

All New! Write the Future

Fall 2019 Update

Your contributions to the GrubStreet community bring more creative joy and meaningful connections to Boston and the world.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



ACCESS • EXCELLENCE • YOUTH

Young writers taking it to the next level

Teens at GrubStreet are courageous, passionate, and intensely inventive. When they come together with other young writers to delve into their experiences, to polish a piece, to help another teen – their self-confidence grows tremendously. This year, the teens in our advanced summer program performed their brave work to wild applause at the Boston Athenaeum. We also launched a new fellowship for young writers interested in working in the arts (WITA fellowship). This program trained four teen writers to help teach other teens, work with staff to keep GrubStreet going strong, and learn how arts nonprofits do their magic. One of the fellows was the primary organizer for a week-long series for young people who have experienced homelessness. The fellows received stipends, T-passes, and on-the-job training.



I learned so much about how an organization runs and how to work on a team. I learned how to deal with sensitive issues to help students and community members. I learned how to manage my time and projects and how to get things done outside of a school environment where everyone tells you what to do when, all the time. – Sarah Gordon, Poet & 2019 WITA Fellow





More scholarships

In 2018, you helped us provide over \$125,000 in support to students through 327 scholarships. By the end of 2019, your support will provide over \$150,000 in scholarships to 400 writers. Already this year, we've provided 44 scholarships to teens, 190 scholarships to adults, and 54 scholarships to writers who needed support to attend the Muse conference. Thank you!

Homeless teens: your voice matters

Your commitment provides one-of-a-kind programs for homeless teens and women. Our classes at the Brookview House offer writing as a tool to work through traumatic experiences and imagine different futures. In August, we added an intensive week-long program for 23 teens who have already been working with us. The teens, aged 12 -19, started the week by writing about who they are, what's important to them, and who they want to be. They created masks that told the story of who the world sees and what they know about themselves and then shared that exploration with the larger group. They also worked on collaborative group poems, painted, created films, and visited other arts groups in Boston (including Urbano), to explore and to claim their city.



Poetry-meets-ukelele at Write Down the Street

As you know, Write Down the Street is GrubStreet's neighborhood program, reaching over 400 adult students and 200 teens a year in low-income neighborhoods of Mattapan, Egleston Square, and East Boston. This program is in partnership with the Boston Public Library. On July 13, students performed at the annual student showcase. One student blended song with dramatic narration while reciting her essay about Frederick Douglass' separation from his mother. Another serenaded the crowd with a poetry-meets-ukulele performance. Most of the pieces performed were worked on in classes in response to prompts and exercises.



“My career as a writer has been going extremely well and I have GrubStreet to thank for all your support, especially the Boston Writers of Color group. The BWoC group has attended my author signings, promoted workshops that I've led, and celebrated my wins, which I truly appreciate. - [Nakia Hill](#)”

Boston Writers of Color group retreat and tribute

The Boston Writers of Color group, supported by GrubStreet, now has over 2,000 members. In August, the group joined our Write Down the Street program to host a day-long writing retreat at the GrubStreet headquarters. In addition, your generosity helped us subsidize submission fees for anyone submitting work for publication that day. Earlier this month, the group collaborated with Egleston Square Main Street and Brown Girl Book Lover blog to host a reading to honor the work of the incomparable [Toni Morrison](#). Members of the group shared their favorite Toni Morrison passages and their own work at Egleston Square Peace Garden.

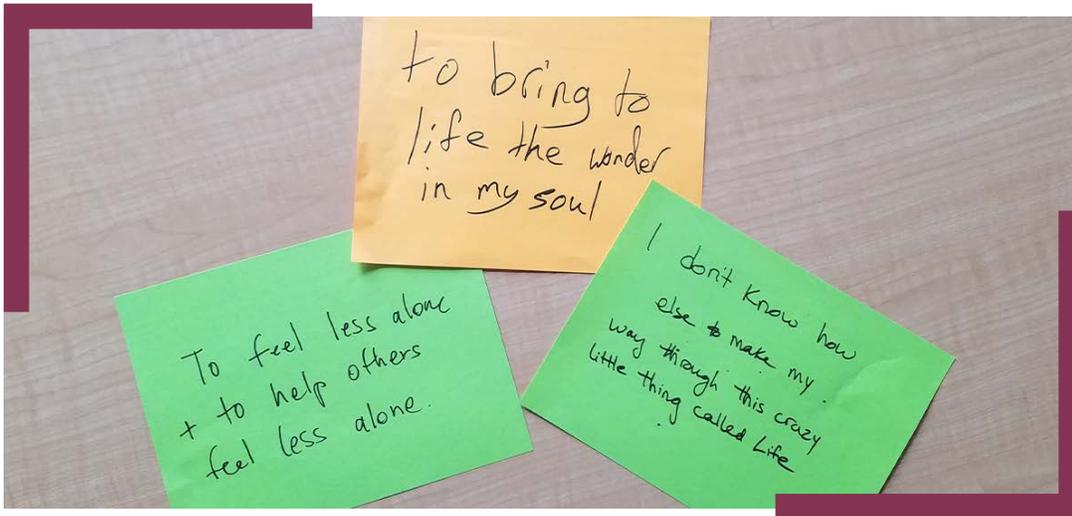
A Muse keynote not to miss

With your support, the Muse and the Marketplace Conference will once again bring together nearly 1,000 writers eager to inspire each other. We're delighted to let you know that the keynote speaker for the 2020 conference (April 3-5 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel) will be [Viet Thanh Nguyen](#). His novel *The Sympathizer* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. His other books include *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award), *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*, and the short story collection, *The Refugees*. As Nguyen writes, "Through reading and writing, through identifying with characters who are nothing like us, we who love words learn to love others."



A new home for GrubStreet: shelter, protect, nourish, and embolden

Plans for GrubStreet's new lasting home on the waterfront are well underway. Construction of the space will begin later this fall with the opening scheduled for late spring 2020. In September, we hosted a public preview of the space, featuring Mayor Walsh, who said the city is excited that GrubStreet's center will promote voices from every part of Boston. In the first-ever writing activity in our new home, community members shared their hopes for the much larger center, including that it can "shelter, protect, nourish, and embolden writers." Others wrote about what drives them to write:



Behind the scenes, we're working to make GrubStreet's new home as inclusive and accessible as possible. We recently held a meeting with students who offered ideas about how to go beyond ADA requirements to support the greatest possible accessibility, helping our design team as they finalize plans. We're grateful to everyone in the community for your support, ideas, and feedback. Please get in touch with **Kat Read** at kat@grubstreet.org for more information about the space and ways to support the new home.

Sixty-five books and counting . . .

An awe-inspiring 65 books will have been published by members of the GrubStreet community during 2018 and 2019, and that list continues to grow. The authors are students, members, instructors, staff, and board. GrubStreet community members have also published many short stories, essays, op-eds, and poems during this two-year period. Thank you for helping to support these writers through scholarships, mentorship by instructors, Write Down the Street neighborhood classes, and participation in the Muse and the Marketplace Conference.

