



COMPARED TO WHAT?

poetry and imagery by
Sand Point Young Artists Workshop
a project of Solid Ground

COMPARED TO WHAT?

poetry and imagery by
Sand Point Young Artists Workshop

As Solid Ground embarked on its 40th Anniversary year, we wanted to do more than celebrate an institutional milestone. We wanted to showcase the communities that we have the privilege to work in, and provide opportunities for voices that too often go unheard.

Our Sand Point Housing campus is a neighborhood of 175 households living on the old Naval Station Puget Sound in Magnuson Park. It is a mix of properties, some new, some reclaimed from the old barracks. About 500 people moved onto the campus over the span of a few years, all of them folks who needed a good place to live, to heal, and to use as a stepping stone to their futures.

About half of the residents are children and youth for whom we feel a special sense of commitment and responsibility.

Compared to What? came about through a writing and arts workshop that was developed for the older teens living at Sand Point. It started with writing prompts led by Seattle storyteller and educator Kathya Alexander, and continued into photography and design workshops led by Solid Ground staff. Through it all, we witnessed these young people find their voices.

“This is the first time we are actually getting heard, with a different point of view. *Our* point of view,” one of the teens said about the project. “We think differently from the way adults think. We can also teach adults how we think, because our generation is so different than your guys’ generation. I feel like we know so much more.”

Clearly, these young people do not see themselves as a continuation of their parents’ lives. “I get super annoyed when I am compared,” one said. “It is irritating because that is just saying that you don’t really know who I am if I am being compared.”

PARTICIPATING WRITERS & ARTISTS:

Ayanle Abdikadir (Abdi)	Ryahna
Mohamed Abdikadir	Geo
Nya Rambang	Chris Gainey
Marie	Ben Dessalegne
Sahvannah Glenn	Jen Matapula
Maar Rambang	Andrea R
Heaven	Deiosha Sparks

Homelessness Is

Homelessness looks like a dog begging its owner for food

It is the gray sky when it rains

It is a bittersweet taste in my mouth and the smell of a porta potty

Homelessness is my brother crying when I am trying to sleep

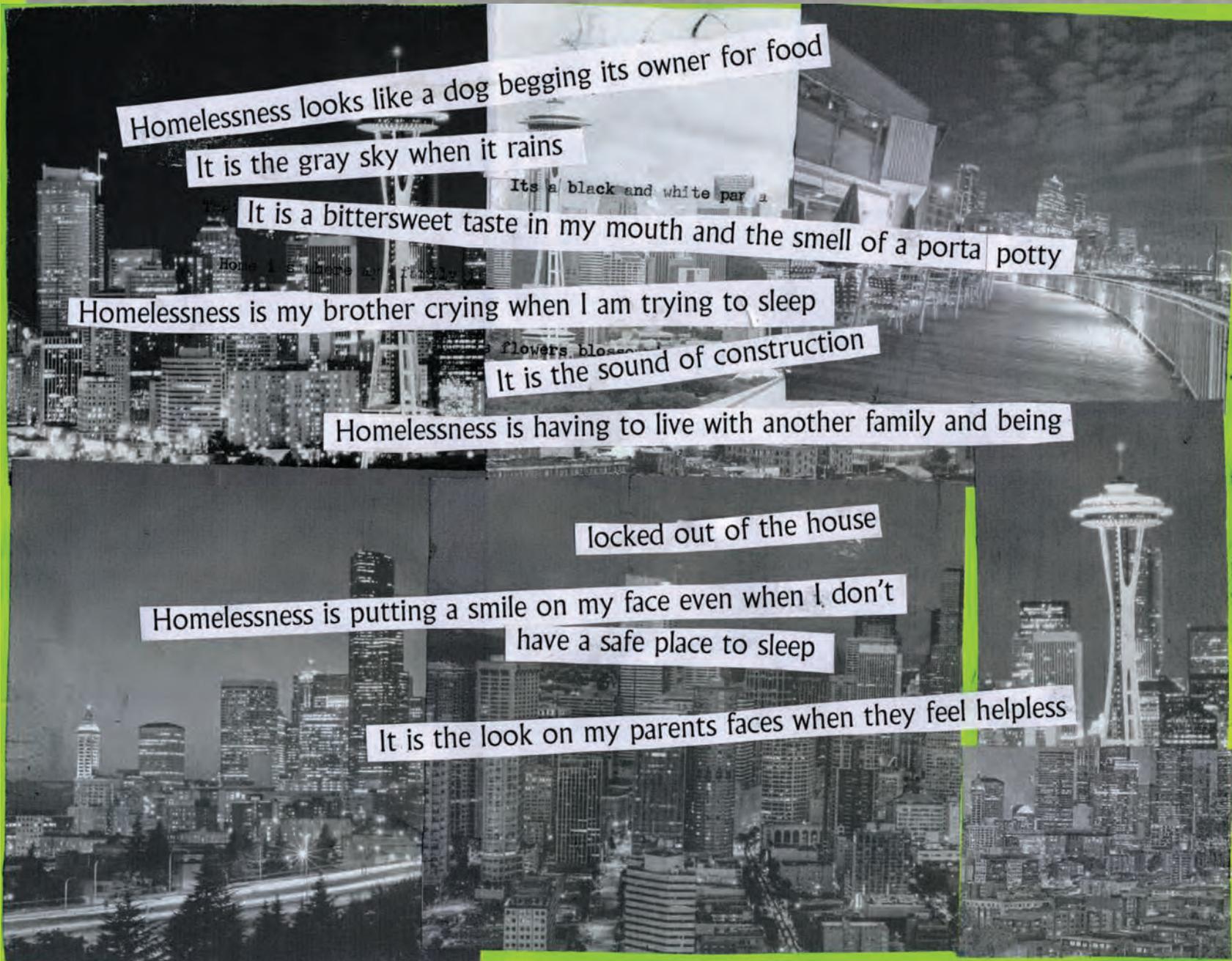
It is the sound of construction

Homelessness is having to live with another family and being

locked out of the house

Homelessness is putting a smile on my face even when I don't
have a safe place to sleep

It is the look on my parents faces when they feel helpless





Home is a different world

It is a white horse

That glows in the dark

Home is playing video games at 10:45 pm

It is a phone right next to you

Indoor yoga

Family close to you

Home is a tree that blows cold air

into your skin

A collage artwork with a dark, textured background. At the top, a horizontal strip of black paper contains the text "I am a rare solar eclipse". Below this, a large, vibrant green and blue shape, resembling a rainbow or a stylized cactus branch, arches across the upper right. In the center, a black strip contains the text "a tough cactus". Below that, a cactus is depicted with a green stem and a purple, diamond-shaped flower. The cactus has small white star-like details. To the right of the cactus, a black strip contains the text "I am needed like air". Further right, a black box contains the text "a glistening diamond". At the bottom, a black strip contains the text "the illusion that the sky is blue".

I am a rare solar eclipse

gray and overlooked

a tough cactus

I am needed like air

a
glistening
diamond

the illusion that the sky is blue

A young Black woman is the central figure, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. She is wearing a thick, light-colored fur coat with a dark collar. Her right hand is raised, holding a single purple iris flower. The background is a dark, textured brown. The overall mood is one of quiet determination and confidence.

BELIEVE ME!

Once I told Bill Gates that I had more Versace products
than him.

But he didn't believe me.

I felt frustrated because nobody ever believes me.

And it was the one time I snuck by his security guards
to see him.

So I went to the Versace store and
was put on the label.

On every billboard in town.

Somebody believed me for once.

And I felt as happy as you can be.



Fun is the sun shining bright. It is green grass and hot wings. It is fresh air. Laughter. Music. It is doing cross fit. And hanging out with friends. It is mother taking me shopping. And doing crazy things with me. Fun is me filled with positive energy.



Justice

Shouldn't
Occur
because

you
Dislike

the
color,

It should

Occur

BECAUSE

YOU
DON'T
KNOW

Beauty





Home is cool,
but warm with love
It is a black and white panda
that is chill and wellkept
It is sunset when the air is cool and
the sky is pretty
Home is where my family is
It is music
A roof over my head
Home is flowers blossoming peacefully



Fun is sports
It is **YELLOW** candy
sweat and music
fun is football,
sleep, being short.
My mother and father
don't show me fun
but I know they know what
it is.





REAL SIMPLE

Writing

Home is relaxing
It is a violet unicorn
That swims in the ocean
Home is dusk
Sunset
My family ocean
It is music
The rushing river
A tree growing

Home/ Homelessness

Homelessness is the hot blazing sun
A snow and lightning storm
A sour lemon
Sour milk and babies crying
Pounding feet
It is helping the homeless
Community service
Sleepless nights
It is seeing my mother and father angry and sad
Their facial expressions
Fake smiles and laughter
Cold nights and no peace

By:

Sahvannah Glenn

Writing is happiness.
It is a white pony that gallops smoothly.
Writing is dawn awakening the world.
Writing is my friends.
It is reading a good book.
It is a family that welcomes you.
It is a bird chirping sweet song.

I am a lightning storm
I am green like rosemary
I am noon
A clear creek
A grassy field
A fluffy white cloud
I am a diamond

I am/Fun

Fun is a cloud
A raindrop
Chocolate ice cream
It is the smell of chicken stew
The sound of music and rushing water
It is doing art
It is my mother and father listening to music and playing games
Fun is happiness and smiles



Injustice is defeat
It is a scarlet snake
that poisons your heart.
Injustice is 3:00 pm
When the sky starts to dim.
Injustice is drama and fights
It is something that keeps you up in
the night
It is lies and distrust
It is a nettle that stings



My Future

When I grow up,
I want to be a super hero.
I will only work at night so I will
have one advantage
on the bad guys.
I will put a lot of guys in jail and
save my city.

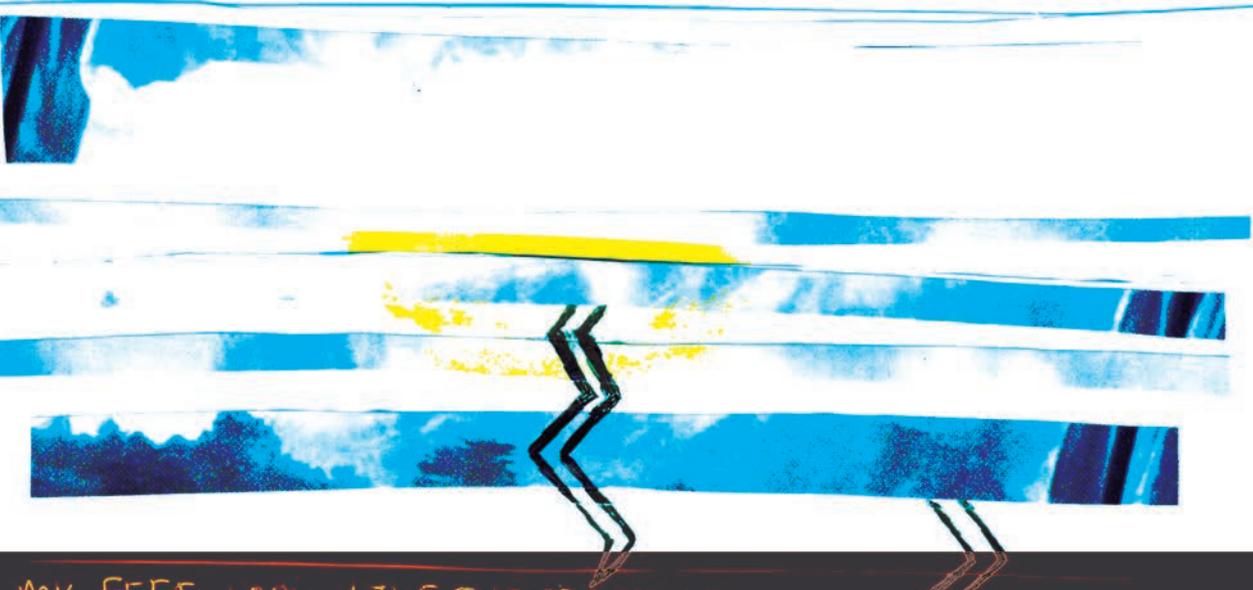
My mother and father don't want this
because it will risk my life.
But it will be during the night,
so no one will be able to see me.
Then I will save my city
and be disguised.

Justice is a rainbow
colored parrot that takes
flight.

Justice is an autumn
night, it is a star that
shines bright.

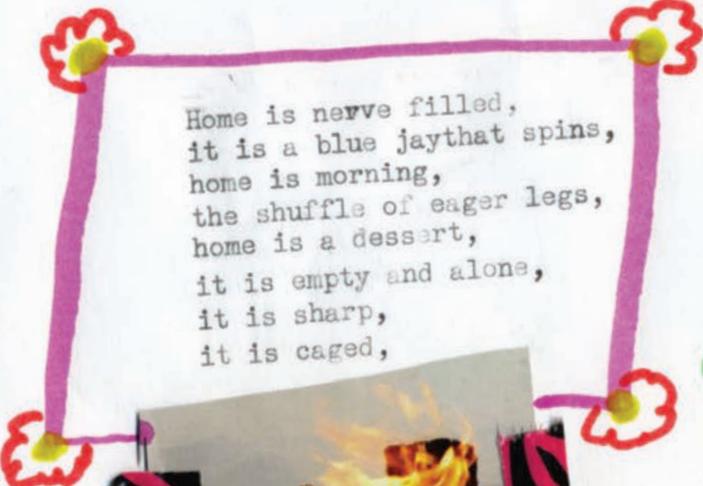
Justice is a newborn
baby. It is like a
reclining chair. It is an
open basketball court. It
is being born for the very
first time.



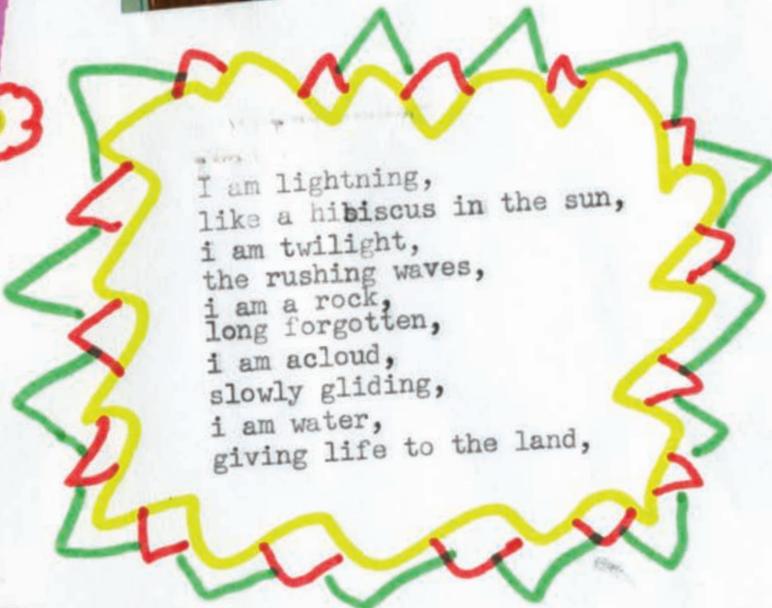


MY FEET LOOK LIKE THE STRUGGLE
BLACK THUNDERSTORMS
HARD WORK & DEDICATION
AFRICAN FOOD & INDIAN FOOD
SOMETIMES THEY SOUND LIKE AN ANGRY OLD MAN
STOMPING THROUGH THE HOUSE
BUT SOMETIMES THEY SOUND LIKE A SWEET OLD LADY
BAKING COOKIES FOR HER GRANDKIDS
I LIKE THEM THE MOST AFTER I SHOWER & MOISTURIZE
I DON'T LIKE THEM WHEN THEY ARE CRUSTY
I WEAR SOCKS & CLOSED-TOED SNEAKERS
CUZ THEY'RE UGLY & LONG
BUT THEY NEVER GIVE UP ON ME.

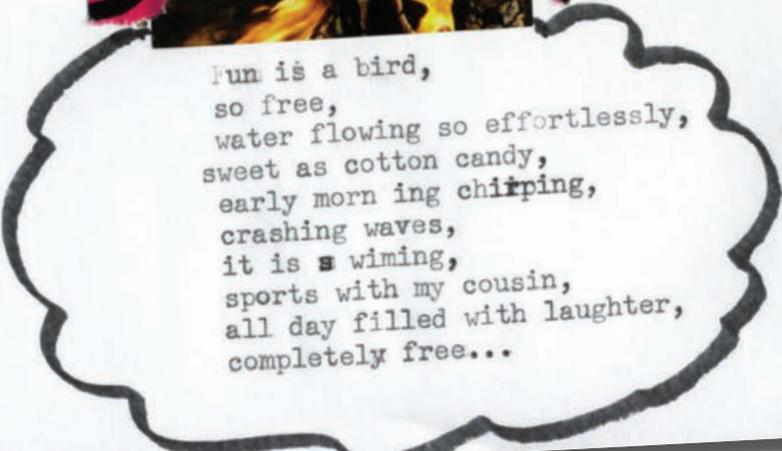




Home is nerve filled,
it is a blue jay that spins,
home is morning,
the shuffle of eager legs,
home is a dessert,
it is empty and alone,
it is sharp,
it is caged,



I am lightning,
like a hibiscus in the sun,
i am twilight,
the rushing waves,
i am a rock,
long forgotten,
i am a cloud,
slowly gliding,
i am water,
giving life to the land,



Fun is a bird,
so free,
water flowing so effortlessly,
sweet as cotton candy,
early morning chirping,
crashing waves,
it is swimming,
sports with my cousin,
all day filled with laughter,
completely free...

-Marie m.



Home is cozy and comfortable
It is a brown bear that snuggles up with me at night time when I sleep
Home is a dream
It is music and unity
Home is a tree near a river at sunset

Homelessness is a bird that flies from nest to nest
It is a storm that chases you away
A honey bucket
A sour smell
It is squeezing noises, the sound of fingernails on a blackboard
It is not having the basic necessities
Moving all the time

Homelessness is my mother, vulnerable and worried
Showing it in her actions
It is not telling your friends where you live and moving unexpectedly

I am sunshine
I am pink roses



Evening at the lake



A good luck
penny



I am a
shooting star
And a good night's
sleep



Fun is the Sun...



Fun is the sun
Smiling up
High
It is the color
Blue
The taste



Of Panda Express.
basketball court
Good music and
Hanging out
Fun is family
It is my mom
Always smiling
Positive.



It is the smell of a
after practice,
laughter.
with friends.
time.
taking me shopping and
Fun is always being



MY FEET LOOK LIKE MY LITTLE BROTHER'S

THEY ARE GREEN

AND RED

THEY ARE SUNNY

BUT RAINY DAY

ROTTEN MILK AND BOILED EGGS

HOT SAUCE WITH A MIXTURE OF OCEAN WATER

MY FEET SOUND LIKE FRANK OCEAN

I LIKE THEM

WHEN THEY ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING

I DISLIKE THEM AFTER A WORKOUT

I HIDE MY FEET

WITH MY VERSACE SHOES

THEY ARE BIG, HEAVY AND OVER-SIZED

AND THEY LEAD ME TO SUCCESS

匯豐食品公司

HUY FONG FOODS, INC.

4800 Azusa Canyon Rd., Irwindale, CA 91706

(626) 286-8328 www.huyfong.com

We look at the same image,
but we see differently.
We hear the same voices,
but we hear different tones.
We look into this image,
but we don't believe in the reality.
We hear, we see,
how real does it have to be to believe?



Address: 1501 North 45th Street, Seattle, WA 98103-6708

Main Office: 206.694.6700 TTY: 7.1.1

Email: info@solid-ground.org

Web: solid-ground.org

Special thanks to:

Kathya Alexander
Kareem Shehab
Clay Smith
Bellen Drake
Christina Shimizu
Mike Buchman

© Copyright 2015, all rights reserved

PRINTING DONATED BY DCG ONE