



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

*Write***Boston**

Promoting deep learning through writing
for urban youth in Eastern Massachusetts.



15 school partners in Boston, Chelsea, Everett, and Salem

300+ educators supported by intensive professional development services



869 students served through in- and after-school, summer, and workshop programming

3,051 one-on-one writing tutorials provided to high schoolers

15,000 student newspapers distributed quarterly to schools and libraries

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

Young people have big aspirations—for themselves and their communities. Together, we can help prepare students for what lies ahead: college, meaningful work, and positive social change.

WriteBoston improves the writing and critical thinking skills of youth across Eastern Massachusetts. Our two-pronged approach targets both students and educators. By helping young people hone their voices, we prepare them to achieve their goals and invest in our collective future.

12,000+ students impacted last year (ripple effect)



WE ENCOURAGE & EMBOLDEN STUDENTS



WE SUPPORT DEDICATED TEACHERS

Students are encouraged to take a stance, and conduct research and interviews to back their claims. **Writing for Teens in Print**, students see the power of their voices firsthand.

Masha Leyfer, Boston Public Schools senior, used the Teens in Print newspaper as a platform to write about an issue that matters to her—teen voting rights.



The below is excerpted from the article “Voting Rights for Teens are Long Overdue,” published in the March 2019 issue of Teens in Print.

“Some critics [of lowering the voting age] have suggested that teens don’t have ‘enough skin in the game,’ often pointing to the fact that we generally don’t financially support ourselves. While it may be true that most teens are dependents, not only do many of us work and get taxed, but the very premise of this argument verges dangerously into the territory of property-based democracy. Employment and dependent status should never be benchmarks of qualifications to participate in democracy.

Regardless of employment, teens’ ‘skin in the game’ shouldn’t be up for debate. Not only will we be living with the effects of long-term national policies on climate change, healthcare, immigration, and more, local policies are affecting us right now.”

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND BEYOND.

A student’s voice carries powerful weight. When a young person can articulate their ideas, their prospects for the future broaden. These skills can help a student craft a strong college essay, nail the cover letter for their dream job, or contribute to the national conversation around an issue they care about.

WriteBoston’s Teens in Print (TiP) program teaches literacy skills to middle and high schoolers through a journalistic lens. During the afterschool program, students learn to be responsible media makers and consumers while writing articles for Boston’s only citywide youth newspaper. In addition, TiP runs a summer journalism institute, offers news literacy workshops for schools and nonprofits, and provides college readiness services to high schoolers.

133
ARTICLES
PUBLISHED
LAST YEAR

94%
OF STUDENTS
REPORTED BETTER
WRITING SKILLS



101
STUDENTS
PUBLISHED
LAST YEAR

93%
FELT MORE
PREPARED FOR
FUTURE JOBS



LIFTING UP EDUCATORS TO REACH EXPONENTIALLY MORE STUDENTS.

Research is unified: effective teaching is the most powerful lever for student achievement. Educators have a lot to contend with: shifting student populations, an uptick in English language learners, and new state standards. Teaching writing—an already arduous task—requires serious skill and support.

Our Professional Development program partners with schools to offer expertise around writing and reading instruction. We support first-year teachers, veteran educators, administrators, and classroom aides—from English and history, to science and beyond.

WriteBoston’s instructional coaches collaborate with partners to determine their unique literacy needs, draw up a schedule of services, identify benchmarks, and build long-term school capacity.

300+
EDUCATORS
SERVED LAST
YEAR

91%
OF EDUCATORS
REPORTED INCREASED
EFFECTIVENESS

15
SCHOOL PARTNERS
IN 4 COMMUNITIES
LAST YEAR

88%
OF PARTNERSHIPS WERE
MULTI-YEAR TO EFFECT
LASTING SCHOOL CHANGE

This year, we completed a 3-year partnership with the Chelsea public middle schools aimed at building student engagement and school capacity. **Read a literacy coach’s take on the work.**



“WriteBoston Professional Development has been a game changer for our literacy department.”

Quote from Roxy Archibald, Literacy Coach for the Chelsea Public Schools

“WriteBoston has had a profound impact on our students and teachers in Chelsea and, of course, on me as an educator.

Our goal was to get more student-centered learning and engagement with complex texts and tasks in the classroom, and to provide teachers with the tools and skills to make this happen.

Since working with WriteBoston, we have maximized the learning minutes in all classrooms—students spend more time reading, writing, and discussing complex texts.

Reflecting on my experience in education, I can confidently confirm: my WriteBoston coach is the best teacher I have ever had in my life.”

OUR SCHOOL & NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Boston Public Schools

Boston International High School
McKinley South End Academy
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
Urban Science Academy

Chelsea Public Schools

Browne Middle School
Chelsea High School
Clark Avenue Middle School
Wright Academy Middle School

Everett Public Schools

Everett High School
Devens Middle School
Madeline English Middle School
George Keverian Middle School
Lafayette Middle School
Albert N. Parlin Middle School

Salem Public Schools

Salem High School

Youth & Education Organizations

Castle Square Tenants Organization
City Year Boston
Five District Partnership
Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
Tenacity



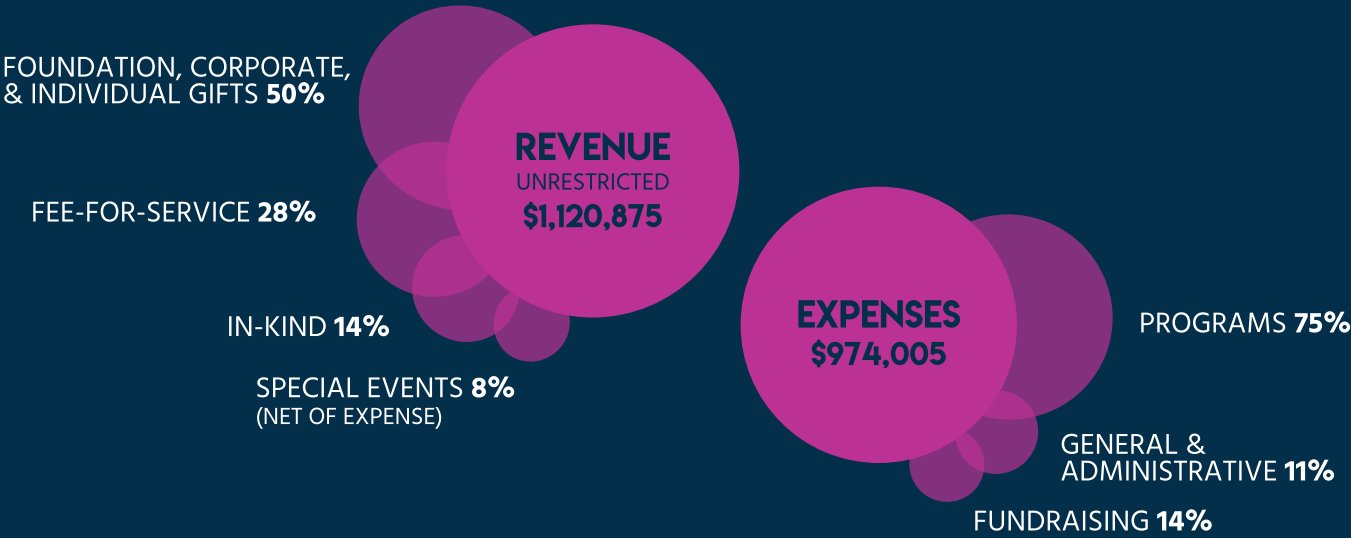
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The following charts represent funds raised and used on operating activity during fiscal year 2019. WriteBoston also has net assets with donor restrictions available for future years totaling \$446K.



LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR WRITEBOSTON?

The last year brought significant changes: WriteBoston expanded professional development to Salem, our furthest reach yet. We established a new partnership with the Massachusetts Service Alliance Commonwealth Corps to grow Teens in Print and pilot college-readiness services. We also made the strategic decision to close our last Writing Center, transitioning this work to a partner organization in an effort to reduce service duplication and address new gaps in need. This closure enables us to reinvest in our core programs and explore innovative ways to amplify our organizational strengths. (For more on the Writing Center, see writeboston.org/sunset.)

The heart of our mission is ensuring that the students and educators we serve walk away with lasting literacy skills and a newfound confidence in their own learning. To achieve this goal, we have committed to an ambitious growth plan: **by 2028, we aim to impact 20,000 new youth.** We're well on our way: for FY20, we have already expanded our partnerships to two new schools and crossed state lines to support the Burlington Public Schools in Vermont.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for believing that today's youth can achieve their loftiest goals and change our communities for the better. Your support means that you stand behind every student's right to access challenging opportunities that will lift them to their highest potential. By investing in students, you invest in our collective future.

HOW DO WE CREATE CHANGE?

MISSION

WriteBoston promotes deep learning through writing. We offer training and coaching for teachers, along with writing opportunities for students, built on the premise that powerful thinking and writing are inseparable.

VISION

WriteBoston believes that writing is essential to student achievement. We believe all young people can be flexible, thoughtful communicators and problem solvers when writing is embedded in daily learning.

TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

WriteBoston works directly with educators and students. This two-pronged approach creates a ripple effect, which last year reached an estimated 12,000 students.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS



WRITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

WriteBoston's programs are united by our mission to strengthen the voices of Massachusetts youth.

THANK YOU

FOR BELIEVING IN WRITEBOSTON

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