



*Celebrating Writing  
Since 2001*



**2011-2012**

# Annual Report

SLCC Community Writing Center



STEP AHEAD.

## Who We Are

## A Community of Writers

The SLCC Community Writing Center (CWC) supports, motivates and educates people of all abilities and educational backgrounds who want to use writing for practical needs, civic engagement and personal expression.

In 2011-2012, the CWC ensured access to the power of writing for thousands of people and hundreds of organizations across the Salt Lake Valley. More than 600 community members came to the CWC for the first time this year to improve their writing skills. Since opening in 2001, the CWC has directly served more than 4800 community members and partnered with nearly 350 community organizations. In addition to all that goes on at the Center, our Writing Assistants Volunteers are daily working at community partners across the valley.



More than 80 community members volunteer each year with the CWC as off-site writing coaches, DiverseCity Writing Series mentors and Salt Lake Teens Write mentors.

### Snapshot of CWC Writers

- One third of registered CWC writers have annual household incomes of less than \$12,000; 43% have family incomes of less than \$20,000 per year.
- Nearly 39% of CWC writers have a high school diploma or less, and 30% of writers have Bachelor's degrees. Our community keeps on learning, even after school "ends."
- More than 33% of CWC writers are from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- CWC writers engage in all types of writing, from resumes, college scholarship essays, and letters to poetry, fiction and essays.

## A Community of Writers

### Writing Coaching

The CWC offers free one-on-one collaborative writing assistance, providing helpful feedback in a supportive environment on most types of writing: civic, practical or personal. More than 1100 community writers have spent time, working with trained staff and volunteers to improve their resumes, poetry, letters-to-legislatures, emails and other genres of writing. An estimate of 150 writers took advantage of Writing Coaching at our partner organizations throughout Salt Lake County.



One-on-one Writing Coaching offers assistance on most types of writing at any time.



Civic, Practical and Personal Writing Workshops provide access to new learning opportunities.

### Writing Workshops

Nearly four dozen low-cost (sometimes free) writing workshops at the CWC and weekly workshops at community partner sites provided more than 2200 community members with new learning opportunities that included developing grant-writing skills, documenting personal histories, and advocating for their communities.

Says one workshop participant, "I like the openness of the workshops; everyone has a voice."

### DiverseCity Writing Series (DWS)

The DWS is a city-wide writing group and publishing program, bringing together diverse writers and audiences from across the valley. Thirty-two volunteer mentors and more than 200 community writers participated in the 16 DWS writing groups this year. More than 100 works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry by 64 authors are featured in our newest publication, *sine cera: Bread on Mondays*.



DWS writing groups, including the Silver Pen writing group, meet twice monthly to discuss one another's work.

# A Partner in the Community



Community Writing Projects, such as Freedom Writers, bring diverse voices together to address important issues through writing.

The CWC believes in collaborating with other organizations to provide the best access possible to community learners. Partnerships that bring together multi-institutional partners provide dynamic, innovative and pedagogically-sound learning and literacy opportunities for the community. "Thank you for your work in educating our community," says Salt City Mayor Ralph Becker.

## Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations

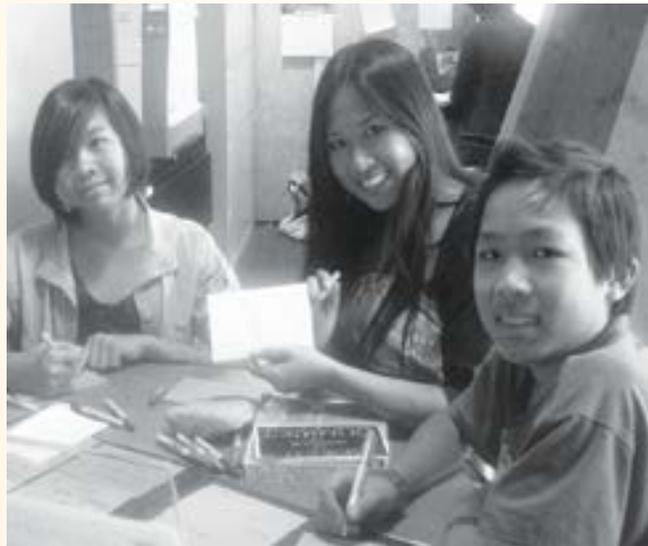
Since its opening, the CWC has partnered with more than 230 nonprofit and for profit organizations. In 2011-2012, we worked with more than 40 partners, including:

- **University Neighborhood Partners, the English Skills Language Center and the Hartland Residency** partnered with the CWC to offer twice weekly writing coaching for intermediate ELL writers of refugee and international status living at the Hartland Residential Complex.
- **Salt Lake County Metro and Oxbow Jail** inmates participated twice weekly in Life-Skills and Personal Writing workshops facilitated by CWC Writing Assistants.
- Students of **The Utah Humanities Council's Venture Course**, which provides adults facing economic barriers a chance to start college, participated in weekly Writing Coaching at Horizonte High School
- **Literacy Action Center** (providing assistance to English-speaking adults learning to read and write), participates in the bi-monthly DiverseCity Writing Series program, as well as participates in CWC College Readiness Writing Workshops at the LAC.
- **Iraqi Leaders with Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy** participated in a Writing for Change workshop at the CWC as a way to learn how to make a difference in their own communities through writing..
- Writers with **Salt Lake County's Aging Services local Senior Centers** attended more than five separate Silver Pen Essay Writing Workshops across the valley to prepare for the Silver Pen competition.
- Writers at the **YWCA** participated in skills-based and employment writing workshops, as well as bi-monthly DiverseCity Writing Series groups.
- Participants of the **Citizen's Climate Lobby** festival wrote letters to Public Officials during a CWC Writing-for-Change workshop.
- Partners at **KUED, Center for Documentary Arts, and SpyHop** participated in the Freedom Riders events, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement, as well as participate in the CWC's Freedom Writers Community Writing Campaign and public discussion.
- **Timpanogos Storytelling Festival** partnered with the CWC for performances during the Utah Arts Festival.
- Writers at the **Men's Detox Group, St. Mark's Tower (Assisted Living), Veterans Affairs**, and more community partnership groups participated in the DiverseCity Writing Series and *sine cera* publication.
- **Salt Lake City Public Library** has long been a partner with the SLCC Community Writing Center, collaborating on program's such as Salt Lake Teens Write, Grantwriting and Writing for Change.

## Partnerships with Youth

The CWC fosters writing at an early age, including practical, civic and personal writing opportunities with the following youth organizations:

- **Homeless Youth Resource Center:** Weekly “Youth DiverseCity Writing Series” Writing Group
- **Primary Children’s Medical Center:** Twice-monthly workshops for youth patients at the Kids Crew Playhouse
- **Calvary Academy of Excellence/Saturday School:** Saturday workshops for underserved elementary students
- **Family Resource Center at West High:** Weekly Writing Coaching for students and their parents
- **Lied Boys & Girls Club:** Weekly After-school Writing Workshops
- **Youth City:** Eight-week summer writing camp
- **Main City Library’s Teen Job Fair:** College Application Essay Workshop
- **Salt Lake City School District and Granite School District:** College Scholarship Essay and Resume Writing Workshops at several high schools within each district
- **PACE (Partnerships for Accessing College Education) and ETS College Bound (Educational Talent Search)/TriO programs:** Provide College Readiness Writing workshops or Journaling workshops for under-represented students



## A Community of Writers



The Salt Lake Teens Write program provides long-term academic and career mentoring for underserved teens through writing.

### Salt Lake Teens Write

In partnership with the Salt Lake Public Library, the CWC is proud of its award-winning program, Salt Lake Teens Write, providing long-term academic and career mentoring for underserved teens through writing. Teens are paired with a same-gender mentor, a community member who uses writing in a significant way. Together the mentor and teen write in multiple genres, create portfolios of their writing, attend group workshops and participate in the SLTW publication and public reading at the end of the school year.

This year, more than 20 teams began the program. Teens participated from high schools and local organizations, such as West, Horizonte, Kearns High Schools and AMES Academy, as well as community organizations. Participating mentors came from writing organizations, such as the *Salt Lake Tribune* and community organizations like Calvary Baptist Church and the Salt Lake City Public Library. This program is the recent winner of the 2011-2012 SLCC Innovation award.

## A Place of Education



The CWC is a place for students to reach their educational and career goals. College and high-school students intern at the CWC and also participate through service-learning, civic engagement and research-based programs. Most of the CWC's paid Writing Assistants are currently enrolled in academic programs.

### CWC Employees:

People are often amazed to hear all that is done with a small CWC staff, but this group's dedication and creativity make it all possible.

The following make CWC programming what it is:

- Two SLCC English Department teaching faculty direct the Center.
- Five part-time staff members (mostly university or college students) work as writing coaches, workshop facilitators and program coordinators.
- Two AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer create sustainable partnerships between the CWC and non-profits to increase capacity, address poverty issues and improve poverty awareness.
- CWC Volunteers donate their time as writing coaches, workshop facilitators, DWS mentors and event assistants. In 2011-2012, more than 70 volunteers donated approximately 450 hours in support of CWC programming.

## Community Festivals

The CWC engages in public community events that inspire writing, including:

- **The Utah Arts Festival:** As co-coordinator of the Literary Arts program, the CWC offered 18 events, including readings, workshops for kids and adults, and the Wasatch Iron Pen competition.
- **Downtown Alliance's Farmers Market** at Pioneer Park: Throughout the summer, the CWC encouraged community members to write with the "Write a Minute" activity or engage in magnetic poetry.
- **AltPress Festival:** The CWC offered Fortune Teller writing prompt activities and writing workshops.
- **Peoples Market:** Writers from the CWC's DiverseCity Writing Series and Salt Lake Teens Write participated in the a reading at the festival's annual Book Day

## Freedom Writers

### Community Writing Campaign

In the summer of 1961, more than 400 Americans got on buses and risked their lives in defense of Americans' civil rights. While we've come a long way, we're still on the journey. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights movement, the CWC asked our community for their stories, poems, and essays about civil rights and civic engagement today. Community Writers responded with more than 40 essays published in the Freedom Writers publication, a public reading and discussion in January at the Sorenson Unity Center, as well as being featured in the CWC's traveling exhibit, "Community Writes."



The Community Writes Traveling Exhibit was on display at the Sorenson Unity Center, the Downtown Library, and the CWC.

## Awards

The SLCC Community Writing Center is the recipient of the following awards:

- **2012 Mayors Artist Award** for Service to the Arts—Organization
- **Innovation of the Year Award** from League for Innovation in the Community College/Salt Lake Community College
- **City Weekly's "Best Place to Write Good"**

## Professional Organizations

The SLCC Community Writing Center is an active member/collaborator with fellow organizations supporting literacy practices and/or college readiness.

- **Utah Community Literacy and Writing Consortium (UCLAWC)** supports and develops writing and literacy opportunities through already established or emerging programs, thus providing mutually beneficial outcomes for community members and consortium students, faculty, volunteers and staff.
- **Rocky Mountain Writing Center Association (RMWCA)**, a regional network acting as a support and resource for administrators and tutors and gathers yearly at the Rocky Mountain Peer Tutoring Conference to celebrate and learn from fellow writers and mentors.
- **College Access Network of Utah (CANU)**: supporting and strengthening programs and services that encourage the access and attainment of higher education for Utah's underserved, low-income, first generation, and historically underrepresented student populations.



## CWC Community Advisory Committee

Shauna Bona  
Nichol Bourdeaux  
Dr. Lou Borgenicht  
John Florez  
Stephen Goldsmith, Chair  
Rebecca Guevara  
Anne Holman  
Gail McCulloch  
Ken Verdoia  
Betsy Ward

## Funding

The Salt Lake Community College is the major funder of CWC programs; yet, the CWC is responsible for raising external funds for a portion of its operating and program costs. The CWC was additionally funded this year by the Salt Lake City Arts Council, and has been funded previously by foundations such as the B.W. Bastian Foundation, the Utah Humanities Council, and personal donations.

## CWC Academic Advisory Committee

Maureen Clark—U of U  
Clinton Gardner—SLCC  
Dean Huber—SLCC  
Jay Jordan, Ph.D.—U of U  
Lois Oestreich—SLCC  
Lynn Kilpatrick, Ph.D.—SLCC  
Chris LeCluyse, Ph.D.—Westminster  
Jennifer Ritter, Ph.D.—Westminster, Chair  
Sundy Watanabe, U of U



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To:



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