



826 Boston's 2016-2017
ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF
IMPACT



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DEAR 826 BOSTON
SUPPORTER,

In 2017, 826 Boston celebrated its tenth anniversary. In this past decade, we have grown to serve more than 4,000 students annually across the city of Boston. We would love to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for all of the support that we have received from our partners in this work—from our dedicated volunteer corps (more than 600 individuals strong) to our generous donors, university and nonprofit partners, to the families of the incredible student authors featured in this report.

I am proud to share some of the highlights of what we have accomplished together in the 2016–2017 school year. Though this annual report is largely retrospective, your support is putting 826 Boston on solid ground for the decade to come.

With gratitude,

JESSICA DRENCH
Executive Director, 826 Boston

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*A year at
826 Boston*

30,617

Tutoring hours

3,923

Students served

451

College essays

286

Published stories

600+

Volunteers



Featured publication:

“85 CENTS MIGHT NOT SOUND LIKE A LOT”

In 2017, the Jeremiah E. Burke and John D. O'Bryant High Schools collaboratively published *85 Cents Might Not Sound Like a Lot: Our Vision for the Future of the Transportation System*.

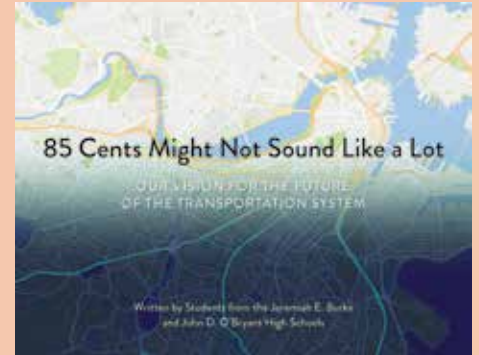
Juniors at the Burke took a deep dive into policy, interviewing transportation experts and city planners, and then drew on their personal experiences riding the T to write letters to the Department of Transportation. A physics class from the O'Bryant read their letters and drafted plans to address the students' commuting challenges.

Through the process of civic engagement, students became

advocates for their communities. Kamari, age 17, said of her experience with this book project:

“I discovered that through writing, my voice was projected and I could explain everything I needed to.”

The publication was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts and generous support from CDQ Charitable Trust.



826 Boston's slam poetry team from the John D. O'Bryant Writers' Room placed fourth at Louder Than A Bomb Massachusetts, and eleventh grader Agnes represented our state in the national competition.

Twelfth graders at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, with the help of a UMass Boston MFA class and a celebrity photographer, published *My Reflection: Before and After* in addition to collaborating with the O'Bryant on *85 Cents Might Not Sound Like a Lot*.

In September 2017, we opened the doors to our third Writers' Room—our first in a K-8 school—at the Boston Teachers Union School in Jamaica Plain.

“This work is not easy—or glamorous. Many organizations would shy away from this challenge, but 826 Boston sees potential in our students.”

—Twelfth-Grade ELA Teacher Kristin Russo on 826 Boston’s college essay preparation programs



Spotlight on the COLLEGE ESSAY BOOT CAMP

The college essay might be the most important 650 words that a high school student has ever written. And many students are going it alone, without adequate counseling or the benefit of parents who have their own college journeys as a model.

826 Boston worked with 451 students to brainstorm, draft, and perfect their college essays in the 2016–2017 school year, significantly increasing the number of students served through innovative program expansions.

826 Boston held its eighth annual College Essay Boot Camp at Northeastern University in October 2017. According to one student, “Unlike other programs that help with college essays, 826 Boston helped me to build my essay to reflect who I am as a person. I made so much progress with my essay.”

In addition to this flagship program, 826 Boston expanded the pilot program known as College Essay Boot Camp on the Road. Students traveled to corporate and college campuses to meet one-on-one with trained tutors in an environment intended to inspire and expand horizons. 826 Boston also piloted its Summer College Essay Academy program, offering three week-long workshops—two at local high schools serving a predominantly English Language Learner community and one at its Egleston Square center.



THANK YOU *to our* SUPPORTERS

The list represents contributions during FY17 and FY18, as of April 30, 2018.

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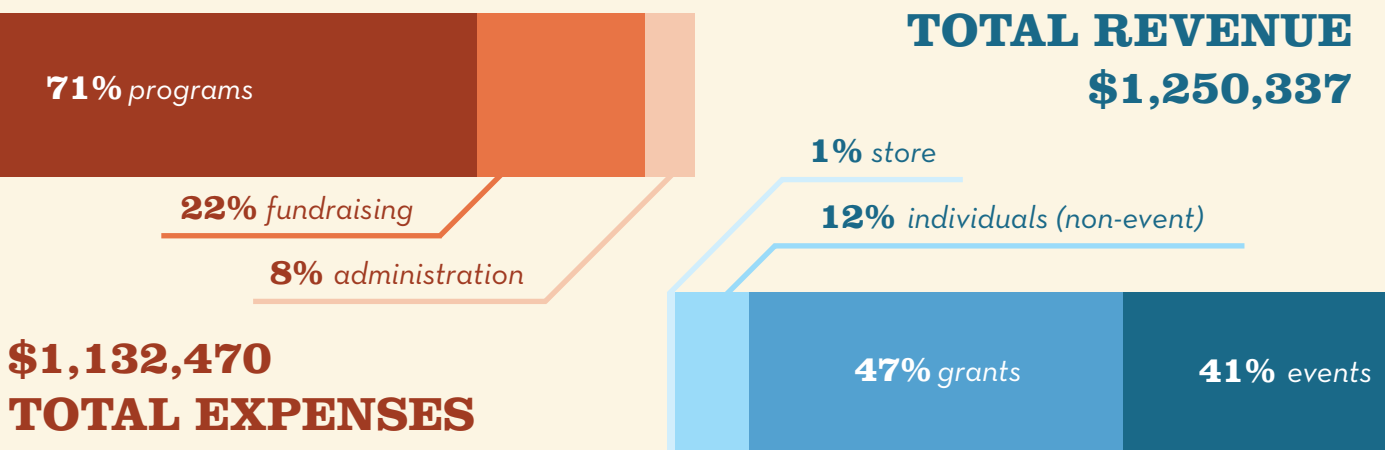
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826 BOSTON FY17 *Financial Activity*





“ Trevor could see that Lester was sad so he gave Lester a big hug with all eight of his arms. Trevor had three hearts so he made Lester feel three times better! ”

– *And Lester Swam On*



826 Boston's first-ever picture book, *And Lester Swam On*, written by second graders at the John D. Philbrick Elementary School, follows Lester the leopard shark on his quest to clean and conserve his polluted ocean home.



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.

For more information, please visit

www.826boston.org