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## LOCAL NEWS



Roosevelt High School students working together this summer as part of a unique publishing internship.

### Writing with a Cultural Edge

#### Roosevelt students publish social justice books

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A talented group of multi-cultural students have spent the summer learning about publishing while writing on subjects with an inter-generational and cultural edge.

Roosevelt High School's publishing center, "Unique Ink," linked the 12 local students to the Dojo Agency, a full service advertising agency in St. Johns which hosted them at their offices to develop personal and group publishing skills.

The students worked together to create a website to help market and sell student-written social-justice related books, all of which focus on the impact of youth in the

community.

Some of the writings focused on teenagers interacting with law enforcement, a hot topic with so many officer involved shootings in the national spotlight.

"Although each book is different, the approach to all of them is through an inter-generational lens," said Kate McPherson, Unique Ink coordinator. "Our goal is to honor the diverse voices of the community."

Other titles run the gamut from *Where the Roses Smell Best*, a guide to helping other teens understand Portland culture to *No Box Can Hold*, which asks readers to further understand their preconceived notions of oppressed people

and look at how stereotypes function on a daily level.

"We've had many intriguing experts who visited us during the internships and helped guide us in technical and brainstorming aspects of our work," said Robert Thacker, a student who recently graduated from the program. "They have served as mentors to the group."

Students who are interested in participating in the future or learning more about the program are encouraged to write to [rhwritingcenter@gmail.com](mailto:rhwritingcenter@gmail.com). Those interesting in buying some of the new books or donating to the publishing program can get more information by visiting [rooseveltrogrowthwriters.org](http://rooseveltrogrowthwriters.org).

### Town Hall on Marijuana Policy

Commissioner Amanda Fritz is hosting a series of community gatherings to get the public's input on the licensing and regulating of marijuana businesses that operate within the city limits.

"This is an important opportunity for community members to voice their suggestions and

to learn how marijuana retail businesses will be regulated in the city," Fritz said.

The next meetings take place on Thursday, Aug. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rosewood Initiative, 16126 S.E. Stark St., and again on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Legacy Emmanuel Medical Center, 501 N. Graham St.