In Gratitude

This year marks GrubStreet’s 25th Anniversary. As we reflect on this milestone, we couldn’t be more grateful for your commitment as a member of this community.

Your support has allowed us to grow from eight students in our first workshops in 1997 to today’s expansive community reaching 10,000 teens and adults a year. Your generosity has helped us enroll over 1,000 teen writers a year, provide hundreds of writing workshops for adults in every genre, and launch our new home for the literary arts on Boston’s waterfront.

You helped GrubStreet grow into a thriving artistic hub and positioned us to fulfill the promise of this community by expanding access and equity in the next quarter century. Your commitment has meant that writers in Boston and beyond have access to the resources they need to write and share the stories we all need to hear, creating a world with more justice and connection.

We’re happy to provide this update on just some of the programming that your generosity has helped to make possible so far in 2022.

Thank you again for being there for this community.
Light Up the New Center - 25th Anniversary Event Series

This September and October, we held a series of free community events to celebrate GrubStreet’s 25th anniversary. From workshops to writing happy hours, from book launches and performances to community open houses, in person and live streamed online, there was something for everyone. In total, we welcomed 850 people across all 17 events in the series.

Events included a workshop on collaborative storytelling, special member writing hours, and the launch of Boston Writers of Color Group founder Jonathan Escoffery’s *If I Survive You*, which was recently longlisted for the National Book Award.

We hope that you were able to join us in person or online for one or some of these events. But if not, please know that there will be many more thrilling events to come at GrubStreet!

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Emerging Writer Fellowship - 5th Anniversary

GrubStreet’s Emerging Writer Fellowship celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. The Emerging Writer Fellowship aims to develop new, exciting voices by providing three writers per year tuition-free access to GrubStreet’s classes and Muse & the Marketplace conferences. Your generous support has allowed us to welcome three incredible writers as the 2022-2023 Emerging Writer Fellows: Antonia Yang, Destiny Lopez, and Anasazi Chavez.

Over the course of one year, each Emerging Writer Fellow attends a combination of seminars and multi-week courses of their choosing, bookended by attendance at both the 2022 and the 2023 Muse & the Marketplace conference, in order to enhance their understanding of craft and the publishing industry.

In early October, current and former Fellows came together on our writers’ stage for a reading and panel discussion in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the program. The Fellows shared the impact of their experience both in the program and in the time since.
GrubStreet’s teen programs are designed to support young writers as they write and share their stories – and your generosity ensures that 85% of programming for young writers is offered at no cost to the teens and their families.

Our most advanced program for teens is the Summer Teen Fellowship at GrubStreet. Twenty talented young writers spent four weeks this summer writing novels, plays, poetry, and nonfiction. With your support, each teen also received a stipend, transportation funding, and food as part of their fellowship.

This was the first year that Fellowship programming took place in our new home on the Boston waterfront – and the young writers made excellent use of the space and surrounding neighborhood. Teens enjoyed participating in workshops in our classrooms and they stretched out in the community lounge to connect with one another. In our new podcast studio, teens wrote and produced their own audio dramas. And for a change of scenery, they wrote outside on the grass overlooking Boston Harbor.

Classroom seven was turned into an official Wellness Room, a transformation that was especially meaningful to the teens, who have been particularly hard hit in the ongoing pandemic. They even decided to name their forthcoming anthology “I belong in room 7.” The Fellowship culminated in a reading from GrubStreet’s writers’ stage, which was also streamed live online.
Scholarships and Fellowships

Your generous support also helps GrubStreet to lower financial barriers and reach more writers by providing funding for scholarships, fellowships, stipends, and discounts. The scholarship application process is designed to be as straightforward and non-intrusive as possible — for example, applicants are not asked to share financial documents, but instead respond to brief questions to help us understand their situation.

With your support through July of 2022, we were able to provide over $150,000 in financial aid to over 450 teen and adult writers in our community. We anticipate that by the end of this year, we’ll be able to provide $250,000 in scholarships and fellowships with your continued support.

Thank You

We are deeply appreciative of your generosity and commitment to this community. Your giving allows us to reach more writers of all ages and backgrounds — and deliver the promise of our new home as a community hub for the arts.

With your continued support, we are able to help more people find community, develop their craft, and tell their stories. Thank you.

“Although my fellowship year has ended, the community I have found at GrubStreet fuels my writing practice. At GrubStreet, sharing stories is for everyone.”

– Julian Iralu, Emerging Writing Fellow 2020-2021