



GrubStreet

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GrubStreet.org

Thank you for helping GrubStreet register excitement about the prospect of a Narrative Arts Center in Boston. Here's how you can help.

Tweets of support

Share your excitement for a Narrative Arts Center by advocating and spreading the word on social media. **Use hashtag #BostonNarrativeCenter in your tweets. Here are sample tweets** to consider:

Other cities have literary venues. Boston deserves one, too. Help us create Boston's first narrative arts/storytelling center for everyone. ow.ly/u5x530jbmBw Ways to advocate ow.ly/xcnB30jbmFR #BostonNarrativeCenter

GrubStreet, @masspoetry, & @HarvardBooks are setting out to build the City's first narrative arts/storytelling center ow.ly/u5x530jbmBw Want to make #BostonNarrativeCenter a reality? Here are ways to advocate ow.ly/xcnB30jbmFR

A letter of support

Write a letter of support addressed to Boston Planning and Development Agency and 50 Liberty LLC. The letter should explain why you are personally supportive of this idea and talk about the impact GrubStreet has had on your life as a student, instructor, community partner, or writer or the impact you see in the city and even nationally. Letters can be sent to Alyssa Mazzarella at alyssa@grubstreet.org. We're collecting them to send over in a bundle.

Calls and emails to the city officials

City Hall

If you live in Boston, call and/or email your city councilor and the members on the Arts, Culture and Special Events Committee: Kim Janey, Michelle Wu, Timothy McCarthy,



Matt O'Malley, Josh Zakim, and Council President Andrea Campbell. [Find their emails here.](#)

If you don't live in Boston, please email or call the councilor members on the Arts, Culture and Special Events Committee: Kim Janey, Michelle Wu, Timothy McCarthy, Matt O'Malley, Josh Zakim, at-large city councilors, and Council President Andrea Campbell. [Find their emails here.](#)

The Office of Arts and Culture

Julie Burros, Chief of Arts and Culture

julie.burros@boston.gov

617-635-3911

Mayor's Office

Marty Walsh

mayor@boston.gov

617- 635-4500

Showing up at the Public Meeting

All finalists will be presenting to the public on April 30th at 5:30 at District Hall. If you are able to come out and support us (it really matters!), please [submit your contact info here.](#)

Talking Points you might use in your advocacy if you choose

1. Visual and performing arts (dance, theater, music) organizations in Boston have venues, but the narrative arts do not -- despite our strength and success as a sector. The narrative arts have been an authentic and key cultural asset in Boston since our earliest days, but we are marginalized in the greater arts community when it comes to



profile, funding, and voice. Other cities -- many with lower profiles -- boast venues for reading and writing.

2. There's a serious cultural equity problem in Boston. We have long been committed to helping to solve that problem and look forward to deepening this work with the additional resources and profile of a Narrative Arts Center.

We are committed to equity and access for people of all backgrounds, income levels and ages, from teens to those in their 90s. We work to break down barriers of racism and discrimination to ensure that our programs serve and advocate for people of color from every Boston community and beyond, low-income people from every community, and immigrants speaking many languages, LGBTQ people, and people with a range of disabilities. 50% of teen students at GrubStreet are students of color. Approximately 35% are low-income. Over 60% of students in our neighborhood classes are writers of color. We offer free programming and have a robust scholarship program which provides access to every program we offer.

We are committed to lifting up voices and providing opportunities for writers from marginalized communities. We host a **growing writers of group** to provide support and networking, now with over 400 members from Boston. Our website features series that address pressing issues of race and equity. These include a series called "Immigrant Stories," as well as "Writing and Publishing as a Person of Color." Our Muse and the Marketplace writers conference highlights issues facing writers of color through many panels and workshops, as well as a track especially for writers of color. We convene editors, agents, and authors to build diverse publishing networks and to address issues of equity.

We are committed to **ensuring that writing classes reach all communities, and specifically hosting classes in low-income neighborhoods in Boston. We provide bilingual classes in Spanish and Haitian Creole.** GrubStreet's writing classes in low-income neighborhoods are held in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. We are about to start a class in East Boston. Many of our classes are bilingual in Spanish/English. We are starting a Haitian Creole/English class in Mattapan. These classes are fully subsidized by GrubStreet so students can take them at no cost. We hold classes for teens as well as adults. **We hold writing classes for homeless women and teens in Boston.** We do this in partnership



with The Brookview House, a program to transition women and teens to permanent housing and better lives. **We are starting a new partnership with Sociedad Latina**, to work with Latino/a teens in the Mission Hill/Roxbury area on writing overall, as well as creative writing.

We are committed to hiring and presenting writers of color.

44% of our staff are people of color.

37% of presenters – editors, agents, authors -- at our annual conference, the Muse and the Marketplace, are people of color

3. The bookstore that will go on the first floor of the narrative arts space will provide an exciting resource for communities in Boston. There is growing demand for more bookstores -- and even though retail is suffering, independent bookstores are thriving. After a period of loss, new bookstores are opening up in the city again from Frugal Bookstore in Dudley Square to PaperCuts JP in Jamaica Plain. [Bookstores are emerging as](#) important places between home and work to convene and connect in meaningful ways with books at the center.

4. GrubStreet has grown into the largest creative writing center in the U.S., hosting 4,000 writing students of all ages and backgrounds per year in our central Boston location, in Boston's Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury neighborhoods, in Providence, RI, and online. Additionally, we host another 700+ writers, agents, editors and publishers at our annual writing and publishing conference. Employing over 100 local writers and partnering with other cultural organizations and the city on a regular basis, we are an anchor organization, essential to the cultural fabric of Boston, but very much at risk of being displaced.

5. Celebrating Boston's writing greatness with a stage will provide opportunities to hear exciting authors and new voices from all communities. Our peer organizations in cities like Seattle and Minneapolis have performance stages where they invite in and present the leading authors and emerging writers from across the country. We'd be able to do that; and, given the extraordinary success of our students and instructors, we'd also be able to highlight and celebrate the wealth of local writing talent in a way that will elevate and showcase Boston as a major literary powerhouse.

Additional reading: [Our Vision](#)

