



COMMUNITY
WRITING
CENTER



CELEBRATING WRITING SINCE 2001

ANNUAL REPORT

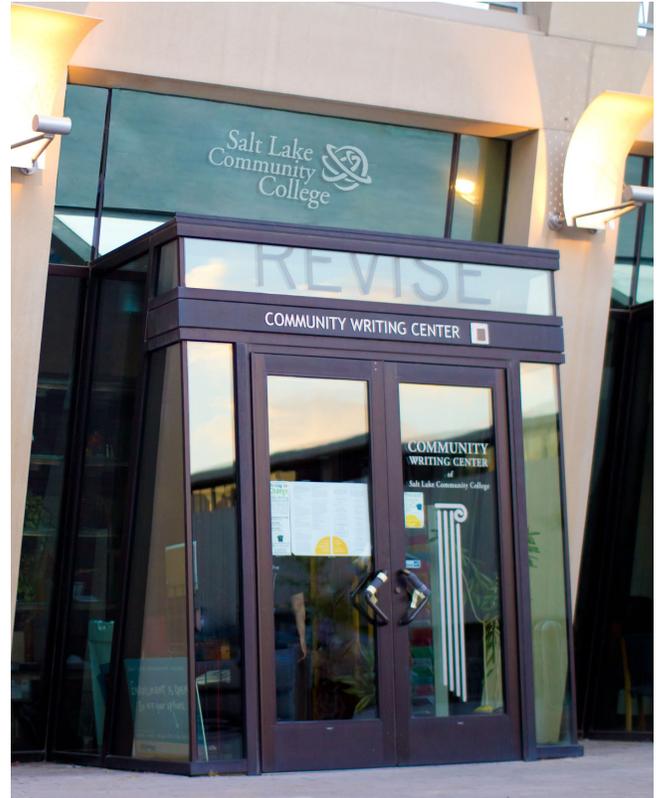
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A COMMUNITY OF WRITERS

Who We Are

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 2014-2015, 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 8500 community members and partnered with more than 400 community organizations. In addition to all that goes on at the Center, our Writing Assistants and volunteers are working daily at community partnership sites across the valley.



More than 60 community members volunteer each year with the CWC as off-site writing coaches, DiverseCity Writing Series mentors and Salt Lake Teens Write mentors. Volunteers meet annually at our Volunteer Symposium to discuss community literacy issues.

Snapshot of CWC Writers

- One third of registered CWC writers have annual household incomes below the poverty line.
- More than 35% of CWC writers have up to a high school diploma, and 30% of writers have Bachelor's degrees. Our community keeps on learning, even after school "ends."
- Nearly 36% of CWC writers are from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- CWC writers engage in all types of writing, from resumes, college scholarship essays and letters to writing poetry, fiction and essays.

Note: Demographics are of registered CWC writers. Not all participating writers, particularly in partnership with other organizations, are included in these statistics. Participation numbers are likely much higher.

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 700 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 estimated 200 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 for free, as often as once per day.



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 2500 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 14 DWS writing groups this year. More than 80 works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry by 60 authors are featured in our newest publication, *sine cera: Writing It Down*.



DWS writing groups, including the Asian Association writing group, meet twice monthly to discuss one another's work. Writers participate in the DWS anthology and public reading.

A PARTNER IN THE COMMUNITY



Community Writing Projects, such as Race Perspectives Community Writing Campaign, 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 400 nonprofit and for profit organizations. In 2014-2015, we worked with more than 35 partners, including the following projects:

- Partners at The SLCC Grand Theater, the YWCA and Utah Cultural Celebration Center collaborate on the Utah Race Perspectives projects, instigating dialogue on race, ethnicity and cultural identity through events and a community anthology of the same title.
- New American Academic Network partners with the CWC to provide weekly writing coaching and monthly writing workshops to refugee professionals seeking academic re-certification.
- University Neighborhood Partners and the Hartland Community Center partners 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 participates ten times monthly in Life-Skills, Practical and Personal Writing workshops facilitated by CWC Writing Assistants.
- Literacy Action Center (providing assistance to English-speaking adults learning to read and write), partners in the bimonthly DiverseCity Writing Series program, as well as participants in The CWC’s College-Readiness Writing Workshops at the LAC.
- 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.
- Utah Arts Festival partnered in 2014/2015 and each year to create dozens of writing workshops and activities during the Utah Arts Festival at Library Square Plaza.
- Writers at the St. Mark’s Tower (Assisted Living), Refugee Services of Asian Association, Veterans Affairs, and Utah Arts Alliance and other community groups participate 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 programs such as Salt Lake Teens Write, grant writing and Writing for Change.

YOUTH WRITERS

CWC youth writing programs foster the development and skills of young writers in their communities.



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 and resume writing workshops
- **Primary Children’s Medical Center:** Twice-monthly workshops for youth patients at the Forever Young Zone
- **Bud Bailey Youth DiverseCity Writing Group:** Weekly after-school creative writing. Two lucky teens were awarded scholarships to a Creative Writing Camp at Westminster this summer.
- **Family Resource Center at West High:** Weekly Writing Coaching for students and their parents
- **Cottonwood High:** Weekly Writing Coaching for students and their parents
- **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
- **East High Scholarship Night:** ongoing workshop with students, about what to put in a Scholarship Essay.

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 under served teens through writing. Each teen is paired with 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.



The Salt Lake Teens Write program provides long-term academic and career mentoring for underserved teens through writing. This year, more than 15 teens and 15 mentors worked one on one each week on writing of the teens choice.

This year, more than 15 teens and mentors participated in the program. Teens participated from high schools and local organizations, such as West, Cottonwood, Kearns and East High Schools, Hsr Ner Moo Community Center and AMES Academy, as well as other community organizations. Participating mentors came from writing organizations such as Westminster, Utah Pride Center and the Salt Lake City Public Library. This program is the 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 team and volunteers, 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.
- Nine part-time staff members (mostly university or college students) work as writing coaches, workshop facilitators and program coordinators.
- CWC volunteers donate their time as writing coaches, workshop facilitators, DWS mentors, Salt Lake Teens Write mentors and event assistants. In 2014-2015, 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.
- **Urban Arts Festival:** The CWC offered exquisite corpse writing activity.
- **Rose Park Community Festival:** The CWC offered a variety of writing projects.
- **Peoples Market:** Writers from the CWC's DiverseCity Writing Series participated in a reading at the festival's annual Book Day.



The CWC is a co-coordinator of the Literary Arts programming at the Utah Arts Festival. More than twenty events take place at the CWC during the Arts Festival, including the 24-hour Wasatch Iron Pen writing competition.

Race Perspectives: Community Writing Campaign

Race: Perspectives is an anthology of community voices writing about race, ethnicity and cultural identity. The publication is a result of the Utah Race Card project—a SLCC Community Writing Center program, which offers the opportunity for community members to develop a candid dialogue about race, ethnicity and cultural identity through writing, workshops and panel discussions. This publication represents community writers' multiple perspectives and experiences.

Awards

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

- **2012 Mayor's 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* **2012 "Best Place to Learn to Write Good"**

Professional Organizations

The SLCC Community Writing Center is an active 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. Gathers yearly at the Rocky Mountain Peer Tutoring Conference to celebrate and learn from fellow writers and mentors.
- **National Conference On Peer Tutoring in Writing:** (NCPTW) promotes the teaching of writing through collaborative learning. Peer tutors and NCPTW professionals help students become self-sufficient writers.

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, Utah Humanities Council, Utah Division of Arts and Museums and Utah Heritage and Arts, and has been funded previously by foundations such as the B.W. Bastian Foundation and personal donations.



CWC Advisory Committee

- **Shauna Bona**—CEO, McKinnon-Mulherin
- **Nichol Bordeaux**—Deputy Director, Housing and Neighborhood Development
- **Dr. Lou Borgenicht**—Physician
- **John Florez**—former Utah Industrial Commissioner and currently an Op-Ed writer for Deseret News.
- **Clinton Gardner**—Writing Center Director, SLCC
- **Stephen Goldsmith**—Associate Professor of City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
- **Anne Holman**—Manager at King's English Bookshop
- **Dean Huber**—Associate Professor of ESL, SLCC
- **Jay Jordan**—Director of the Writing Program, U of U
- **Lynn Kilpatrick**—Associate Professor of English, SLCC
- **Chris LeCluyse**—Writing Center Director, Westminster
- **Chris Peterson**—Director of the Sorenson Unity Center
- **Martha Taylor**—Teacher, Academy of Math, Engineering and Science
- **Ken Verdoia**—Program Director at KUED



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Annual Report
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To: