

826
BOSTON

826 Boston's 2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT



VOICES OF THE

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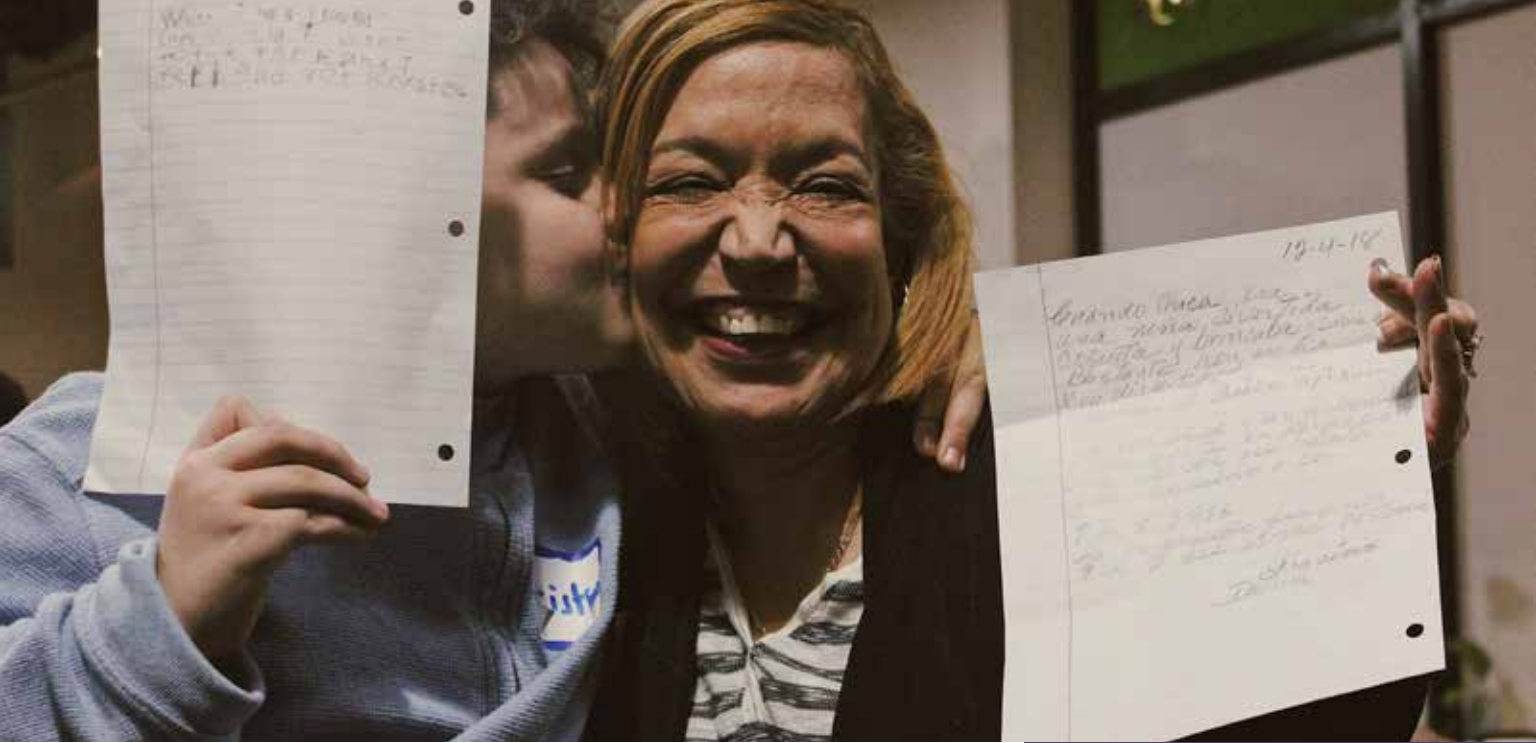
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Dear 826 Boston supporter,

This year has been one of unprecedented growth at 826 Boston. We opened two new Writers' Rooms in partner schools and expanded our team from 19 to 24 members. As our community grows, we extend gratitude to our partners, our corps of dedicated volunteers, the donors whose contributions allow us to sustain and evolve our programming, university and nonprofit partners, and the families of 826 Boston students.

We are at a pivotal time at 826 Boston. Our strategic plan outlines goals to expand the Writers' Room Program so that we can continue to scale our work with sustainable impact. This annual report is an invitation to reflect on what we have accomplished together as we spotlight the critical importance of teaching writing, and of celebrating our students' powerful stories.

With thanks,

JESSICA DRENCH
Executive Director, 826 Boston

2017-2018
826 Boston

32,435

hours of high-quality writing programming

4,199

students served across programs

408

students received support with college essays

1,120

students published during Storytelling and Bookmaking Field Trips

Writers' Room Program Expansion

In 2016, 826 Boston launched a five-year strategic plan to expand the impact of the organization, led by the replication of the Writers' Room Program.

Writers' Rooms emphasize writing as a curricular priority.

The program provides individualized attention that improves writing skills, a space for creative self-expression, and opportunities that would not otherwise be offered at school.

With a focus on publishing, tutoring in writing across subjects, and project-based learning, the Writers' Room leverages the support of volunteer tutors and full-time dedicated staff to unlock students' full potential. Over the course of a school year, a Writers' Room will serve every student in the building through whole-class visits, individual writing assistance, and extracurricular activities. In 2013, 826 Boston opened its first Writers' Room, a program modeled on the college-level writing center at Northeastern University, and has since opened four additional Writers' Rooms in partner Boston public schools.



John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science

The Writers' Room at the O'Bryant (grades 7-12) creates opportunities for cross-disciplinary learning and hosts numerous after-school clubs, such as the literary magazine, *Rubix*, and a slam poetry team that won the Louder Than a Bomb state championship in 2018.



Jeremiah E. Burke High School

826 Boston opened its second Writers' Room in September 2016 at the Burke. In addition to whole-class visits and drop-in writing assistance, the Writers' Room hosts College Essay Boot Camp Month, which serves every senior in the school.



Boston Teachers Union School

In September 2017, 826 Boston opened its first Writers' Room in an elementary/middle school. Each year, 300 K-8 students visit the Writers' Room to work on writing projects across subject areas.



Boston International Newcomers Academy

826 Boston opened its fourth Writers' Room and the first at a school serving the needs of a predominantly English Language Learner population in September of 2018.



Rafael Hernández School

The Blanca Burgos Bilingual Writers' Room, which opened in January 2019, is our first Writers' Room in a dual-language school and serves students in grades K-8.

CAMPAIGN FOR GROWTH

Invest in Impact



“Through the services of the 826 Boston team, we have witnessed students who once struggled to fill the page transform into confident, passionate writers.”

—Ana Tavares, Principal of the Rafael Hernández School

826 Boston made the bold commitment to double the number of students served between 2016 and 2021 by opening a total of five new Writers’ Rooms over five years. We know the demand for the Writers’ Room Program is high in the district and that the model resonates with teachers—they see the program working in the increased confidence and communication skills of the students who spend time in 826 Boston Writers’ Rooms. A multi-year study with Northeastern University is underway and already demonstrating the effect of a Writers’ Room on a school community.

Our goal is to raise \$3 million between 2017 and 2019 to support 826 Boston’s plan, which will change the way that writing is taught in the Boston Public Schools. The average annual cost of one Writers’ Room is approximately \$125,000 per year, and includes the physical transformation of a room within a school building; one full-time staff member to manage the room, collaborate with teachers, and coordinate volunteers; and two full-time service members. By joining 826 Boston’s Campaign for Growth, you will help bring this transformative program to more Boston schools, and provide students with critical tools in communications, resilience, and self-advocacy.

Thank you to our supporters.

The list represents cumulative contributions during fiscal years 2018 and 2019, from July 1, 2017 through April 15, 2019.

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**826 Boston FY18
Financial Activity**

Total Expenses
\$1,244,063



Total Revenue
\$1,676,294



“We come from five continents, and all of us speak at least two languages...we have all had to learn English throughout our high school years, which was difficult at varying levels for us all, but once mastered, made us want to dance for joy.”

—The BINcA Student Editorial Board

Like the Sun in Dark Spaces

Every student at Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINcA) in Dorchester has arrived to the United States within the last four years. While navigating the challenges of graduating from high school, many students are learning English as a second, third, or fourth language. *Like the Sun in Dark Spaces*, one of the latest addition to the 826 Boston library, is a poignant collection of narratives written by more than 70 twelfth graders who graduated in the spring of 2018.

The publication of *Like the Sun in Dark Spaces* set the stage for deeper collaboration, which resulted in the selection of BINcA as the host school of 826 Boston's fourth Writers' Room.



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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.

For more information, please visit 826boston.org

