



**TACOMA
ARTS LIVE**

CALL FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

Effective 9/3/2024

Buyer Name: Tacoma Arts Live

Company: Education Department, Civil Rights Touring Show

Stipend: \$2,500 plus royalties in future years. 60% payable upon receipt of first draft; 40% payable upon receipt of final draft.

Contact Info: Tacoma Arts Live
1001 S. Yakima Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405
253/241-1991

Contact Person: Jill Heinecke

Email: Education@tacomaartslive.org

Playwright Wanted: The Education Department of Tacoma Arts Live is commissioning up to two new plays as part of its on-going Civil Rights Legacy program. Geared for audiences from Kindergarten through adults, these new works will explore the civil rights and social justice stories of communities whose living history is often marginalized. Past commissions have focused on Dr. Martin Luther King, John Lewis, Nina Simone, Malcom X, Ruby Bridges and the Freedom Riders, as well as addressed issues of immigration and forced incarceration of Japanese Americans. We are interested in new works which speak to other important chapters in the past and present struggle for social justice and equity such as stories that highlight the resilience of local Indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ communities, and women's movements across time. Additional topics could include stories of Black communities, Latine communities, Asian American communities, Pacific Islander communities, immigrant/refugee experiences, environmental justice, neurodiversity, and many more. Tacoma Arts Live is interested in bringing forward stories that are rooted in the playwright's lived experience, so we look to the playwright to identify the civil rights and social justice story that is authentic to them.

BACKGROUND

Now in its sixteenth year, the Civil Rights Legacy Program is driven by Dr. King's quote, *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice anywhere."* This program offers a series of original, all-ages theatrical works that explore the on-going story of American civil rights and liberties through the experiences of the nation's diverse peoples. Designed to bring to life both history and crucial civics concepts, each play is accompanied by study guides for varying grade levels.

The program tours K-12 schools in January--when students focus on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and good citizenship. This new play will join a roster of rotating works, each exploring civil rights through the experiences of individuals and diverse communities whose struggles have helped secure those rights for all.

SCOPE OF WORK

Tacoma Arts Live seeks a playwright who can convey clear concepts and unique ideas through a 35-minute play with 4 actors that will be engaging for students K-12. Plays that include movement/dance, song and/or visual elements such as puppetry are particularly engaging for a broad age range of audience members.

Descriptions of our past Civil Rights Legacy plays are detailed at the end of this call for reference.

Proposal Requirements: To be initially considered, please send a resume, proposed script/story concept, and a short writing sample(s) of past work to the contact above. The panel will read up to ten pages of the submitted writing sample. Email or hard copy is acceptable.

Proposal Deadline: September 22, 2024; 5:00 p.m. PST

Candidate Interviews: October 1 – October 5, 2024

Final Decision: October 11, 2024

First Draft Due: January 15, 2025

Second Draft Due: March 12, 2025

Final Draft Due: May 14, 2025

Ownership of Materials:

- The author(s) will have ownership of their work in partnership with Tacoma Arts Live during the term of the final agreement.
- The final agreement shall have a term of ten years.
- In addition to the commissioning stipend above, Tacoma Arts Live agrees to pay the author(s) a royalty fee of \$30 for EVERY paid performance managed by Tacoma Arts Live during the term of the final agreement.
- Royalty fees for digital and streaming presentations will be \$500 per season.
- During the term of agreement, Tacoma Arts Live shall have the indisputable right to produce and tour the work in live and digital formats.
- Any presentation of the work will require Tacoma Arts Live to recognize the author(s) of the script.
- Any future presentation or publication of the work, whole or excerpted, shall recognize Tacoma Arts Live as the “commissioning agent and original producer.”
- The author(s) shall have the right to publish their individual writing contribution for their own benefit. Should any publication include more than 40% of the work from the script, Tacoma Arts Live shall be entitled to 30% of any revenue received by the author.
- The author(s) shall have the right to offer the script (or any title with the same written content) for production, touring, reading, etc. If such engagements are contracted by the author(s), Tacoma Arts Live shall receive 10% of any revenue received by the author(s).
- Upon expiration of the agreement, both parties are assumed to renew one additional term under the original agreement and for the term length of the original agreement. Neither party shall unreasonably withhold renewal.
- Following the term of the agreement, Tacoma Arts Live reserves the first right of refusal to negotiate a successive production agreement.

Synopses of past shows for context and/or inspiration:

11 DAYS IN THE LIFE OF DR. KING

Written by Lucas Smiraldo, Charhys CHIMAERA Bailey, Antonio Edwards and Tabou

11 Days in the Life of Dr. King showcases events both uncommonly discussed and well known in the life of the man celebrated for his work and dedication to the Civil Rights Movement. Each day in the 11-day journey is described by a unique poem delivered in Song or Spoken Word style as well as Afro-Modern inspired dance. The 11th day, leaves the student audience with a call to action, to continue dreaming and to look towards an even more just future.

GET ON THE BUS

Written by Milo Mowery

Taking a stand on the civil rights of others isn't always easy. Thomas and Julia face a modern question about civil rights as Thomas is about to board a bus to stand up for immigrants facing discrimination. The questions of human dignity and justice are explored further when they meet Ms. Vivian, a veteran of the original Freedom Rides of the 1960s. Through Vivian's memories, the students consider how the challenges and lessons of the Civil Rights Movement could influence their actions today. With evocative dialogue, multimedia elements and supporting curricula, this is one bus ride students will not forget. Along the way, they will think critically about the Civil Rights Movement, civic engagement, American identity and freedom of expression in relation to the urgent issues of our own times.

NIHONJIN FACE

Written by Janet Hayakawa and Teresita Martinez

Ten-year old Tomiko Hashimoto and her family must leave their home in Tacoma, WA for an undetermined amount of time to an unknown destination – because of their Japanese ancestry. It's 1942, the country is engaged in World War II, and the US Government incarcerates 110,000 Japanese Americans for reasons of national security. During her three years of incarceration, Tomiko learns the impact of racial discrimination and develops empathy for others facing civil rights challenges – eventually joining Dr. Martin Luther King's efforts. Later in life, she shares her experiences with her grandson, who is also navigating the complexities of racial identity in the America of today.

RUBY BRIDGES

Written by Milo Mowery

The year is 1960 and six-year old Ruby is braving hate and racism as she becomes the first child to integrate into a public school. This new play explores what Ruby's first days would have been like as the only student in the classroom because the white families would not let their children attend class with her. Follow Ruby's journey as she develops a special bond with her teacher Mrs. Henry and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s grows in intensity from the experience of Ruby, to Rosa Parks, and lunch counter sit-ins.

WHERE BLOOMING FLOWERS MEET THE SKY

Written by Darryin B. Cunningham

Where Blooming Flowers Meet the Sky follows the story of Zhuli, a young artist writing a new book of poetry. On her artistic journey she is visited by three prominent ancestors from the 1960s civil rights era; Malcom X, Nina Simone, and John Lewis. Each one gives her a piece of wisdom from their experience, helping her to find her voice.