



young writers project



"Protect This View" by Amelia Van Driesche, YWP

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2025 - June 2026



YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

2026 marks the 20th year of Young Writers Project (YWP), an independent arts nonprofit that started in Burlington, VT, in 2006, and continues today with a mission to inspire, mentor, publish, and promote young writers and artists.

Teenagers find a home on our website, youngwritersproject.org, where they post their writing and art, connect with each other, and get published in our monthly digital magazine, *The Voice*, and our annual anthology.

YWP's creative online community is made up of more than 4,200 active users, ages 13-19, mostly from Vermont and around New England, but we also welcome youth from across the U.S. and other countries. The writers and artists of Young Writers Project are the heart and hope that has carried YWP forward since 2006, and it is an honor to work with them.

All programs are offered free of charge thanks to the generous support of foundations, individuals, and businesses. We are sincerely grateful!

— *YWP Staff and Board*

**Young Writers Project
47 Maple St., Suite 216
Burlington, VT 05401**

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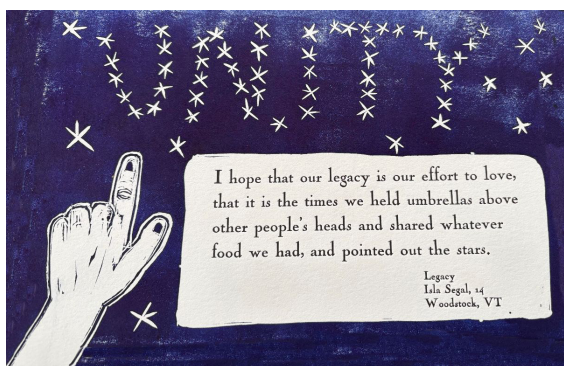
"Two Worlds Collide," by Christian Sent, YWP

YWP'S YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



The Tomorrow Project: YWP's civic engagement initiative gives teens the opportunity to write and create art around issues of human rights, democracy, ethics, climate, and other issues of our times. In our "My America" series, teens describe and envision the America they want to live in now and in the future. Each month, a YWP writer or artist receives an award for their responses to The Tomorrow Project challenges. The March award winner, "Crossing Familiar Waters," above, by Abigail Balon, was created for a No Kings rally in Vermont on March 28. Abigail based the painting on "the famous 'Washington Crossing the Delaware' (1851) by Emanuel Leutze, but with modern-day advocates replacing the soldiers in the boat," left to right: Bernie Sanders, Bad Bunny, Becca Balint, Zohran Mamdani, Stephen Colbert, Bruce Springsteen, Heather Cox Richardson, Don Lemon, Taylor Swift, Barack Obama, Jimmy Kimmel, and Lin-Manuel Miranda.



Letterpress prints are created for The Tomorrow Project by A Revolutionary Press of New Haven, VT. "Unity," above, is by YWP writer Isla Segal and linocut art by artist Laila Almefty-Hernandez.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS



Color Collecting: YWP intern Lauren McCabe filled the summer with a series of creative workshops, including the above challenge to take photos that highlight one color. Lauren, who joined YWP in middle school, is now studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Myths: One of the most popular workshops this year was about myth-making and myth-telling by YWP Alumni Advisor Zinnia Hansen, below center.

[Art: "Medusa" by Gabby Griffith, YWP]

ALUMNI ADVISORS



The YWP community is enriched by our alumni who continue to contribute as mentors and workshop leaders. Alumni Advisors for 2026-27, left to right: Vivien Sorce, Zinnia Hansen, and Jadyn Mardy.

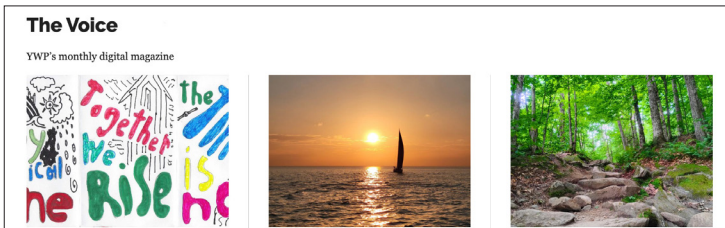
YWP'S YEAR IN REVIEW

PUBLICATIONS

Anthology 17: YWP's signature book of selections from the writing and art submitted to our website from August 2025 to August 2026. The cover painting, "Into the Blue," is by Shira Hertzberg. To order copies of the anthology, please go to youngwritersproject.org/donate.



The Voice: Our showcase of each month's best writing and visual art in a digital magazine format.



CONTESTS



Award winners in this year's writing and art contests included "Frozen Lighthouse" by Miles Witters, and the "Bloomed" series by Chloe Deliso.

FROM THE YWP COMMUNITY: YWP IS ...



ywp

Young Writers Project (YWP) has been such an amazing thing for me; it is what has turned me into a writer, and I will always be grateful for all the ways it has helped me grow.

— Maelyn Slavik

I wish I'd heard about it sooner, because it has given me so much more enthusiasm and inspiration to write and create! I love commenting on others' creations, and everyone is so kind and supportive to each other, which is hard to find online.

— Gemma Hoag

YWP is, to put it simply, my life. It is so much more than just a social media site or a place to get published. It's a community of writers and artists who don't know anything more about each other than usernames and shared affinities for poetry, essays, photography, or painting, and yet still manage to have real, affirming connections with each other past societal and location-related boundaries.

— Sela Morgenstein Fuerst

YWP is a place where you can express yourself and find others who feel the same, a place where you can pour out your heart and soul, and people will see you for *you*. YWP is a community and it is also a second home.

— Aiden Baker

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS 2025-26

FOUNDATIONS AND BUSINESSES

The Alchemist Foundation
A Revolutionary Press
Bari & Peter Dreissigacker Philanthropy
Foley Services/MKF Properties
Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good
The Rona Jaffe Foundation
Karma Bird House
The M & T Charitable Foundation
The George W. Mergens Foundation
The Philip and Patricia Muck Charitable Foundation
National Life Group/Employee Match
The Oakland Foundation
Onion River Press
Paramount Gives/Employee Match
Physician's Computer Company
Queen City Printers
Town Fair Tire Foundation Fund
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation
Vermont Electric Power Co.
Vermont Humanities
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group
Vermont Public
VTDigger.org
Voice Over Vermont
The WaterWheel Foundation

If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology and allow us to update the information by contacting Susan Reid, YWP executive director, at (802) 324-9538 or sreid@youngwritersproject.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS 2025-26

INDIVIDUALS

Bonnie Acker and John Davis	Gale Hurd
Cathy and William Aikman	Mary Catherine Jones
Janice Almeyty	Meg Kenny
Caroline Anderson	Joseph Kiefer and Amy Goodman Kiefer
Erin Anderson	Kathleen Kusiak
Catharine Andrews	Emily Lev
Peter Anthony	Deborah Lowe
Brendan Bailey	Martha Maksym
Jacques Bailly and Leslyn Hall	Michael Mathon
Sean Balon	Valerie McDonald
Jeanne Barron Lynch	Carol McGough
Dennis Boggs and Jane Kleinsinger	Katharine Morgan
Kathleen Brooks	Deena Murphy
Sean Brown and Laura Filkins	Anna Niemiec
Carol Budliger	Edward Owens
Ruth Casey	Andrew Palmer
Theo Clark	Bobbe Pennington
Anne Cramer	Aimee Picchi
Knox Cummin	Bernard and Nancy Picchi
Jack and Vicky Cupp	JT and Sarah Pierson
Harold and Kimberly Dauerman	Ellen Read
Staige Davis	Hillary Read
Marydale DeBor	Patricia Reed
Giovanna Di Paolo Jager	Helen Reid
Susan Dinitz	Smidgie Reid and Michael McMillin
Ian Eatock	Jeanne Ripp
Ellen and Joseph Fallon	Shannon Ripp
Andrew Folley and Julianne Hummelberg	Daryn Rybicki
Cris and Kathy Folley	Lisa Schamberg and Patrick Robins
Patricia Fontaine	Bill and Kate Schubart
Barbara Frankowski	Margaret Skinner
Valerie Gardner	Carol and Irving Smokler
Joanne Gerson	Barbara Sorce
Mary Glass	Stephanie Spencer
Anna and Matt Grady	Will Sutherland
Gerald Greenbach	Susan Thomas
Joan Grundhauser	Dana and Marc vanderHeyden
Madeline Hankins	Joseph Varghese
Edith C. Hawksworth Trust	John Vincent
Cheryl and Edward Heneveld	Erin and Mitch Wertlieb
Becky Holt	Leslie Williams
Noel Howe	Our kind anonymous friends

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Young Writers Project Inc.
Profit & Loss
July 2025– June 2026**

INCOME

Contributed Support	\$128,862
Other Revenue	\$750
Total Income	\$129,612

EXPENSES

Salaries & Related	\$95,225
Professional Services	\$9,374
Occupancy Expenses	\$1,269
Printing, Publications	\$6,820
Program Expenses	\$22,528
(including business overhead, insurance, taxes, fees)	
Total Expenses	\$135,216
Net Income	-\$5,604

Year ending June 30, 2026 - Cash Basis. Does not include in-kind donations of \$9,080.

Young Writers Project, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit located at 47 Maple St., Suite 216, Burlington, VT 05401. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 20-5231693. Website: youngwritersproject.org. Contact: Susan Reid, YWP executive director, sreid@youngwritersproject.org; (802) 324-9538

YWP STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YWP STAFF 2025-26

Susan Reid – Executive director; (802) 324-9538, sreid@youngwritersproject.org

William Anderson – Editor, programs and publications; william@youngwritersproject.org

Anna Forsythe – Program support; anna@youngwritersproject.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Jacques Bailly** – University of Vermont Classics professor, Scripps National Spelling Bee's official pronouncer since 2003
- **Erin Bundock** – Vermont visual artist, longtime member of YWP community, UVM alumna
- **Giovanna Di Paola Jager** – Designer, entrepreneur, owner of Karma Bird House, 47 Maple Street, Burlington, VT
- **Kathy Folley** – Board Record Keeper. Retired teacher at Charlotte Central School, Charlotte, VT, YWP mentor and editorial support for YWP anthologies
- **Aimee Picchi** – Board Vice-President. CBS MoneyWatch associate managing editor, science fiction writer
- **Hillary Read** – Board President. Independent marketing and communications consultant, fiction writer, journalist
- **Shannon Ripp** – Digital account manager, former YWP intern, Champlain College professional writing alumna
- **Doreen Wright** – Board Treasurer. Former editor and page designer at USA Today and Burlington Free Press



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HOW TO SUPPORT YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



Photo by Kevin Huang, YWP archive

YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies on the generosity of foundations, individuals, and businesses to provide all programs free of charge so everyone has a chance to participate. When you support Young Writers Project, you are investing in teen writers and artists who are making a positive difference in the world. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 20-5231693.

TO DONATE

Please send your gift by mail to:

Young Writers Project
47 Maple St., Suite 216
Burlington, VT 05401

Or by PayPal or credit card online at:

<https://youngwritersproject.org/donate>

THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact Susan Reid, YWP executive director, sreid@youngwritersproject.org; (802) 324-9538