

Dear Ross,

How exciting to imagine a collaboration supported by the NEH grant. We are so pleased at the prospect of working as partners with *Historic Hudson Valley* to offer a Teen Writers' Institute at *Washington Irving's Sunnyside*. With this note and in the two attachments, Diane and I have tried to respond to questions in your recent email about program design, outcomes, and costs; we have also tried to supply information that might be useful should there be additional grant opportunities.

Generally speaking, programs cost about \$4,500 per week for up to 18 students. Although we have administered a program before that was free to participants, we would encourage you to rethink that aspect. We have found that writers' and parents' commitment to learning and programs increase when they pay - conversely, when they don't pay, they don't always show up literally or figuratively.

Because we are fiercely committed to "access," we have a robust scholarship/tuition remission application and award process. More than 50% of our participants have some sort of reduced cost based on need (as low as \$25 in some cases). We can discuss this more fully if you'd like to.

Please consider visiting one of our upcoming Friday, program celebrations to get a sense of what students accomplish in a weeklong programs with a historic focus. *Exploring New Paltz Then and Now* and *Courageous Writers: Hyde Park at Vanderbilt-Roosevelt Historic Site* have celebrations on July 28 and August 4. Celebrations are usually about 75 minutes long and start around 1:00 pm.

Even if you can't visit a program, you may enjoy seeing an [innovative blogsite, *Courageous Writers*](#), that we've worked on thanks to funding from the National Park Service and National Writing Project. The site was designed to create ongoing access to the National Park for teachers and students.

Looking forward to hearing back from you to arrange a phone call and/or visit.

With gratitude,

Tom Meyer
Director, Hudson Valley Writing Project

Diane Rawson
Coordinating Director, HVWP Youth Programs