



Write the Future 2018 Update and Plans for the Year Ahead

Because of your commitment to artistic education for all, writers of all ages and backgrounds are finding more support and community here.

Thank you for your generous support.

ACCESS • EXCELLENCE • YOUTH

ACCESS

Scholarships on the rise

In 2017, because of your gifts, we provided over \$100,000 in scholarships for adults and teens. In 2018, we will provide at least \$125,000, with continued increases slated for each year.



Write Down the Street neighborhood classes

GrubStreet's writing workshops in low-income communities are expanding. Fully-subsidized classes in partnership with the Boston Public Library reach students in Roxbury, Mattapan, and East Boston. Last year, these programs served 200 adults; **this year, we are on track to reach at least 300 adult students.** Approximately 32% of participants are immigrants. Languages spoken include: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Italian, French, Hebrew, Hindi, and Tulu. Participants range in age from 18 years old to those in their 70s. We offer bilingual classes in Haitian-Creole/English at the Mattapan branch and Spanish/English in Egleston Square and East Boston.



Boston's voices – all of them – come alive through GrubStreet. We hear each other and we meet each other through our writing. –**Janet Edwards**, student and donor



Greater equity in the writing and publishing fields

Last year, GrubStreet launched the Writers of Color track at the Muse and the Marketplace Conference; in 2018, we deepened this crucial work and also highlighted panels addressing pressing issues of race and power. The **Boston Writers of Color Group, sponsored by GrubStreet, has grown in just a few years to more than 800 members,** and now sponsors monthly activities to promote the work of writers of color and provide mentorship.

My life has been enriched in so many ways by being a part of GrubStreet. I want everyone to have the same opportunity as I do to be a part of this inspiring community. -**Cindy Richard**, donor and writer



EXCELLENCE

Artistic Excellence

GrubStreet's Muse and the Marketplace Conference, which was named the best writers' conference in the country by *The Writer* magazine, featured a dazzling and emotionally powerful line-up of presenters this year, including Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko* and a National Book Award finalist. **Many of GrubStreet's students continue to publish novels, memoirs, short stories, and essays after honing their work in our classes.** Here are a few of many recent successes: former student, current instructor and board member Jenn De Leon's forthcoming young adult novel *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*; Novel Incubator graduate Rachel Barenbaum's *The Measure of Time*; and Novel Incubee Susan Bernhard's *Winter Loon*. Other examples include former student Mira (Tien-Yi) Lee's novel *Everything Here is Beautiful*, as well as Catherine Guthrie's forthcoming memoir *Flat: Reclaiming My Body from Cancer*.

Brookview House homeless program

With your support, GrubStreet's creative writing classes have become a regular part of the program for homeless women and teens in the Brookview House in Dorchester. Over the past six months alone, we have held two six-week series of classes for the teens and two for the adults, serving 105 women and teens. Program participants come from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Sudan, and Colombia, and they speak English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, and Arabic. **Our program uses creative writing and storytelling as a means for facilitating self-expression, cultivating familiarity with the writing process, building trust within the group, and reducing the stress and anxiety of living in poverty.**



A Narrative Arts Center

GrubStreet is working to build a major storytelling center for Boston, in partnership with Harvard Bookstore and Mass Poetry. If we secure cultural/civic-use space in the Seaport, we will reach new heights in accessible and dynamic programming. **The 13,000 square-foot space** (more than 3 times our current space) would **house more classrooms, a writer's stage for performances, bookstore and café, and a community lounge.** It would not only allow GrubStreet to stay in Boston and thrive, but would allow us to bring many more people from every community, age, racial and cultural background, and income together to share stories and connect. We will keep you posted as this plan goes forward.

YOUTH

Transformational growth in Young Adult Writers Program

Over 500 young writers poured their hearts and imaginations onto the page at Grub last year, with 75% supported by scholarships and fully-subsidized programming. 50% were teens of color, as compared to 21% in 2016. We expect to serve at least 625 teens in 2018 and 675 in 2019. Exciting new programs include fully-subsidized neighborhood classes on spoken word held in the Mattapan library, as well as podcasting classes in the central Boston Public Library.

Our new partnership with Sociedad Latina brings creative writing programs to Latino/a/x teens in the Mission Hill/Roxbury area. And your support has dramatically increased funding for transportation and food for teens, to ensure access and create a more equal and communal environment.



Teen Fellowship stronger than ever

Our fully-subsidized three-week summer program brings together **20 advanced young writers from different economic, cultural, and racial backgrounds**, so they can hone their writing and learn about each other's lives. Over the last year, we've developed deeper relationships with high schools that serve low-income students and students of color to encourage applications from students who might not otherwise consider applying. We also always work to have a group with a variety of backgrounds racially and economically. This year, 148 young people applied, an increase of 25% over last year. Of 20 students chosen, 50% are low income, 35% LGBTQ or questioning, 75% new to GrubStreet, 70% in need of transportation assistance, and 65% youth of color.

Two of the teen fellows from 2017 received full college scholarships; they used their experience in the Teen Fellowship as part of their application materials and their interviews.

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I love the summer youth programs, especially YAWP, and I wish I'd had something like GrubStreet when I was a teen! -**Elisabeth Carter**, writer and donor

GrubStreet

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2018 GrubStreet Report

I support GrubStreet because it's a wonderfully diverse group of people united by a love of good writing. If you need financial assistance, it's there. If you need encouragement - and who doesn't - it's there. Your support creates tangible results - in the books and essays published, not to mention the courage, empathy, and meaning shared. When you give to GrubStreet, you make a difference - for yourself, for Boston, maybe even the world. -**Mameve Medwed**, donor and novelist



Thank you for helping us all imagine
and write a better future.

Thank you for reducing barriers so that all aspiring writers can find
a home at GrubStreet and share their stories with the world.