

826 Boston's ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016



CELEBRATING *a year with*



THE POWER *of* WORDS

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DEAR READER,

Before I took the helm as Executive Director last April, I directed 826 Boston's programs for five years. Alongside our dedicated volunteers, I had the opportunity to observe the transformative properties of our work on a day-to-day basis. I witnessed students develop critical writing skills, explore their imaginations, and publish their stories in beautiful collections. In this process, our young authors developed confidence in themselves and pride in their work. Now it is my honor to share some of the highlights of 2015-2016 with you. Thank you for being a key partner in our mission to help empower students to find their unique voices and share their stories with the world.

In gratitude,

JESSICA DRENCH
Executive Director

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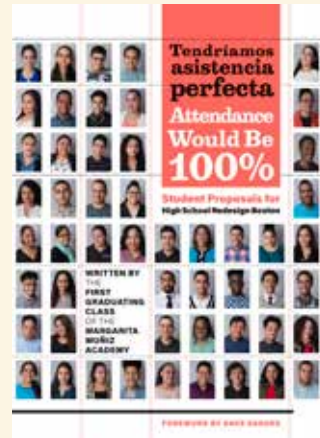
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FEATURED PUBLICATION:

STUDENT PROPOSALS *for* HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

In May 2016, the first graduating class of the Margarita Muñiz Academy published *Attendance Would Be 100%: Student Proposals for High School Redesign Boston*. A bilingual compilation of research, interviews, and personal stories, the collection lends the student perspective to the ongoing effort to re-imagine the future of education in Boston. Students interviewed more than 60 community stakeholders and school leaders, including Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. *Attendance Would Be 100%* was accepted into the EL Education’s Models of Excellence collection, a highly selective resource of exemplary student work open to educators across the country. Please visit the online companion to the book at www.826boston.org/redesign.



from ATTENDANCE WOULD BE 100%

by Exavier S., age 17

“High school is the place where you prepare for your future. The schools could do a better job with that by supplying students the resources that they need to succeed, such as apprenticeships or more hands-on learning.”

AUTHOR BIO: Exavier is a Puerto Rican boy who grew up in Boston, Massachusetts—Hyde Park to be exact. He believes that in order to achieve your goal, you have to put sleep aside and just work until you can't no more.

PROGRAMS *and* ACTIVITIES

826 Boston programs demonstrate that connecting students with project-based opportunities and immersing them in a culture of creativity can ignite their imaginations, boost their literacy skills, and improve their academic performance. In the 2015-2016 school year, 826 Boston offered nearly 19,000 hours of one-on-one tutoring to 3,590 underserved students through the programs listed below.

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING & TUTORING PROGRAM

In addition to homework help, students receive individualized reading support and participate in ambitious long-term writing projects that culminate in published collections. Weekday sessions serve students ages 6 to 18. Weekend and evening sessions focus on teen students and offer additional help with college essays and applications.

WRITERS' ROOM PROGRAM

Writers' Rooms are open during and after school, managed by 826 Boston staff, and fueled by the support of trained tutors from partner universities. During the day, teachers bring whole classes to the space to work on writing assignments, and students receive individualized help with writing. After school, the room is a hub for creative writing clubs and projects, such as a literary magazine, a journalism club, and a slam poetry team.

IN-SCHOOL WRITING & PUBLISHING PROGRAM

826 Boston partners with the Boston Public Schools to provide book-publishing programs to students in grades 2 to 12. Year-long Young Authors' Book Projects engage students all year, from brainstorming sessions in the fall through book release parties in the spring, when student authors see their writing published in professionally designed collections.

TEEN EMPLOYMENT

With the support of the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment (DYEE), 826 Boston employs and trains ten outstanding college-bound BPS high school students each year to serve as mentors and tutors to students in 826 Boston's after-school programs, and gain on-the-job training and leadership skills.

SUMMER & VACATION WORKSHOPS

From food reviews to forensic writing, our school vacation workshops inspire writing projects that are not typically taught in school. This past summer, 826 Boston hosted middle school students for its five-week-long Summer Theater and Writing Collaborative in partnership with the American Repertory Theater and Boston After School & Beyond.

STORYTELLING & BOOKMAKING FIELD TRIPS

On weekday mornings, the 826 Boston center buzzes with the enthusiasm of an entire class brainstorming characters, plot, and dialogue for a collaborative story. Students write and illustrate the tale together, and leave with their own personalized copies of the book—author photo and bio included.

LINDSA MCINTYRE: *Headmaster, Jeremiah E. Burke High School*

“You’re only as good as the people you’re surrounded by... Here in the Writers’ Room, my students are learning writing in the real world.”



Spotlight on the **WRITERS’ ROOM EXPANSION** *and* **STRATEGIC PLAN**

826 Boston is effectively and sustainably scaling its work in the Boston Public Schools through its Writers’ Room program. 826 Boston opened its first Writers’ Room during the 2013-2014 school year at the John D. O’Bryant School of Math and Science in Roxbury. In 2016, 826 Boston launched its second Writers’ Room, at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School in the Grove Hall neighborhood of Dorchester. As outlined in its strategic plan, 826 Boston will open at least one more Writers’ Room each year over the next four years, which will double the number of students served by the organization by 2021.



THANK YOU

to our FY 2016 SUPPORTERS

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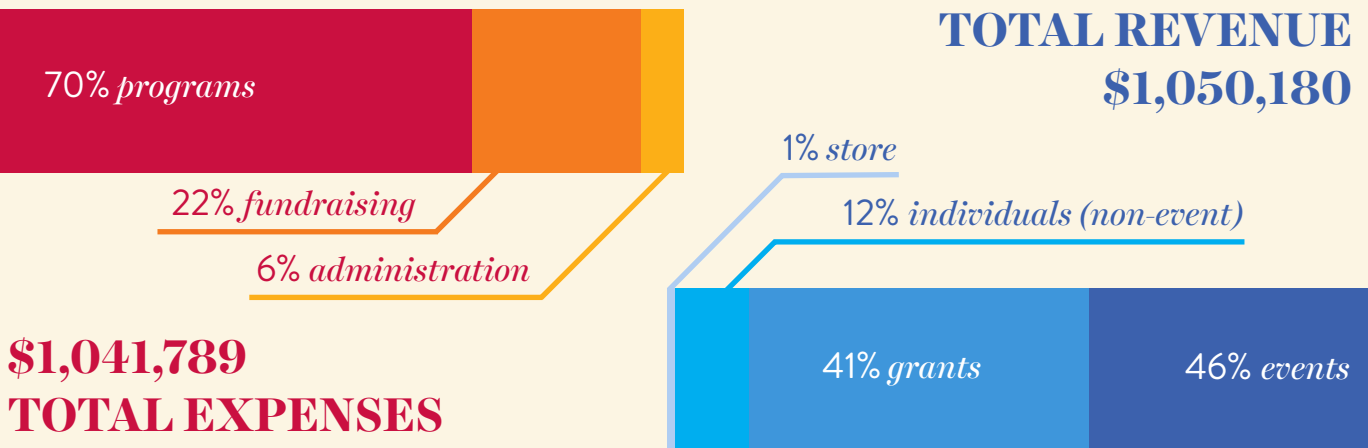
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826 BOSTON FY16 *Financial Activity*



THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

by Nashawn W., age 9

“I, Nashawn, am in charge of the factory. The Chocolate Factory is in the woods on Wooden Street. There is a back room where the food is made. There are cool machines in the back, and I love playing with them. I push random buttons. You don't know how good the chocolate chip cookies are. The cookies taste like joy and they have M&M's in all colors.”



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826 BOSTON

is a nonprofit youth writing and publishing organization that empowers traditionally underserved students ages 6-18 to find their voices, tell their stories, and gain communication skills to succeed in school and in life.

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