Greetings, Friends.

Thank you all for your continuing interest in the work we’re doing. To begin 2019, we want to let you know about some exciting things that have been happening for Underground Writing.

On November 15, 2018, we held our first Board meeting. On November 16, 2018, we filed paperwork to incorporate as a non-profit organization. We are excited to let you know that we are now officially an independent Arts Non-Profit. We’re also listed as a public charity located in Washington. Our 501c3 tax-exempt status paperwork was filed on December 28, 2018 and is currently in-process.

Order our first anthology of student writing. Publication Date: December 2018.
We have officially published our first book of student writings, *What No One Ever Tells You*. It is 170 pages, contains student writing from all of our sites, a Foreword by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Quiara Alegría Hudes, micro essays by our Teaching Writers, and more. And good news—we received a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission for its publication/production. The book was released during the last week of December 2018. It’s beautiful, and we’re excited for it to make its way out into the world.

So, we are going to celebrate! Please **Save the Date!** for **Thursday, February 21, 2019, 6:00-7:00 p.m. - Mount Vernon Public Library** for the Official Book Launch and student reading. (There will be snacks and drinks available afterwards, and people will be able to hang out until 7:45 pm. - to talk, buy books, and have the student writers sign purchased copies of the book.)
This month, we welcomed Laurie Parker as the newest member of our Teaching Writer team. Laurie first connected with us during the build-up to the April 2017 *Juvenile Justice Issues Event* at the Lincoln Theatre, and she has served on our Advisory Board since its inception. Laurie has a big heart to make an impact with us and we are extremely grateful she's joined our Teaching Writer crew.

Welcome, Laurie!

Laurie Parker is a screenwriter, film and music producer, teacher and activist. Since 2016 she has led writing workshops for people in the incarcerated, homeless, undocumented, and foster youth communities. She has recently taught screenwriting at Pacific University’s MFA Writing Program, at Hugo House in Seattle, and at the Calabash Literary Foundation in Jamaica. She produced the PBS documentary *Finding Home, A Foster Youth Story* in 2018. She co-wrote and produced the film and music for Rodrigo Rey Rosa’s documentary *Carcel de Árboles/Prison of Trees* in 2015 and his feature film, *Lo que soñó Sebastián/What Sebastián Dreamt*, both in Guatemala.
On January 19, 2019, *On Being*, the award-winning podcast/project with Krista Tippett on NPR, launched a new *Community Spotlight* section in their newsletter. We're honored and grateful to let you know that Underground Writing was the first item to be highlighted in this new feature. You can read the newsletter here.
Underground Writing is a literature-based creative writing program serving migrant, incarcerated, recovery, and other at-risk communities in Northern Washington through literary engagement and personal restoration. Underground Writing facilitates generative encounters with literature spanning the tradition—from ancient texts to those written in our workshops. Honoring the transforming power of the word, we believe that attentive reading leads to attentive writing, and that attentive writing has the power to assist in the restoration of communities, the imagination, and individual lives.

Our newsletter is published every other month, along with special editions and updates throughout the year. For 2019, we'll be sharing stories/essays written by our faculty of Teaching Writers, featuring our various workshop sites in Skagit Valley, Washington.
Underground Writing sites:

- Skagit County Juvenile Detention (Youth)
- Migrant Leaders Club (Youth - Mount Vernon School District)
- Skagit Valley Recovery Community (Adults)
- YMCA Oasis Daylight Center (Youth)
- Skagit County Community Justice Center (Adults)

Our transformative work continues because of donors and interested folks like you. Thank you for your support.

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