

Spring 2023 Impact Update



Author and instructor Simone Dalton reading at the Student and Instructor Showcase (January 2023)

Literary Celebrations at the Center

We're excited to present GrubStreet's first **Latinx Writers' Weekend** this June! The celebration of Latinx voices will feature an opening reception and reading, a keynote by acclaimed author Angie Cruz on the topic of preserving our voices, and a publishing and craft seminar.

This fall, we're diving into our **LGBTQ+ Writers' Weekend** with conversations on the stage, a trivia night, and a literary fashion show. You can also participate in craft and publishing sessions, a queer literary fair, and a keynote reading and book signing.

A first ever **Film & TV Craft Series** starting in June will showcase short films, accompanied by an interactive craft talk from a GrubStreet instructor and film expert. Come enjoy illuminating sessions focused on international voices and non-Western traditions, and gain a deeper understanding of how we tell stories and what we can learn from film.

This summer, GrubStreet writers will take to the stage to discuss how creative writing can make a difference on **climate change** and explore the impact on local communities. Join Tim Weed and Julie Carrick Dalton for this free panel moderated by Porsha Olayiwola, GrubStreet instructor and current City of Boston Poet Laureate.

With your support . . .

GrubStreet is launching an exciting year of literary celebration at our new center. Performances, readings, writing salons, and brand-new classes will creatively explore our times and showcase community voices in every genre. And we're making sure there are lots of opportunities for you to mingle, share a drink and snack, and get to know other writers and readers. Thank you for your important contributions and thank you for making it all possible. We hope to see you soon in the center!



Boyah J. Farah launches his book *America Made Me a Black Man* at GrubStreet, in conversation with Eve Bridburg (February 2023)

Craft Talks on the Calderwood Writers' Stage

Here are some of the major craft sessions on tap for 2023:

- Nearby and Dignified: On Rendering Characters from Marginalized Communities
- Writing through Darkness (and How to Take Care of Yourself During It)
- Writing Grief through Culture
- Empathy to Authenticity: Writing Historical Fiction and Other Identities
- I Can Tell This Was Written By A Man: Writing Beyond One's Assigned Gender

Pilot Mentorship Program

If you've often hoped for a mentorship program at GrubStreet – where you could explore craft and publishing topics with an experienced artist-educator – you're not alone. Now, with help from many supporters, a pilot is underway.

Our first batch of tuition-free, one-on-one sessions with a GrubStreet instructor is open to all writers at any level, with an additional focus on community members with financial needs and from historically under-represented groups.

Read our FAQ about this program and sign up for an appointment here:



A one-on-one session with an instructor

Highlights from 2022

Your Body, Your Story

Following the Supreme Court decision denying the right to abortion last year, a group of instructors and staff organized **"Your Body, Your Story,"** a new series of free and low-cost workshops on nonfiction writing about pregnancy, abortion, miscarriage, and reproductive justice. We are now putting together an anthology of student work to share these vital stories with the world. A portion of the tuition was donated to [We Testify](#), an abortion storytelling nonprofit with a large national profile.

Fellowships and Scholarships

GrubStreet is committed to increasing equitable participation in our programs each year. With your support in 2022, 521 scholarships and fellowships were provided to writers in our community, for a total of \$250,000. This included support for teen and adult writers in classes at the center (zoom, online, and in-person), support for advanced programs, for members of the Boston Writers of Color Group, for our Emerging Writers Fellowship, Teaching Fellowship for Black Writers, scholarships for LGBTQ writers, scholarships to the Muse writing conference, and teen writing fellowships for our advanced summer program.

"I had the pleasure of taking the Memoir Writing class this past summer at the Roxbury Public Library and had an amazing experience. I was inspired so much that I took another memoir class at GrubStreet. I now have a beginning and ending to my memoir, and a complete outline of the chapters in between. For the first time in my life, I feel like I could complete a book-length project, and I owe this to what I learned in these courses."

– Lee Silva, author and GrubStreet student



GrubStreet community writers in a classroom

Writing and Wellness for Teens at GrubStreet

In 2022, we reached 1,300 teen writers through in-person sessions, classes on zoom, and writing kits. Our programs build confidence, give young writers the chance to revel in their imaginations, learn new powerful skills . . . and hang out with each other in all the nooks of GrubStreet’s new center. Thanks to your ongoing support, more than 85% of all young writers participate through free classes and scholarships. We work with teens in neighborhood programs in collaboration with the Boston Public Library, in Boston Public Schools, the Brookview House transitional housing community, and Sociedad Latina in Roxbury.

This summer, we will once again offer our advanced teen fellowship. And we’ll provide our special Wellness Room for all teens coming to the center, including bean bag chairs, snacks, Silly Putty, music, coloring books, and other de-stressing treats.



Teen Summer Writing Workshop (June 2022)

Member Writing Salons and “Date” Nights . . .

We’re grateful to GrubStreet’s 1,939 members (and counting!), whose **membership gifts** provided vital support to GrubStreet’s mission and programming in 2022.

Last month, we celebrated the launch of our new café, Fabulist, with our new **Member Writing Salons**, where members came to write and mingle. We’re also hosting **Wednesday Writing “Date” Nights**, where members can make a weekly commitment to their writing as they take advantage of exclusive access to write after-hours in our GrubStreet space.

Stay tuned for the launch of GrubStreet’s new **Book Club** – members will receive priority access!

Membership support is an investment not only in your own writing but in the entire community. Benefits for members at all levels (starting at \$60 per year) include: access to write and read in the Center; discounts on classes and to Porter Square Books, Fabulist Café, the Muse & the Marketplace conference series, and more!



Teen Writing Fellowship Showcase (July 2022)



Member Writing Salon (March 2023)

Learn more about becoming a member here:



Cultural Belonging and Re(connection) series

Over the past year, the GrubStreet community has engaged in a **Cultural Belonging and Re(connection)** series to deepen our bonds with each other and address divides, including around issues of race, class, and power dynamics. Facilitated by instructors, the sessions gathered over 100 community members to reflect on what conditions in the classroom can facilitate meaningful belonging – from the syllabus, to the make-up of the class, to how the instructor and students approach perspectives different from their own, and how potential bias and cultural gaps are discussed.

Thanks to the insights of our community, we are increasing training to make classrooms into spaces of curiosity and open engagement across differences. We're also revamping open houses with more ways for members to connect and designing an annual member meeting with critical updates, along with community discussion.

“It was wonderful getting to hear from so many Grub community members at the Cultural Belonging Series. One of the biggest things it reaffirmed for me is how an organization has a responsibility not just to its students, but to its staff and teachers. Everyone in different roles had stories to share about their experiences that opened up new ways that we can all support each other collectively, and explore connection through writing.”

– **Marcella Haddad**, *instructor and Cultural Belonging facilitator*

“I facilitated two sessions for the Cultural Belonging series and I was excited to meet ‘Grubbies’ who shared how they wanted to feel, learn, and be seen at GrubStreet. I was moved by the vulnerability, candour, and love expressed. There is no doubt that GrubStreet changes writers - and I think that, with the deep core work of the series, GrubStreet will continue to change writers for the better.”

– **Simone Dalton**, *author, instructor, and 2021 GrubStreet Black Teaching Fellow*



Thank You

Thank you for being an important member of the GrubStreet community. Your generosity allows us to reach more writers and readers of all ages and backgrounds - and to fulfill the promise of our new home as a community hub for the arts.

With your continued support, we'll expand access to writing programs, bring you the most exciting literary experiences, and foster storytelling that can change ourselves and the world. Thank you.

If you'd like to make a gift or learn more about supporting GrubStreet, please contact Stephanie Poggi, Director of Development, at stephanie@grubstreet.org or Mariona Lloreta, Associate Director for Individual Giving, at mariona@grubstreet.org or call 617-695-0075.