

Fall 2023 Impact Update



In Gratitude

As GrubStreet enters the closing months of 2023, we are deeply grateful for your generous support. Because of you, GrubStreet is a home for literary celebration and artistic growth, and a unique space for writers from all backgrounds in Boston and beyond to amplify their voices and impact our world.

With your support, we provided more **scholarships** than ever, supporting 737 writers and 5 fellows with \$260,000 in funding. Your giving created scholarships for writers with economic need, LGBTQ+ writers, writers attending the Muse writing conference, and teens from Boston and metro-Boston. Your giving also supported our **Emerging Writer Fellowships** and our **Teaching Fellowships for Black Writers**. With your help, we plan to increase scholarship funding by 13% next year to ensure that our programming is even more accessible.



Thank you for helping us pilot our tuition-free **Mentorship Program**, which provided 100 students the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a GrubStreet instructor to discuss craft and the writing life. This program is open to all, with a focus on community members with financial need and from historically under-represented groups. Students have called this program “invaluable,” “unique and wonderful,” “accessible,” “incredibly helpful,” and “life-changing.” With your support, we are looking forward to continuing this program in 2024, and increasing our reach to 150 students.

As part of “**Our Times, Our Stories**,” a series of programs in the classroom and on our stage addressing the most pressing issues of the day through writing, we hosted a panel discussion on climate from GrubStreet’s Calderwood Writers’ Stage and offered a series of workshops to our community, inviting them to write about environmentalism. We plan on publishing an anthology of their work next year. Our 2022 series focused on pregnancy, miscarriage, and abortion. With your help, our community writes urgent and relevant stories.

We are so thankful, and we can’t wait to celebrate with you at upcoming community events and programs in the Center! We’re thrilled to share just a small glimpse of what you’ve made possible this year.

Fellowships

GrubStreet's **Teaching Fellowship for Black Writers** welcomed two new fellows for 2023-24: **Jonathan Todd**, an author, illustrator, and co-founder of Boston Kids Comics Fest, and **Jacquinn Sinclair**, a Boston area journalist, author, poet, and theater critic. We also held our first-ever **Teaching Fellowship Showcase** in September, with a reading from the program's first four fellows.

We also welcomed the 2023-2024 Emerging Writer Fellows **Stevie Billow**, **Malik Thompson**, and **divina cordeiro** (who has been attending classes with GrubStreet since they were 14). The **Emerging Writer Fellowship** aims to develop new and exciting voices by providing three talented writers with tuition-free access to GrubStreet's classes and annual Muse & the Marketplace conference.



2022-2023 Fellows Simone Dalton, Nakia Hill, Crystal Valentine, and Claudia Wilson in conversation at the Teaching Fellowship Showcase (September 2023)

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The impact that this fellowship will have on me, through building community and confidence, cannot be understated.

– divina cordeiro, current *Emerging Writer Fellow*

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Teen Programming

Over the past year in our Young Adult Writers Program, we've reached 880 unique high school students and 1,400 in total enrollment. We've delivered 135 creative writing kits to teen students through Boston Public Library branches in Roxbury, Grove Hall, Mattapan, and Egleston Square. We also offered free programs at Brookview House transitional housing shelter and Sociedad Latina, an organization focused on meeting the needs of Latinx youth and families in Boston.



2023 Fellow Sahithi Pudota at the Teen Writing Fellowship Showcase (July 2023)

Your giving also supported no-cost Saturday Sessions, a four-week Summer Teen Fellowship, and increased scholarship support for our Summer week-long workshops. Classes this year included engaging subjects such as “Healing Through Words: A Poetry Workshop for Wellness,” and “Coming Home: Writing Nostalgia, Childhood, and Cultural Identity.”

Our four-week **2023 Summer Teen Fellowship** immersed twenty high school students in the writing world. The fellows worked with published authors on original prose and poetry, took a field trip to the inspirational Institute of Contemporary Art, and chatted about the writing life with **Christine Pride** and **Jo Piazza**, co-authors of the acclaimed novels *We Are Not Like Them* and *You Were Always Mine*. Our fellows also created the Young Adult Writers Program 2023 anthology, which will be published in Spring of 2024.

“ The Young Adult Writers Program reassures me that like-minded peers are out there and that I am not alone.

– Teen Writer ”



2023 Summer Teen Fellows

Encore! Highlights From the Calderwood Writers' Stage

This year, we hosted two **Writers' Weekend** events, spotlighting diverse communities within the literary world. In June, our **Latinx Writers' Weekend** featured an energizing blend of readings, panels, workshops, and a keynote address from the renowned author **Angie Cruz** on the topic of preserving our voices. Highlights of October's **LGBTQ+ Writers' Weekend** included a community expo featuring LGBTQ+ organizations, and a Book Prom Party where attendees could bring a book to donate to The Prison Book Program. Across both Writers' Weekends, we were thrilled to welcome a combined 262 participants.



Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Rishi Reddi, Julie Carrick Dalton, Frank Lowenstein, and Porsha Olayiwola at the "Writing for Change: Storytelling In A Climate Crisis" event (August 2023)

Thanks to your generous support, we offered several unique stage events, including a **Craft Talk Series**, a **Book Club**, and our unique deep dive into visual storytelling, **Stories From the Screen**. We proudly presented "**Writing for Change: Storytelling In A Climate Crisis**," with nearly 80 participants, in which environmental policy experts, and community activists raised awareness about the climate crisis and crafted pieces for a forthcoming anthology.

Continuing GrubStreet's commitment to **facilitating dialogue to encourage equity and justice**, we hosted a very special **Light Up the Center**, inviting multidisciplinary performances by GrubStreet instructors and students, as well as acclaimed Boston-based dancers and musicians. This year, we were so grateful to our sponsors and hosts whose generous giving allowed all interested attendees to join with a "pay what you will" donation.



Dancer and Krump Champion Russell Ferguson at Light Up the Center (November 2023) | Photo Credit: Carlie Febo

“ I loved the diversity in all the performances. I felt very welcomed.

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Membership

We're grateful to all 1,352 members of GrubStreet (a number that continues to grow!). Your membership gifts throughout 2023 have been instrumental in supporting GrubStreet's mission and programming. Among other perks, members are welcomed to read, write, or work in our community lounge on the second floor of our Center for Creative Writing. We hope to see you soon!

Learn more about becoming a member here:



Cultural Belonging

We are pleased to share a new cultural belonging statement crafted with insights from our Grubbie community:

At GrubStreet, belonging means creating and maintaining spaces where we boldly share our perspectives and our work as writers, readers, and audience members. Every member of our community commits to engaging across differences with curiosity and a desire to learn and grow together.

Community Agreements:

- Practice cultural humility, ask questions, and engage with different perspectives
- Offer grace to speak in draft form and be open to making mistakes
- Check our biases and be aware of how we carry our own identity and privilege as well as its impact

Coming Soon: 2024 Event Preview

Thanks to your generosity, 2024 will be full of thrilling Grubbie events. **The Muse and The Marketplace** will return to a fully in-person, three-day conference from May 10-12, 2024, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel with **Jonathan Escoffery** and **Emily St. John Mandel** as our Author Keynotes. Please join us for craft-focused and publishing keynotes, guided writing sessions, manuscript mart sessions, networking opportunities, and community.

But that's not all! Throughout the year, we'll also be hosting a new series of events on our stage with the theme of **"Writing For Change."** Upcoming sessions tackle the impact of artificial intelligence on the writing world, the proliferation of book bans nationally, and other topics that shed light on pressing contemporary concerns through a writing lens.

Thank You

Thanks to your support, in 2023 we were able to reach more writers of all ages and backgrounds, curate enriching and impactful literary events, and amplify the unique voices of our diverse community of writers. **Thank you for all you do for this community.**

With your continued support, we will sustain and elevate our mission to write a more just, connected, and equitable future.



Attendees at Light Up the Center (November 2023) | Photo Credit: Carlie Febo