



826NYC ANNUAL REPORT

EXCEPTIONAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
INSIDE



FISCAL YEAR 2023

Dear Friends,

The 2022-2023 school year saw 826NYC's young authors write about culture and spaceships and New York City. They composed argumentative essays in Crown Heights, created poetry in Chelsea, and went to space in East New York. Behind the secret door of the Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co. there were grand adventures during our Dungeons & Dragons & Writers workshop and tall tales told during Write After School.

In every case, students built essential writing skills and strengthened their creativity in ways they might not otherwise in school. Our educators have a lot of responsibilities and a lot to teach. Unfortunately, in many classrooms, creative writing is not a significant part of the curriculum, despite its profound impact on students' core academic and professional skills, creative abilities, and overall mental health.

826NYC is committed to bringing quality, imaginative, student-centered writing programs to every corner of the five boroughs.

We partnered with Coney Island Prep to pilot our first-ever extended day program. We brought the workshops that happen after school and on weekends behind the secret door of the Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co. to students along Brooklyn's famous shore. We then partnered with CAMBA to bring these programs to two schools in central Brooklyn.

These partnerships were the first step in our five-year strategic plan to bring 826NYC to more neighborhoods across New York City.

Extended day programs provide a scalable and sustainable model for 826NYC to provide more schools with creative writing programs. They allow students who live too far from our Youth Writing Center to take part in workshops and programs that they might not otherwise have.

And they allow more young people to share their voices with their community and the 826 community.

I am, as always, deeply grateful to the members of 826NYC's community who make this work possible: staff, volunteers, educators, supporters, and my fellow Board members.

Thank you for writing the future with us this year.

Sincerely,



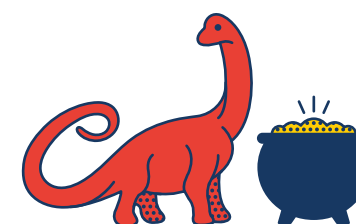
Michelle McGovern
President

OUR CULTURE

By Ashley M & Naydelees C, 6th grade



I am a child of an Indian and a Dominican
Snakes in my hand
I am half Indian and a 100% Dominican
I was born in water
I am a child of hot weather
My dog was born in my hands
I am full of boxing and punk rock
Mango is my middle name
On Saturdays you can find me playing my electric guitar
Red and black are my eyes
I come from an island of mangos and rice
Cherries are like a melody to my ears
I am a child of many places—Guyana, Dominican Republic, New York
Tikitoki is in my blood
Dancing bachata is my culture
Summer is the medicine for my body
Snow is my hair
My flag is reflecting my skin
Guyana and Dominican Republic water my pools
brown my skin, brown my eyes
Indian music is my life
We are the opposite but the same



I WONDER WHAT I'LL DREAM ABOUT?

By Arber K., 7th Grade

I wonder what I'll dream about?
Maybe fighting an evil alien
with a mouse that is Australian
then taking over the world happily
while gaining our fame rapidly

I wonder what I'll dream about?
Maybe finding lost treasure
by riding a dinosaur with leisure
as its nose finds where X marks the spot
we find endless gold and cheer, "Jackpot!"

I wonder what I'll dream about?
I go to sleep all excited
but wake up all dejected
for what I dreamt about
was nothing without a doubt.

2022-2023 PROGRAM LOCATIONS



- 1 **826NYC'S YOUTH WRITING CENTER
PARK SLOPE**
- 2 **HIGH SCHOOL OF FASHION INDUSTRIES
CHELSEA**
- 3 **ACADEMY FOR YOUNG WRITERS
EAST NEW YORK**
- 4 **P.S. 316 | PROSPECT HEIGHTS**
- 5 **PASSAGES ACADEMY @ BELMONT
EAST NEW YORK**
- 6 **IS 171 | CYPRESS HILLS**
- 7 **MS 839 | KENSINGTON**
- 8 **PS 164 | BOROUGH PARK**
- 9 **CONEY ISLAND PREP | CONEY ISLAND**
- 10 **PS 91 | EAST FLATBUSH**
- 11 **PS 170 | BAY RIDGE**

STAFF

Joshua Mandelbaum, Executive Director
Naomi Solomon, Director of Education
Janna Cisterino, Development and Communications Manager
Chris Eckert, Store and Operations Manager
Danny Kim, Volunteer and Programs Manager*
Mandy Seiner, Volunteer and Programs Manager**
Summer Medina, Volunteer and Programs Coordinator
Amani Nephew, Programs Coordinator

*Joined staff in 2022-23

**Departed staff in 2022-23

826 FOUNDERS

Dave Eggers and Nínive Calegari

826NYC FOUNDERS

Scott Seeley and Joan Kim

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle McGovern, President
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Sheila Peluso**
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Danielle Sinay
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Alyson Stone
David Tuffy
Thom Unterburger
Samuel Valenti IV

*Joined board in 2022-23

**Departed board in 2022-23

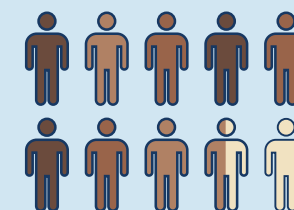
OUR IMPACT

EXPLORING ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF WRITING

The young authors of 826NYC span the five boroughs; we prioritize youth from marginalized and underserved communities prioritized in enrollment. Our free after school programs are exclusively for families who demonstrate financial need, and we reserve 60% of spots in our weekend programs for students who would not otherwise be able to attend. Our partner-based programs focus solely on schools and community partners that serve under-resourced youth.



3,600
STUDENTS



84%
STUDENTS
OF COLOR



67
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS



15
STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS

Whether we are publishing a book in a Title 1 school, leading after school writing sessions, hosting a field trip, or bringing together students from around the City at a workshop, 826NYC programs encourage student voice, foster creativity, and develop the skills that lead to academic, professional, and personal success.



94% of students agreed that they can be creative
and try new things with 826NYC

89% of students agreed that 826NYC helped them
improve their writing



93% of after-school students demonstrated
social-emotional gains



WRITE AFTER SCHOOL

In Write After School, students stretch their literary imaginations and strengthen their core communication skills. Elementary and middle school students engage in activities that enhance reading, writing, and social-emotional skills like collaboration and reflection, and participate in grade-level book clubs.

WRITE AWAY WORKSHOPS

Ghost stories, whodunits, epic adventures, food writing, and myths & legends are just some of the Write Away Workshops we offered this year. Our students' stories spooked us, made us laugh, scratch our heads, and feel all of the warm-fuzzies.

Our new extended day program brings the magic of Write Away Workshops into the classrooms of school and community partners during after school hours. Through our extended day and other partnership programs, our five-year strategic plan charts an ambitious course to reach 10,000 young authors across New York City.



TEEN WRITERS' COLLECTIVE

The members of our Teen Writers' Collective are young literary artists who want to learn from and uplift the work of their peers. They delve into genres and form, discovering new ways to get their voice and imagination on paper. TWC members are invited to speak at 826NYC events and have the opportunity to participate in paid summer internships, leading programs with our younger authors.



WRITE TOGETHER

If nineteen years of Write Together have taught us one thing, elementary students love to tell stories about anthropomorphic food. And this year was no different! Write Together creates interactive writing experiences for K-12 school groups through field trip experiences.

What was a highlight from your partnership with 826NYC? “The acceptance of all student ideas really boosted confidence and got them engaged.”

— EDUCATOR FROM PS 15



YOUNG WRITERS PUBLISH

Young Writers Publish supports classroom teachers at Title 1 schools through creative, impactful, curriculum-aligned projects that transform students into authors.

This year’s seven residencies covered everything from personal and community narratives to science fiction to food writing.



“The kids were very engaged and they were not afraid to be creative with their writing.”

— EDUCATOR FROM I.S. 171

CROOKED SMILE

By Ja’Kole C., 12th Grade

A smile is beautiful
A smile brings joy
A smile represents happiness, a feeling you enjoy
A smile is delightful, when it is displayed
So when I smile, why don’t I feel this way?

All the pretty smiles,
bright and wide, shiny and straight, held with pride
All the pretty smiles around the world
but they don’t look like mine

Various sizes and shapes, curves and cuts
A smile filled with teeth not bright enough
An extra tooth here, a crooked tooth there
I see your perfect smile and ask, “Is it fair?”

I hide my smile, filled with shame
Embarrassed because I look at me, then look at you, and they don’t look the same
Contain my smile, contain all emotion
And then I see something that changes my perspective

I see a smile that is similar to mine
Teeth of different shapes and sizes, none of them align
But I still see a beautiful smile filled with pride
You love your crooked smile, so I should love mine

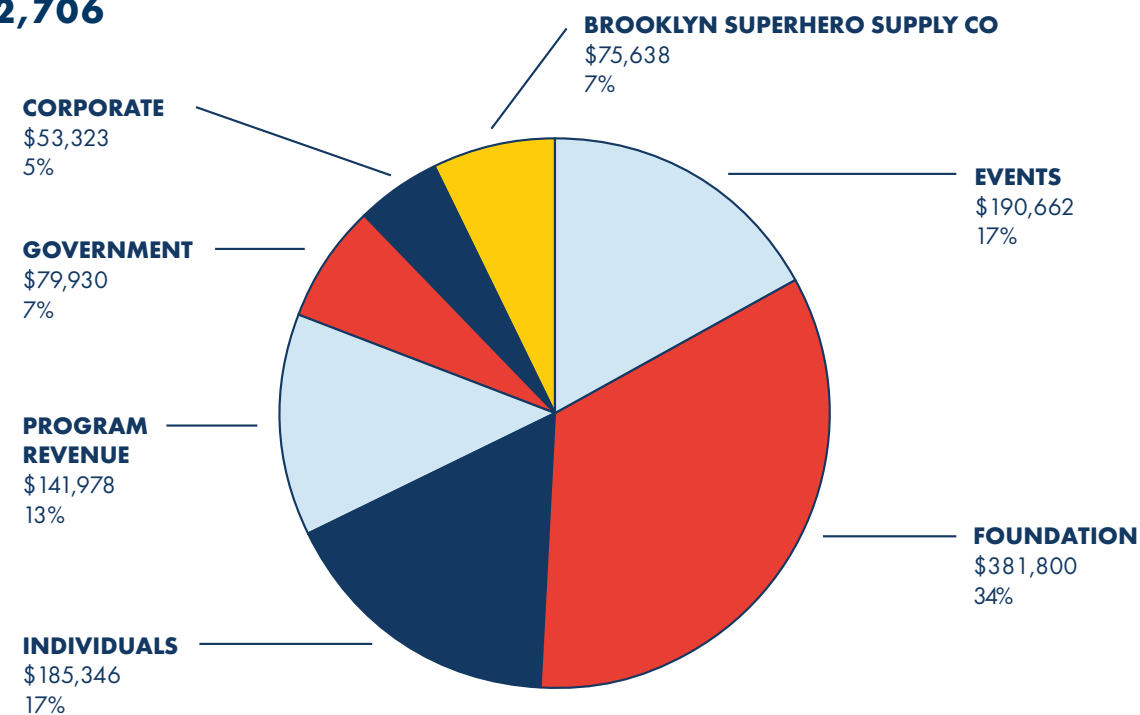
I love every curve and dent, every shape and size
I love my crooked smile because I realize
there is no other smile like mine.



2022-2023 FINANCIALS

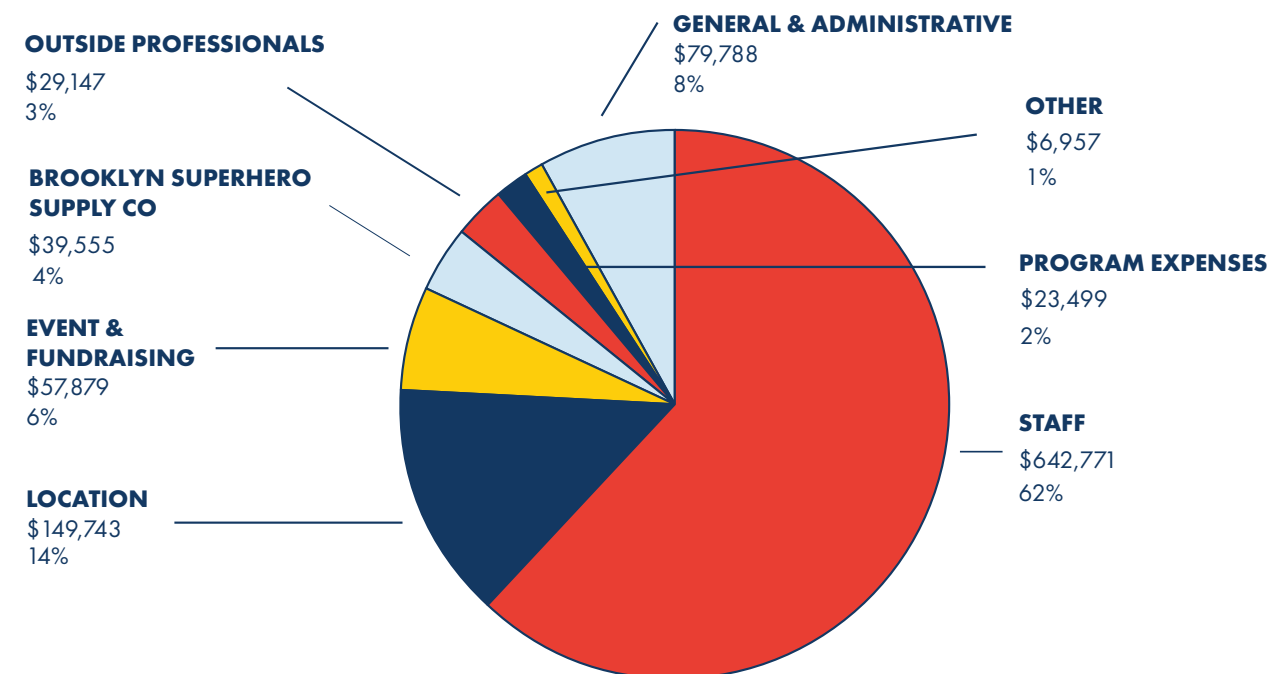
REVENUE

\$1,112,706



EXPENSES

\$1,029,339



THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE GENEROUS
FUNDERS AND DONORS WHO MADE OUR WORK
IN 2022-23 POSSIBLE.

FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

- 826 National

Alexander and Leigh Fischbein Family Foundation

Baker Botts

BCW

Books Are Magic

Brooklyn Kura

Brunswick Group

Carreau Club

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Nitehawk Cinema

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NYC City Council

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs

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SESAC Music Group

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Shipwrecked

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation

Yelp Foundation

Youth INC

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS: \$1,000+

- Judd Apatow

Louise and Marty Bickman

Ami and Raymond Carpenter

Newcombe Clark

Michael and Erin Colagiovanni

Sarah Connolly

Jen D'Ambrosie and Blake D'Ambrosie

Jamal Edwards

Simone Fraser

Katharine Freeman

Mary Ganzenmuller

Carol Goldberg

Karen Ho and William Cobbett

Richard and Tara Kando

Susan Kornfield

Lawrence Landes

Amanda Lipitz and Greg Smith

Mike Lufrano and Lyz Bodner

Nathan and Nonna Marinoff

Michelle and Michael McGovern

Mat Miller

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Dav Pilkey

Christian Rongavilla

David Schnadig and Lori Roth

Kathryn Schox

Jonathan Marc Sherman and Alexandra Shiva

Matt Sherring

Daniel Shulman

Andrew Sparkler and Starling Marshall

Alyson Stone

Henry Tisch

David Tuffy

Samuel Valenti IV and Dr. Alyssa Valenti

Ted Wolff and Anne Clarke Wolff

Kathryn Yontef

VOLUNTEERS: 20+ HOURS

- Dov Alpert

Ennis Bashe

Jane Beck

Max Benesi

Rakhee Bhatt

Alexandra Bogus

Liam Cheng

Christina Costa

Erin Davis

Tatiana Felder

Stephanie Frescas Macías

Barbara Furman

Carol Goldberg

Laila Hartman-Sigall

Robert Hennessy

Christina Henricks

Callie Herzog

Elijah Horowitz

Mina Huang

Christopher Kammerud

Ciera Kelley

Claire Kim-Narita

Dena Levitz

Amy Linstrom

Les Luchter

Davida Marion

Ru Marshall

Susan Miller

Tiana Moe

Jasper Nathaniel

Matthew Negrin

Aaron Pfannebecker

Ellie Powell

Chloe Rappe

Christian Rongavilla

Rochelle Scott

Melody Serra

Claire Shweky

Christina Tobey

Mike Wolf

Ronnie Wolff

BLACK BOYS HAVE SUPERPOWERS TOO

by Jeremiah B., 7th Grade

Being Black is a superpower.
All of these goals and achievements.
My people will be proud of me.
My intelligence is a superpower.
The way my hoodie zips is a superpower.
The way this fro grows up on my head is a superpower.
Us Black people set trends.
New pair of kicks makes the fit complete.
The hate you give to my beautiful black skin.
What are you afraid of?
Me.
Us.
Society...

