

STREET LITERACY

LITERACY AND
HOMELESSNESS

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OUTLINE FOR TODAY'S SESSION

- Literacy and Homelessness
- Learning Strategies/Activities
- Program Development
- Inspiring Outcomes
- Questions/Comments
- Resources



Literacy and Homelessness

DISCUSSION

What is literacy work with people who are homeless?



LEARNING STRATEGIES

Supporting learning

- Bring literacy to where people are
- Meet immediate needs
- Flexible/Adaptable/ Informal
- Mutual respect /Building trust/Offering consistency

Literacy moments

- “Captures the pace and spontaneity of doing literacy work in a drop-in or shelter”
- Quick and specific
- Normalizing learning : destigmatize literacy and literacy issues



LITERACY MOMENTS

ACTIVITIES

KEY POINTS FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Staff and Volunteers

- Trained & supported
- Creating anti-discrimination policies in Clear language and design so that the space is safe
- Networking between agencies

Program Planning

- Values learning that happens in different ways
- Program is flexible and informal
- Variety of approaches used , including small group and one to one tutoring
- Drop in format

WORD ON THE STREET

Training

- Training shelter and community agency staff/volunteers

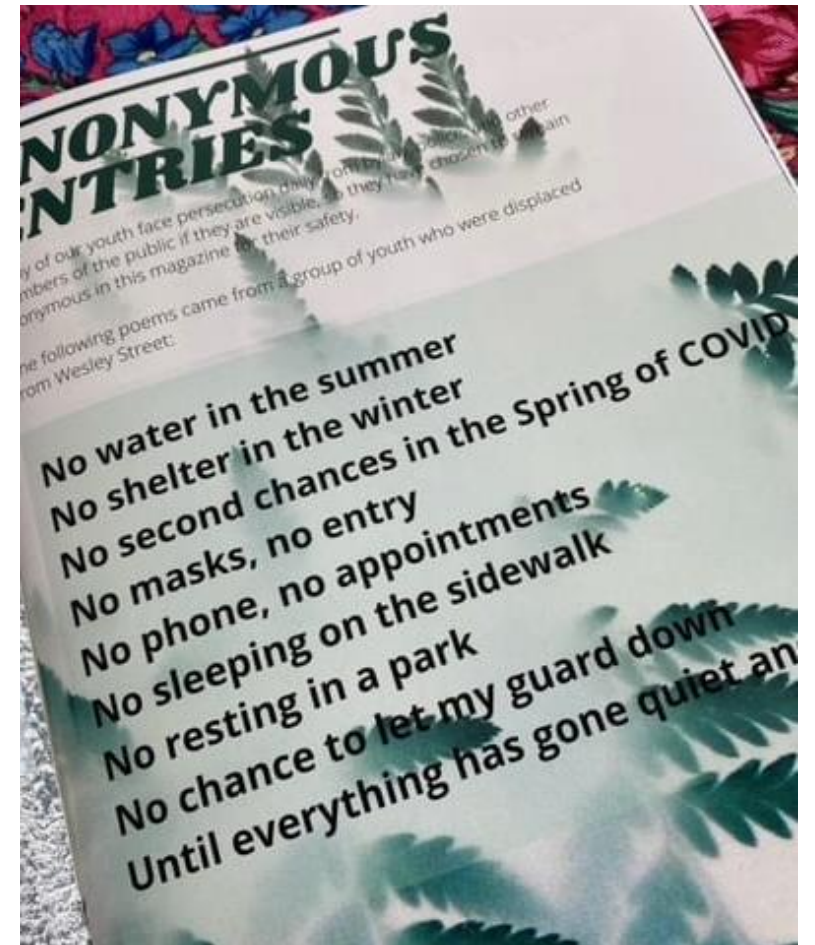
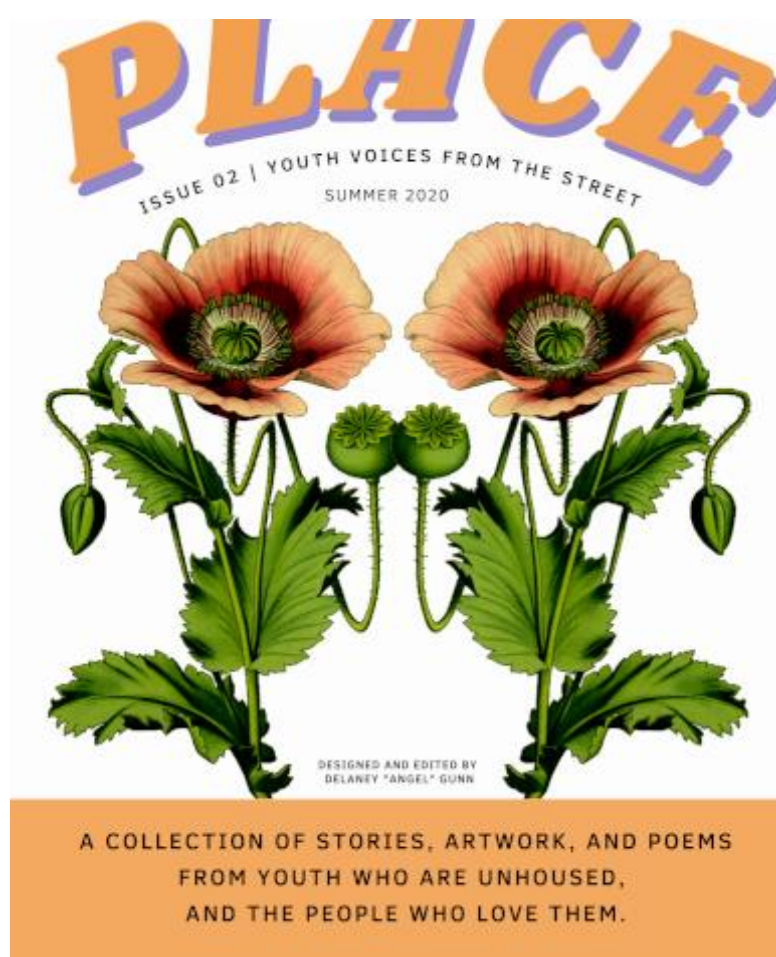
Facilitating

- Facilitating drop-in literacy sessions / moments

Working

- Working together to improve access to community programs for people unhoused

INSPIRING OUTCOMES



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS





RESOURCES

- **Alderson, Lucy and Twiss, Diana (2003) Literacy for Women on the Streets. In collaboration with women at the Wish Learning Centre. The British Columbia Adult-literacy cost-shared program.**
- Horsman, Jenny. (1998) "But I'm Not a Therapist": The Challenge of Creating Effective Literacy Learning For Survivors of Trauma. In Shore, S. (Ed.) Australian Council for Adult Literacy 21st National Conference: Literacy on the Line. Conference Proceedings. Adelaide: University of South Australia.
- Horsman, Jenny. (2000) Too Scared to Learn: Women, Violence and Learning. Toronto: McGilligan Books.
- Horsman, Jenny. (2002) Moving Forward: Approaches and Activities to Support Women's Learning. Parkdale Project Read. (Unpublished document – reference made to draft version).
- **Trumpener, Betsy. (1997) Gimme Shelter: A Resource Kit for Literacy and Homelessness Work. Toronto, Ontario: St. Christopher House Adult Literacy Program**