



2022-2023

**826**  
BOSTON

# A Year in Review



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear friends,

When I walked into my first 826 Boston Writers' Room, I was greeted by a bright orange wall and a space full of vibrant teenagers. Some students were catching up with 826 staff members. Others were writing and working on homework. A small group was trying to convince new students to join their podcast.

What I observed showcased what many of you already know about 826 Boston Writers' Rooms—they are magical spaces where relationships are nurtured, unforgettable stories are shared, and students are empowered to write their way forward in a world that is in desperate need of their brilliance, ideas, and inspiration.

We're excited to open a new Writers' Room next fall at the Margarita Muñiz Academy, the state's only bilingual Spanish/English high school, and to continue to support students in countless ways.

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This year, we've provided individualized tutoring to 250 students as they crafted their all-important college essays. We've fostered new school-based partnerships, hosted writing workshops where students left with personalized copies of the stories they crafted, and supported student journalism programs, slam poetry clubs, cultural fairs, and middle school creative writing clubs.

Our model works. The Boston Globe and The New York Times recently named individualized tutoring and writing support—exactly what we do at 826 Boston—as a key tool for overcoming learning gaps from the pandemic. This gap is widening in particular for Black and Latino students, a population that represents the majority of the students we serve.

I joined the 826 Boston team this summer, and I saw from day one the incredible strength and promise of the students we have the honor of working with, and the care and skill our team brings to everything they do. Thank you for being a part of this magic.

Gratefully,



Corey Yarbrough

826 Boston Executive Director

**826 Boston is a nonprofit writing, tutoring, and publishing organization where students in grades K-12 and beyond can share their stories, amplify their voices, and develop as leaders in school and in life.**

# THE YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

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826 Boston served **2,749** unique students and provided a total of **20,622** program hours.

Among them, **722** students received college essay support, accumulating over **2,500** program hours.

Additionally, **766** students received STEM literacy support, accounting for a total of **3,000** program hours.

This year, we published **19** publications in which **505** students were featured.



**We surveyed 1,116 students. Here's what they reported:**

- **96%** felt safe and supported
- **96%** felt their thoughts and opinions were valued
- **94%** felt 826 Boston improved their writing/project/work
- **92%** felt more confident in their writing
- **89%** reported they better understood themselves when they write





## FEATURED BOOKS

Published in June 2023, ***Coming Up For Air: Reflections from the Teenage Mind*** is a brand new anthology written by 826 Boston's Youth Literary Advisory Board and youth from across Boston. In their poems, artwork, and essays, these student authors explore the issues of mental health, love, social expectations, and where they go to find peace and comfort. Check out our [photos](#) from the YLAB book release party.



*"This book is an invitation into the teenage mind. A place full of hope, vulnerability, humor, and personal intimacy. We hope that, as we pour ourselves into every letter and paint our experiences in every comma, you see our minds as the incomplete yet perfect messes they are; that you know this book is not a period, but a semicolon."*

—826 Boston Youth Literary Advisory Board



Travel to worlds unknown in ***This Bad Boy Is a Time Machine***. This two-part chapbook includes original writing about time travel (and so much more), written by the students of 826 Boston's After-School Writing and Tutoring Program. These pieces were written in the winter and spring of 2023. Enjoy these photos from the book release party!

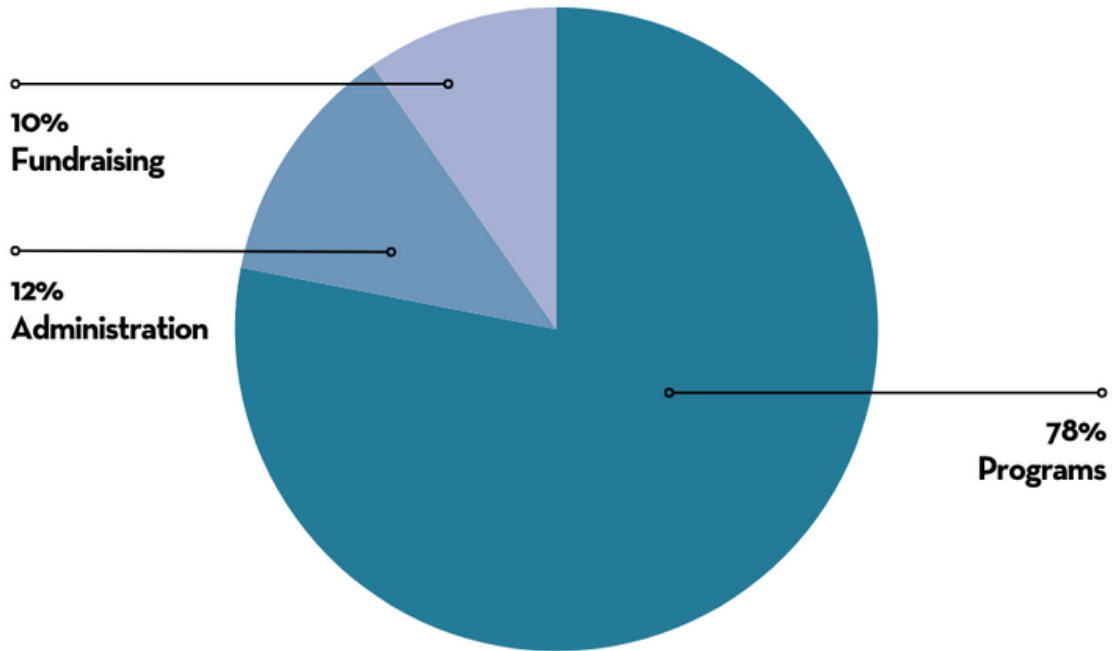


***I Find a Place*** offers a glimpse into young poets' journeys of self-discovery and personal growth. In this poetry anthology published by the 9-12th grade students from Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, poems explore self-worth, powerful breakthroughs, and the resilience to persevere through life's challenges.

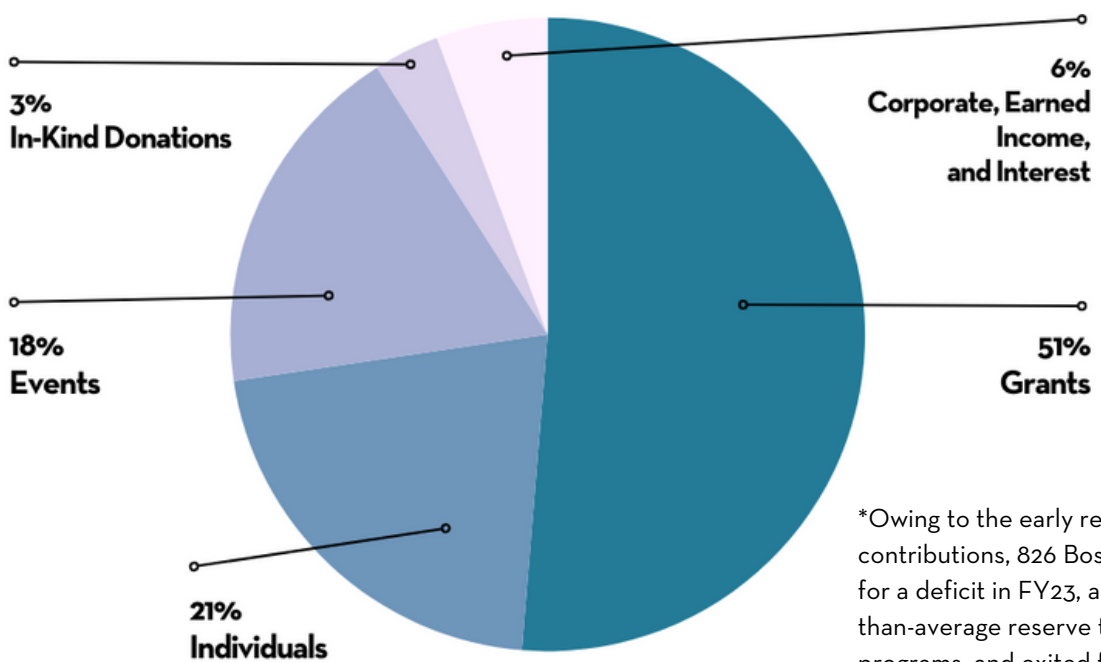


# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenses: \$2,847,114



Revenue: \$ 2,323,750



\*Owing to the early receipt of key contributions, 826 Boston planned for a deficit in FY23, and a higher-than-average reserve to support programs, and exited fiscal year 2023 with a healthy reserve for the next year.

# EVENTS



The **Night of 1,000 Stories** gala—held on May 18, 2023—was nothing short of magical. The memorable evening included opening remarks from the *Boston Globe*'s **Meredith Goldstein**; an inspiring and heartfelt conversation with our featured speaker **Jamie Hector and his daughter Chloé** about their work together and their creative processes; remarks by 826 Boston and Boston International Newcomers Academy alumna **Chiruza Muhimuzi**, who shared how the power of storytelling transformed his life; and musical performances by **White Snake Projects** featuring lyrics by JL Rivera and Chenaya Valeus. [Check out some of our favorite photos from the night, taken by Mike Mejia.](#)



# EVENTS



**Books for Breakfast** held on November 17, 2022, featured *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dirtbag, Massachusetts*, **Isaac Fitzgerald**; 826 Boston alumna **Agnes Ugoji**; and 826 Boston Youth Literary Advisory Board member **Oriana Dunker**. Check out this [recap](#) from the event.

Isaac came back to 826 Boston on April 30, 2023, and was joined by 826 Network co-founder **Dave Eggers**. The duo had a conversation, recalling stories from 826 Boston's founding, and were also joined by 826 Boston student **Carlos Mejia Soto**. Check out the [photos](#) from the evening.

More than 75 participants showed up to Boston's greatest, shortest race—the **Half Half Half Half Marathon**—on April 13, 2023. This fun, fast, family-friendly 0.826-mile race around Jamaica Pond raised over \$17,000.



# MORE STORIES, PLEASE

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Here are a few more highlights from the 826 Boston team this year:

- 826 Boston's After-School Writing and Tutoring program ("high-dosage tutoring") was highlighted in a *Boston Globe* [article](#) as a promising and effective solution to pandemic learning loss across the state.



- The In-School Programs team worked with college-bound seniors to help them with their college essays. This year, they worked with 163 students at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers and 193 students at New Mission High School.
- 826 Boston was featured in several news stories, including an interview with 826 Boston's Director of Programs and Community Engagement Jay Enciso on the [Boston Neighborhood Network](#), and a piece on the Half Half Half Half Marathon in the [Jamaica Plains News](#).
- For the third year in a row, 826 Boston partnered with Carrie Clifford and Gloria Harrison of the Hard Candy & Fruit Snacks podcast to award 12 college-bound seniors the [Social Justice Scholarship](#). This year, four students received \$10,000 scholarships and eight students received \$2,000 and \$1,000 awards.
- 14 out of the 16 students who attended 826 Boston's Science Fair Boot Camp received prestigious awards for their innovative and insightful work at the 77th Annual Boston Public Schools/Region VI Citywide Science and Engineering Fair. See the list of winners and their awards [here](#).



# MORE STORIES, PLEASE

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- Esther Kim and Sviatlana Rose, ran the 2023 Boston Marathon for 826 Boston through the John Hancock Non-Profit Program. Together, they raised over \$12,000 for 826 Boston. Read more about them [here](#).
- The Writers' Room at Boston International Newcomers Academy worked with ninth-grade students to publish *Tell The Truth*, and hosted a book release part for the entire school. The team continued telling stories with students through open mic sessions, zine workshops, and audio storytelling workshops.
- The Writers' Room at the Boston Teachers Union School worked with the school library to create an equity fund, enabling them to purchase \$1,400 worth of books at the Scholastic Book Fair for students.
- The John D. O'Bryant Writers' Room published two issues of the school's very first student newspaper, *The OBserver*;

The storytelling magic continued in their Journalism Club, Slam Poetry Club, and several workshops that featured local writers, artists, journalists, and storytellers.

- The Writers' Room at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School hosted an "Art for Social Change" club, focused on the intersectionality between art and activism, and published their inaugural publication, *Prismatic Chaos*.

