

Women Wonder Writers

2021

Annual Report

Goals & Achievements
of the Past Year

THE WRITE OF YOUR L!FE™

 WomenWonderWriters™

Letter from the Director

To Our Supporters & Community:

To say 2021 was a challenging year is an understatement. Yet, it also provided each of us the opportunity for self-reflection on important questions such as who we are, why we do what we do, and how can we do it even better.

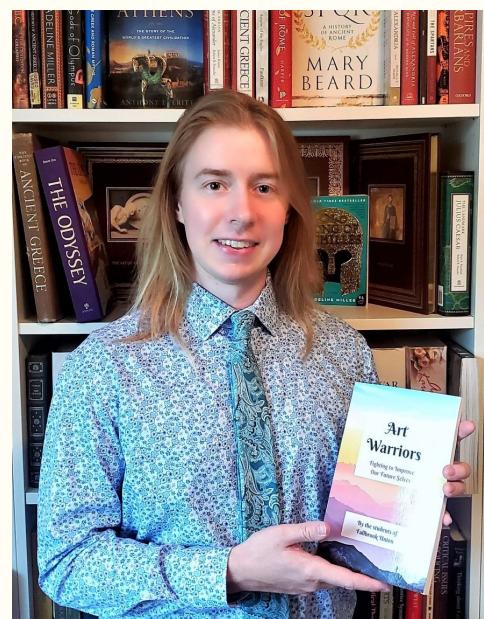
In an era where more of life is transferred to the digital world, this year has also taught the vast and enduring importance of how much we all need one another. The effort and success that the WWW team has had in forging meaningful connections with students and community partners, and in going the extra mile to do so in both virtual and in-person settings, is commendable.

Many of the students that WWW helped are facing severe obstacles in their lives. There's no mincing words - this can include potentially dropping out from school, violence in and from gangs, difficulties with family and peers, even suffering trauma from abuse from a family member. There are many serious challenges that our incarcerated adult students face, as well. Yet, each student choose to voluntarily take the class. Each WWW instructor went above and beyond to provide social-emotional learning curriculum for strengthening resilience, providing support, and for teaching new skills & techniques directly relatable and useful for success in school, family, peers, and life. All of this was supported by a diverse coalition of partners and funders.

If 2021 has taught us anything, it is the dual importances of resolve and teamwork. Women Wonder Writers is fortunate to have both. Here's to a meaningful and successful year, and may we face 2022 with equal resolve and passion!

All the Best,

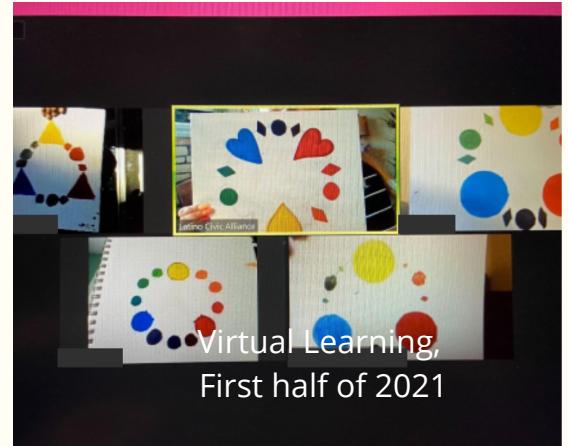
Jeffrey Kidd
Executive Director
Women Wonder Writers



Introduction

Women Wonder Writers (WWW) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization registered with the State of California, and located in Riverside County. 2021 represents 10 years since WWW's founding in January 2011! Since then, the agency has grown to serve the needs of diverse populations throughout the West Coast, ranging from arts, education, & justice. WWW provides a comprehensive approach, including prevention and intervention services for youth to help get them back on track in school, with peers & family; as well as rehabilitation for adults to provide new skills and reduce recidivism. Read on to see the changes that the agency went through in 2021, as well as the amazing work from our dedicated instructors, artists, team, & Board:

Changes – 2021 witnessed severe disruptions in society, schools, and work due to pandemic-related shutdowns, as well as shifts between physical & virtual. WWW responded to these proactively by preparing staff and students for virtual learning via the online Classroom and distance learning. We prepared ahead for a return to in-person learning, and made the switch back as soon it was authorized by schools and other sites. The agency also went through its first leadership change since its founding, and organized towards a team-focused model for its staff. We also made a gradual branding shift from 'Women Wonder Writers' to 'The Write of Your L!fe' in order to be more inclusive of our male students, while remaining committed to the goals that WWW was founded on.



Accomplishments:

- Outreach & Services provided in Riverside County, San Bernardino County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Diego County, and Sacramento County, California; in King County, Skagit County, and Grant County, Washington; and in Utah.
- Teaching The Write of Your L!fe arts and education social-emotional learning curriculum to over 500 students!
- A complete re-transition back to in-person learning at all schools and sites. The first arts education provider to return to CVSP facility in-person following post-pandemic reopening!
- Continuation of our Community Dialogue webinars, including interviews with Riverside Councilperson Erin Edwards and U.S. Representative Mark Takano.
- Expanded funding sources thanks to government and district contracts, and private foundation grants.

This year, The Write of Your Life program helped:

500

Students

47% female
53% male



400 youth
100 adults

Students were taught
social-emotional learning
through art, writing, & skill
building



Successful program intervention and support has tangible benefits

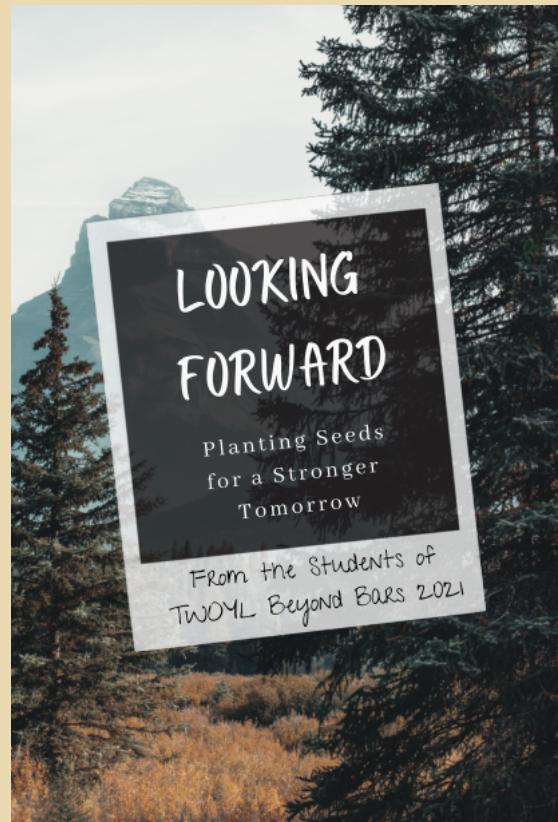
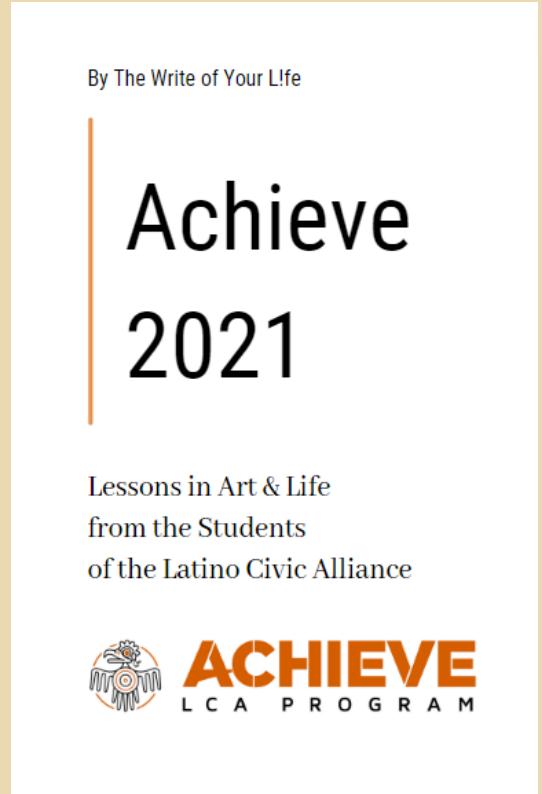
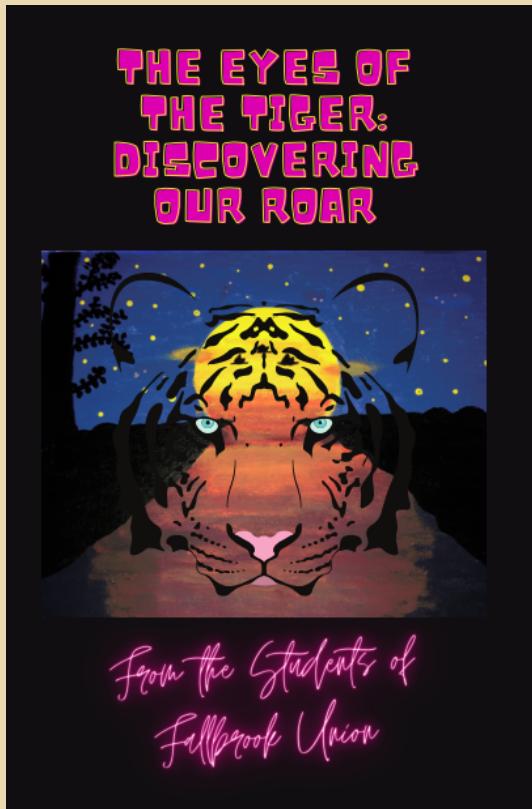
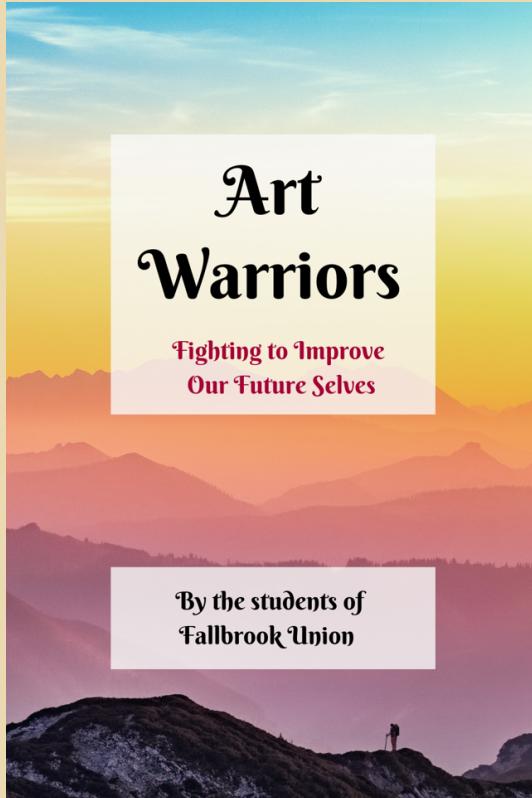
- Properly taught SEL can provide school credits, get students back on the path to graduation, and teach conflict mitigation skills to better handle peer, gang, and family strife
- Positive effects of SEL can have a beneficial spill-over on student family, siblings, and close peers
- High school graduates earn \$260,000 more than dropouts on average



- In one year alone, 3.3 million students dropped out of high school - representing increased risks for unemployment, incarceration, and cyclical poverty
- Dropouts can cost government services \$290,000 over their lifetime
- Targeted rehabilitation efforts can prevent the likelihood of crime and/or decrease the likelihood of recidivism

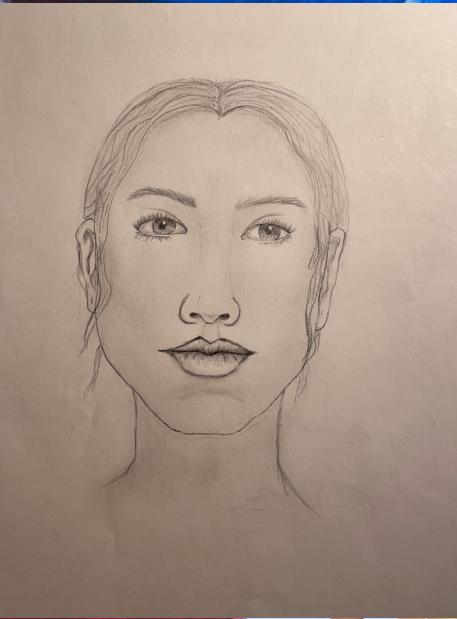
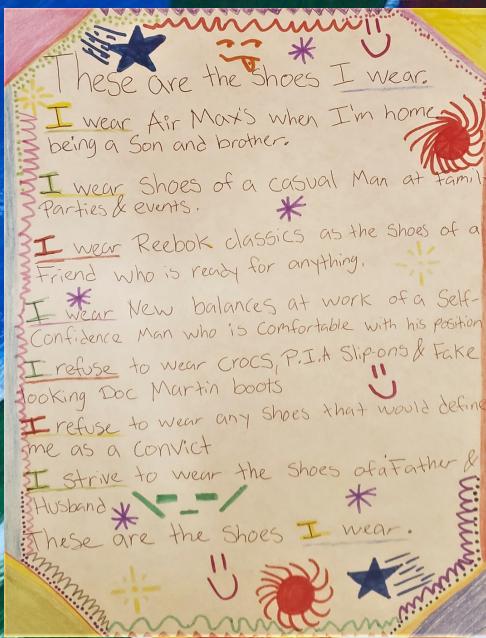
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Some of the anthologies made in 2021 by TWOYL classes from student artwork & writings. Each student receives a book at the end of the course.



Highlighting Student Work

A brief glimpse of some of the work done by students. Each piece & project represents lessons on processing emotions, handling conflict, maintaining healthy social relations, and promoting self-efficacy & resilience.



Highlighting Student Work

Excerpts from student writings, responses, & letters:

"In 5-10 years, I see myself being the first one to graduate from high school and college making my family proud."

"I just want to be happy."

"I was treated with compassion, understanding, and humility making me realize at my core I have good and I have to do the necessary work through groups such as The Write of Your Life, finding the strength and courage to address my underlying issues accepting myself for who I am no longer pretending to be something I'm not, losing the fear of what others might think of me if I'm coloring or getting up and talking about how I feel in the group."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated, and hope that this transformative program will be able to continue, offering its benefits to other who, like me, knew we needed to change, but struggle to precisely define the what and how."

"Sometimes life isn't what it is... It is what we make out of it."

"Knowledge is power, power that cannot be enslaved through others."

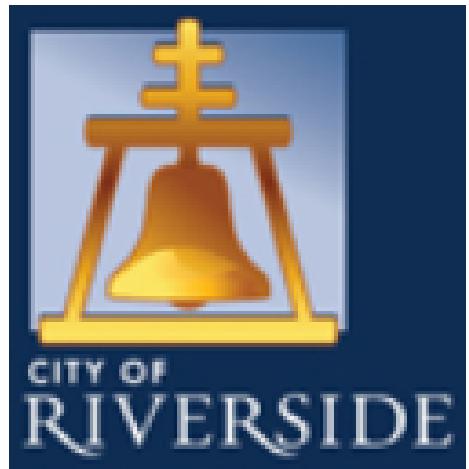
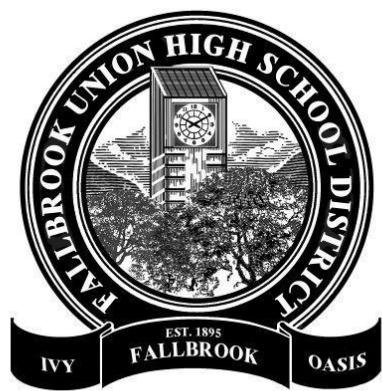
"Having fun is acceptable & understandable for everyone but to a certain extent. Can't waste too much time on having fun because life flies by just like time. Educate yourself. You will unlock many doors in the future if you do. Who you are or who you become is what life has in store for you. Identity is destiny. Treat people the way you want to be treated. Respect your elders. Most important, be a first-rate version of yourself, not a second-rate version of someone else. Don't be someone you're not. Be original. Point. Dot. Period. Find your purpose in life. Set goals for yourself. Talk is cheap. Actions speak louder. If you say you really about it then make a move. Life is a game of chess, know your next move."

Thank You to Our Partners, Sponsors, & Funders!



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California Department of
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ACHIEVE
LCA PROGRAM

THE WRITE OF YOUR L!FE™

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Check it out!

Online:

TheWriteofYourLife.org

Social Media:

Facebook.com/TheWriteofYourLife

Email:

organization@TheWriteofYourLife.org

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*Get Involved &
Make a Difference Today!*