

**826 Boston's
2013 - 2014 Very Nearly
Annual Report**



...One Story at a Time

826
BOSTON

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Dear friends, colleagues, supporters, and partners,

I write to you filled with great pride as I look back at all that 826 Boston has accomplished during the 2013-2014 school year. From launching a new summer theater camp with the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) to opening a Writers' Room at the John D. O'Bryant High School of Math and Science, it's been a transformative year for our community of youth writers.

Guided by a clear road map, our staff, board, and volunteers delivered 18,492 hours of one-on-one writing support to more than 3,500 students across all of our programs, ranging from writing workshops to our After-School Writing and Tutoring Program. And, quite amazingly, we did this all free of charge, thanks to your support and partnership.

One of my favorite moments from the year involved watching our middle school playwrights take the stage at the Strand Theatre, a beautifully restored, 1,400-seat vaudeville theater. They did so after five weeks of crafting their own plays and rehearsing alongside 826 Boston and A.R.T. staff members. The parent of one camper praised the program saying, "Please continue this life-changing program. It allows my daughter to be free and find herself."

Additionally, 826 Boston delivered trained tutors into 12 different Boston Public schools, while publishing *I'm a Flame You Can't Put Out*, a collection of bilingual poems from the Rafael Hernández K-8 School, and *It's Not the Stone That Brings You Strength*, a volume of memoirs debunking cultural and familial myths from the O'Bryant High School.

Thanks to your unflagging support, our work continues to gain recognition and validation. In September, the 826 network garnered the American Literacy Prize from the Library of Congress for our pioneering work to "eradicate illiteracy in the United States." The Wallace Foundation also held up the 826 after-school model as being one of the most exemplary in the country for our commitment to providing high-quality arts instruction.

Read on to learn more about the impact we're having together as we work to raise a community of writers.

Thank you for your steadfast support,



Daniel Johnson

Founding Executive Director, 826 Boston

"Ese Hombre Es Mio"



The smell of fried salami and boiled eggs served with a platter of mangu. "Comete todo el desayuno," my stepmother yelled. The radio blared until I could feel the walls trembling as if there was an earthquake... I danced like it was the end of the world until I found myself staring in his eyes. They were static and fixed on me. My dad stood at the door surveying the room like a detective at a crime scene."

— **Jarlin Perez**, a memoir excerpt from *It's Not the Stone That Brings You Strength*



PROGRAM LAUNCH: THE WRITERS' ROOM AT THE JOHN D. O'BRYANT SCHOOL OF MATH & SCIENCE

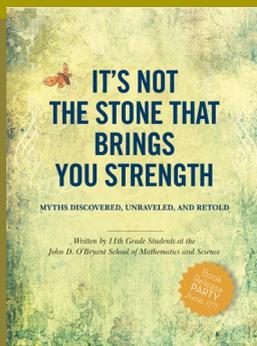
This year, 826 Boston launched a Writers' Room at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science in Roxbury in partnership with Northeastern University's Writing Program. This pioneering new initiative aims to catalyze a culture of writing and publishing at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science, a Boston Public School serving 1,500 students in grades 7-12.

"HAVING THE WRITERS' ROOM ON SITE HAS WHOLLY CHANGED THE WAY OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS THINK ABOUT WRITING," states Ian Doreian, an O'Bryant English teacher. "Students and teachers are now ener-



gized to think beyond teaching writing to prepare students for standardized tests. For the first time, our kids are writing novels and memoirs, attending food writing workshops, laying plans for a literary magazine, and competing in a statewide spoken word competition. It's been revelatory."

In the Writers' Room's inaugural year, 100 trained Northeastern University tutors provided nearly 8,000 hours of one-on-one writing support to 1,200 students, served 17 teachers across four subjects, and helped publish 52 student authors in the NEA-funded collection, *It's Not the Stone That Brings You Strength: Myths Discovered, Unraveled, and Retold*. We can't wait to see what year two holds for this exciting new project!



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

826 Boston's programs demonstrate how involving students in project-based learning and immersing them in a culture of creativity can harness their creativity, boost their literacy skills, and heighten their academic performance. In the 2013-2014 school year 826 Boston offered more than 18,400 hours of one-on-one tutoring to more than 3,500 underserved students across all of its programs listed below.

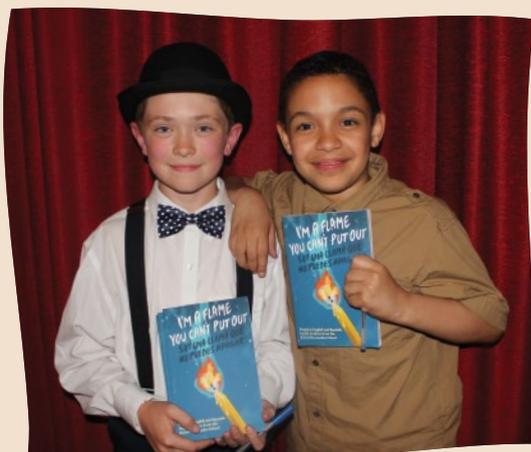


After-School Writing & Tutoring Program

826 Boston after-school students work one-on-one with tutors to complete homework, spend time reading aloud, and embark on ambitious, long-term writing projects. Weekday sessions last 90 minutes and engage students for the entire school year. Saturday tutoring sessions, for students ages 12 to 18, draw a weekly average of 15 middle and high school students.

Teen Employment & Alumni Programs

With Boston Youth Fund support, 826 Boston employs and trains 10 outstanding, college-bound BPS high school students each year to serve as mentors and tutors to younger students attending the after-school program. Teen employees gain on-the-job training and leadership skills. These youth are eligible to apply for 826 Boston college scholarships when they graduate from high school; often they return as paid 826 Fellows once admitted to college. 826 Boston Fellows, representing the most outstanding 826 alumni, receive stipends to work for six months as tutors, workshop leaders, and program interns.



Jackson and Elian, authors from *I'm a Flame You Can't Put Out*, May, 2014.

Nearly 70%

OF STUDENTS INCREASED THEIR TEST OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE SCORES ON STORY CONSTRUCTION SKILLS BETWEEN PRE- AND POST-TESTS. ADDITIONAL REPORT FINDINGS ILLUSTRATE THAT **96% OF STUDENTS LEARNED NEW SKILLS TO BE A WRITER.**

81%
OF STUDENTS
REPORTED...

...they "like to write."

90%
OF STUDENTS
REPORTED...

...feeling proud of their writing.

91.5%
OF STUDENTS
REPORTED...

...feeling confident they can
complete their writing assignments.

In-School Writing and Publishing Program

826 Boston partners with 12 BPS schools to provide in-class writing tutoring to hundreds of students each academic year. Each teacher's request for in-class writing tutoring is unique, and 826 Boston responds by customizing curricula and sending trained volunteers into the classrooms for multi-session projects. 826 Boston's hallmark in-school projects, Young Authors' Book Projects, are long-term writing assignments that culminate in professional publications.

The Writers' Room

In fall 2013, 826 Boston launched The Writer's Room in partnership with Northeastern University and the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science in order to build a culture of writing and support the writing needs across multiple subjects at the math and science focused school. In its inaugural year, more than 1,200 students visited the Writers' Room. The Writers' Room also serves as a hub of creative writing after-school.

Workshops & Summer Theater and Writing Camp

During school vacation weeks, students engage with guest workshop teachers to engage with guest workshop teachers to embark on a wide array of creative writing projects, from designing imaginary countries to tracking unicorns. Workshops attract a range of students and inspire writing in ways not typically taught in school. Each summer, 826 Boston hosts 25 middle school students for its month-long Summer Theater and Writing Camp in collaboration with the American Repertory Theater.



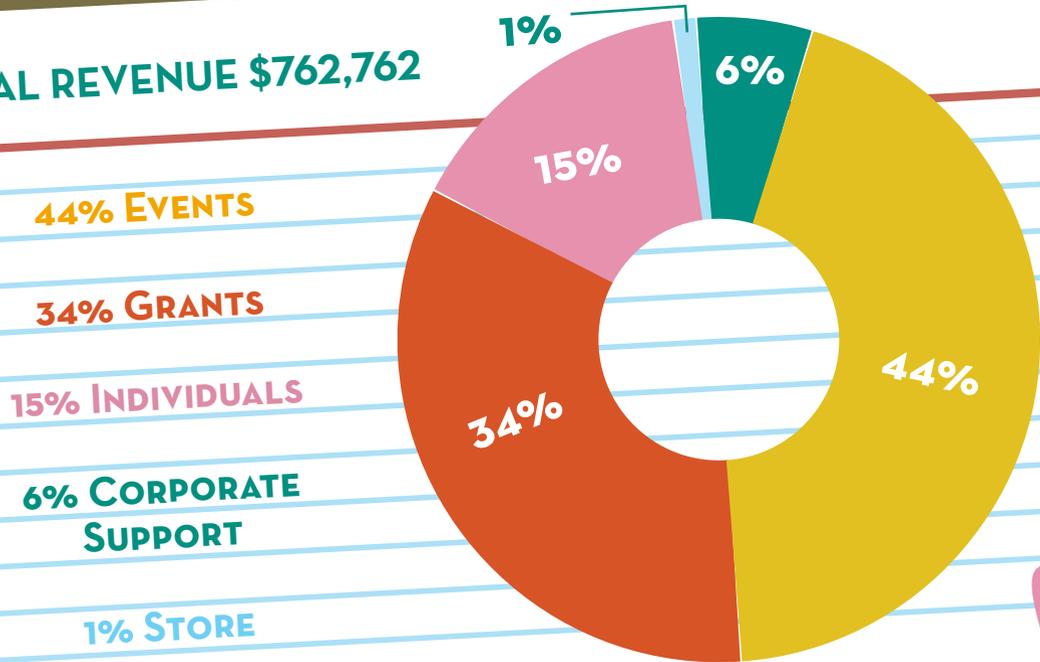
The cast of *I'm from Boston, What's the Problem*, July, 2013.

Storytelling and Bookmaking Field Trips

On weekday mornings the writing center buzzes with the enthusiasm of an entire class, which brainstorms characters, a plot, and dialogue for a collaborative story. Each student writes and illustrates a different ending to the tale and leaves with a personal copy of the book that has been written, illustrated, and published during the two-hour field trip.

826 BOSTON FY14 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

TOTAL REVENUE \$762,762



44% EVENTS

34% GRANTS

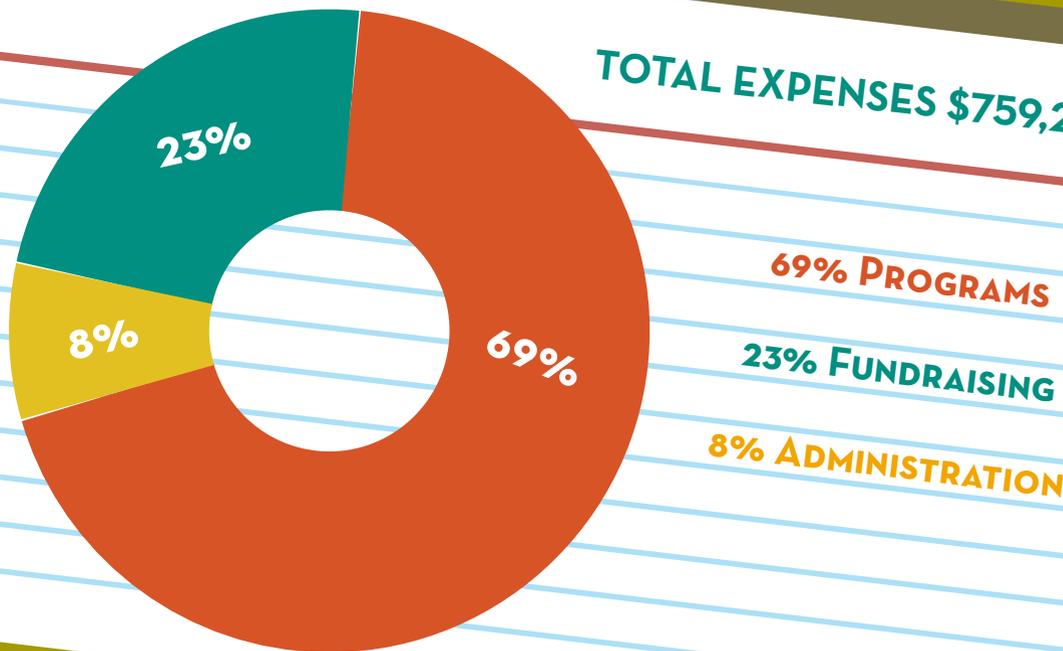
15% INDIVIDUALS

6% CORPORATE SUPPORT

1% STORE



TOTAL EXPENSES \$759,259



69% PROGRAMS

23% FUNDRAISING

8% ADMINISTRATION



826 Boston is grateful to the following FY 2014 Institutional and Government Supporters:



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Boston Cradle to Career Initiative
Cummings Foundation
Holly and David Bruce
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Krupp Family Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
NEA Art Works
State Street Foundation
Wellington Management Foundation



**“When I Get to Work on a
Construction Site” by Gregory Ortiz**

When I get to work on a construction site ...
I'm going to put my hard-working hands on tough stuff,
Plan it like an architect.

I'll hammer and nail until the work is done
I'll build the walls

And raise the roof.

The house will be sturdy like a truck

Triangular and tall

And will be a perfect place where she belongs.

She put a roof over my head

And I'll put one over hers,

When I get to work on a construction site.



Published in

I'm a Flame You Can't Put Out

826 Boston is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write.

www.826boston.org