

## **The Update We've All Been Waiting For**

**July 12, 2005**

We finally signed a lease! 8414 Greenwood Avenue North. Yes, the former antique store next to The Pig and Whistle Restaurant...a worthy place to seek sustenance after an arduous session explaining commas next door at 826 Seattle.

So, we move into The Next Phase which includes:

- Painting
- Raising money
- Getting the space ready

A few key folks to know about:

Heidi Broadhead. Heidi has been hired to be the Operations Manager for 826 Seattle. That means while I fret and worry about this and that, Heidi calmly makes sure the numbers line up in a row, writes grants, inventories the store and attends to the day-to-day operations of the program. Heidi has the perfect combination of skills: a finance degree, experience with grant writing, and many hours working on her own writing as a playwright. She is also calm and has a good sense of humor.

Me (Teri Hein): In addition to my work as director, I will be in charge of programming and volunteer training. My 25 years of teaching makes me pretty qualified to oversee the programming, I think, which really is what it is all about.

Ellen Skugstad and Lisa Verhovek: We have contracted with these two to do development work for us (which means raising money). If you have a few thousand (or hundred) burning a hole in your pocket, they will be happy to help you make some responsible decisions about ways a new and dynamic program could use your money to bring its services to kids.

Paul Hughes: This fellow heads up a team of folks making our store happen. Paul spends umpteen volunteer hours (and hours and hours) working on the store concept. We're not sure when exactly it will open but when it does, we're sure it will be big...really big.

Other volunteers: We continue to have a stunningly talented and enthusiastic group of volunteers doing tons of work for the project. I can seriously tear up – cornball as that may sound – when I see how much effort people will GIVE just to help level the playing field for our youth.

The other opportunity for me to tear up (besides the fourth of July when the fireworks were going off — don't ask me what that was about...) came when I surveyed the ELL (English Language Learners) at Ingraham High School, recently, in an attempt to find out if any of them would come to 826 Seattle. Answer: YES.

The tear-up moment was when this young man from Somalia motioned me over to his desk and said in his new and careful English: "I will be there on the first day." He lives at 130th and Greenwood, so I pointed out that the number 5 bus passes by his house and our new front door.

This Fall: So, we begin with tutoring in the fall. We will add workshops as funding allows, followed by field trips, tutors into the classroom, publications, other kinds of mentoring, and more.

Our Bumbershoot Kick-Off:

Lastly, there will be a benefit for 826 Seattle at Bumbershoot. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., at McCaw Hall on Saturday, September 3. The line-up:

Dave Eggers

Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket)

Sarah Vowell (author, *Accidental Tourist*; voice, *This American Life*)

Mike Doughty (as in *Soul Coughing*)

The Transatlantic Orchestra with select members of Death Cab for Cutie

We are not kidding. Every one of the above is DONATING their performance fees to 826 Seattle and our friends at Bumbershoot have suggested we pass the hat after the event. Now, think about it, you could use that \$10 bill to buy ANOTHER couple beers in the biergarten and/or maybe some strawberry shortcake after that corn on the cob. OR, you could give it to us and we'll use it to help teach kids how to write better.

Two pages....I'm supposed to keep it to one. Oops. Too much to tell. Too much to be excited about. Write this in your address book:

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Stay tuned. Want to scrape paint?

Teri Hein  
Executive Director