

Seattle City Council

**Culture, Civil Rights, Health and Personnel Committee Meeting**

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Donna Miscolta**

Today's poet is **Storme Webber**

**Storme Webber** is a Seattle born, internationally nurtured poet/writer/singer and performer. She is presently a Jack Straw Writers Program Fellow; a Richard Hugo House Writer in Residence; City Artist with the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and teaches with Arts Corps. She is the founder/Artistic Director of Voices Rising: LGBTQ (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning*) of Color Arts and Culture. Her work can be found in the anthologies: "Beyond Boundaries: Black Women and the Migration of the Subject", and "Voices Rising: 20 Years of Black LGBT Writing". She is featured in the award winning documentary "Venus Boyz"; and has numerous international performance and cultural production credits. Storme is currently at work on her memoir "Wild Tales of a Renegade Halfbreed Bulldagger" and her City Artist multimedia performance project "Renegade Roots: Insurgent Souls"

**This Joy I Have**

by Storme Webber

*"There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul"*

I saw a rainbow sign  
In the sky  
Rising up from sorrow and what we don't know.  
In song the voices of multitudes  
Many hues all colors  
Spiritsongs of ancestors ancient and well loved  
Yet living still in our soul's memory  
Sailing above our errors and our pride  
In the beauty streaking across the firmament

over this broken world  
Softly singing a song that remakes us

*“we didn’t come this far to stop now”*

weaving this world with cords of colors  
made from our all of our hearts desires  
all skins of many tones  
our breaths rising and rising again  
the knowledge that love  
triumphs eternally over death  
singing from the bottom to the top  
arching over sadness  
joyous glissando rising  
our victories of good over evil  
harriet tubman her hands strong & steady

*“If you want to be free/keep going”*

Her chant never wavering  
I saw a rainbow sign written in music  
and it carries me & it carries you  
All tones all shades full spectrum  
This moment ripe with possibility  
This fullness emptying  
Filling again  
We have all we need  
Every color is there  
We have come so far  
We can not  
We will not  
Stop here  
Now  
We will rise as that rainbow  
Rise over the sins of the past  
Lift ourselves past death past grief  
Live our colors as they were meant to be

*“If you want to be free keep going”.*

*-- end --*