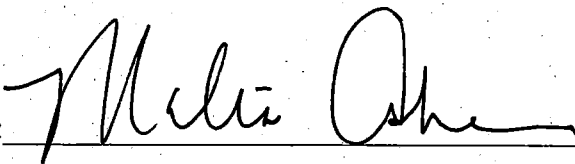
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.]

Sponsor(s): Supervisor Cohen

SUBJECT: Accept and Expend Grant – Friends of the SF Public Library Grant from the President’s Committee on the Arts & Humanities for WritersCorp

The text is listed below or attached:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: _____



For Clerk’s Use Only:

