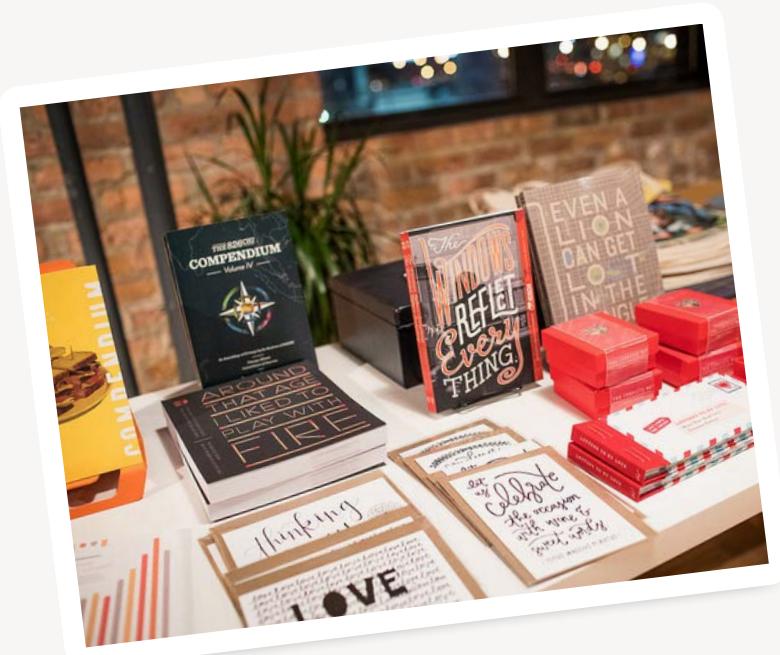




ANNUAL REPORT 2017

826chi is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative + expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write.





SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR



2507

students served



53

zip codes

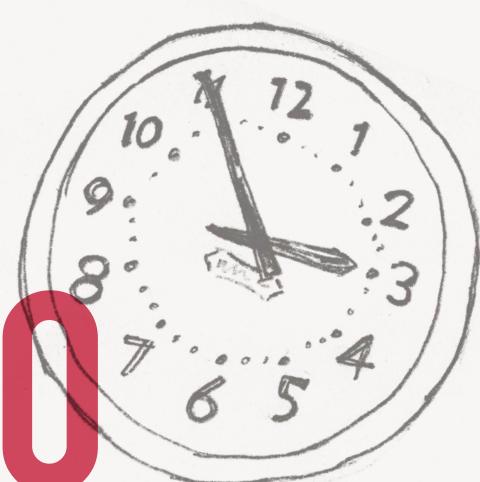


438

active volunteers

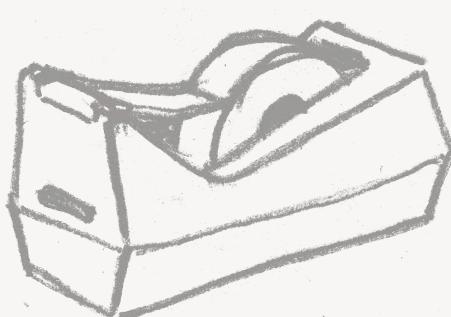
860

programming hours



75

teachers served



125

after-school tutoring & writing sessions

112

schools served



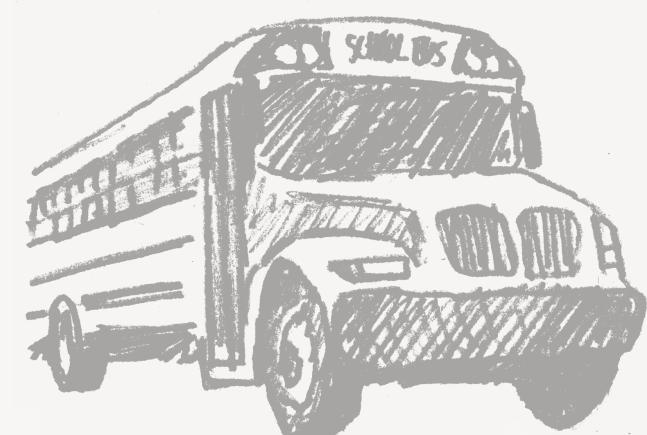
99

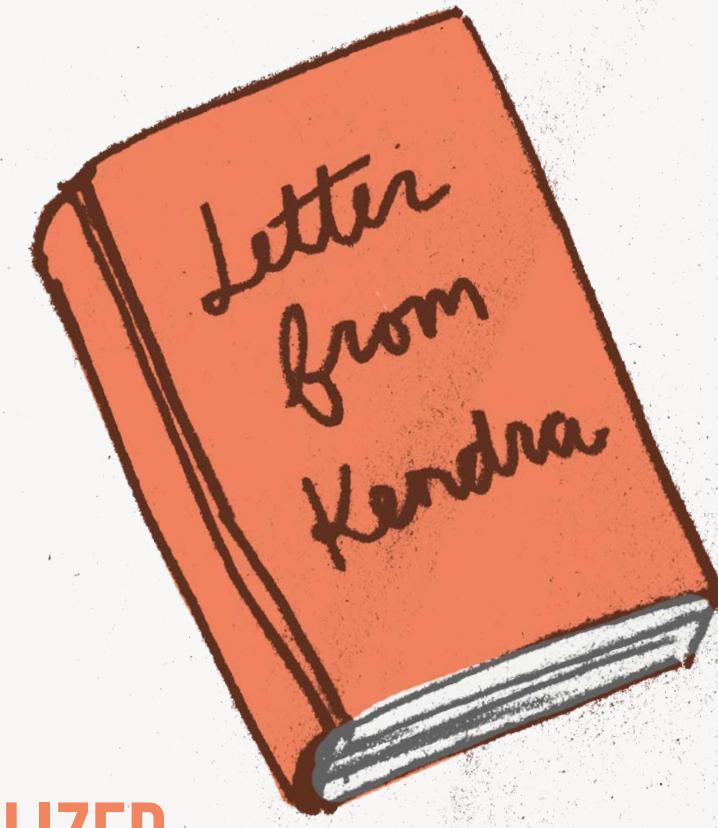
publications



78

field trips





LAST YEAR, WE PLANNED. THIS YEAR, WE ACTUALIZED.

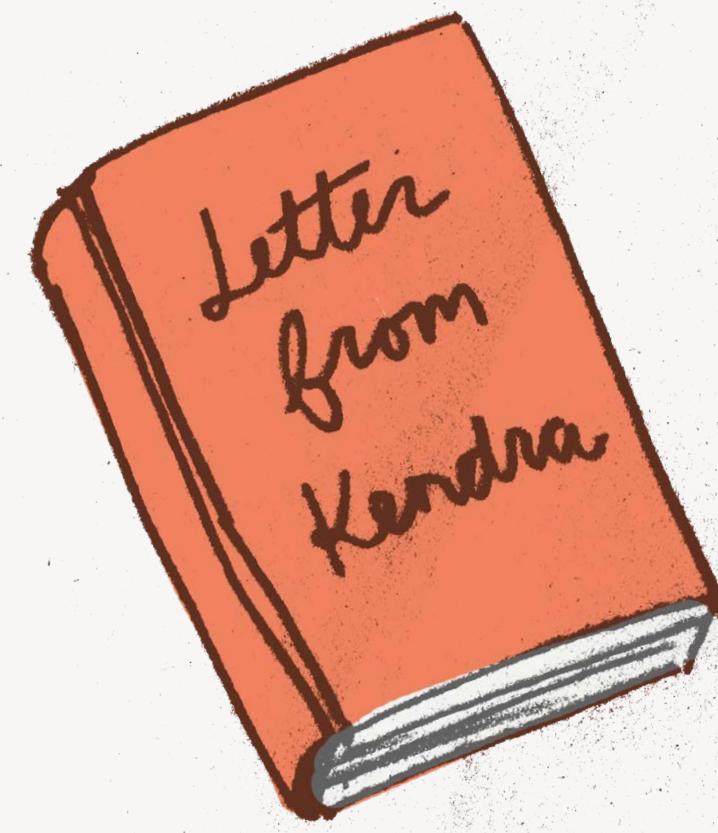
As we move through our second decade, 826CHI is guided by the vision set forth in our 2020 strategic plan. After months of visioning, dreaming, and many rounds of revision, we are confident that this three-year plan will lead 826CHI forward, amplifying Chicago's bright young voices in neighborhoods across our great city.

The political climate of the year has had a profound effect on the work that we do and the communities we serve. In the midst of political upheaval, Chicago Public Schools had its own troubles. Millions of dollars in budget cuts were announced at the beginning and middle of the school year. These events made us reexamine the ways we can support Chicago students.

We listened closely to our community of students, parents, teachers, and volunteers, weaving new elements of support and engagement into our work. We held community info sessions on immigrant rights. We established a bus transportation fund to reimburse schools unable to afford bussing students to our writing center for programs. We built stronger partnerships with organizations working in neighborhoods across the city. We deepened our commitment to providing English Language Learners, low-income families, and under-resourced schools fair access to high-quality arts education. We expanded our team through hiring additional AmeriCorps VISTAs and staff, and by launching our first Teaching Artist cohort. Through these and a myriad of future-focused decisions, our capacity to serve students and build community increased measurably.



Annual Report 2017



This year of building has equipped 826CHI with clearly defined vision and a renewed commitment to arts education equity; we move into the new school year aiming to serve 55% more students while strengthening our relationships across Chicago. Planning for expansion is no longer a daydream, it's a tangible next step forward.



No one can predict the future of our schools, our city or our country. What we do know is that the 826CHI community will always stand up for Chicago students, their incredible stories, and their right to tell them proudly and boldly.

For that, we remain deeply grateful.

Warmly,

KENDRA CURRY-KHANNA
executive director



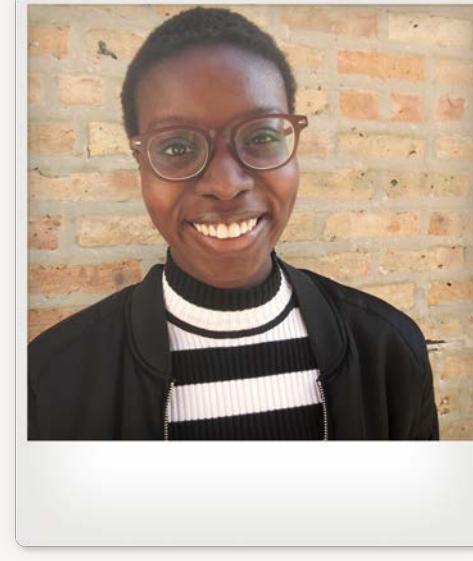
Annual Report 2017



Sankhya Amaravadi
Data Coordinator



Kendra Curry-Khanna
Executive Director



Ola Faleti
Development
Coordinator



Gaby FeBland
Creative Retail
Coordinator



Waringa Hunja
Publications
Coordinator



Melissa Kirk
Volunteer
Coordinator



Sarah Kokernot
Program
Coordinator



David Pintor
Volunteer
Manager



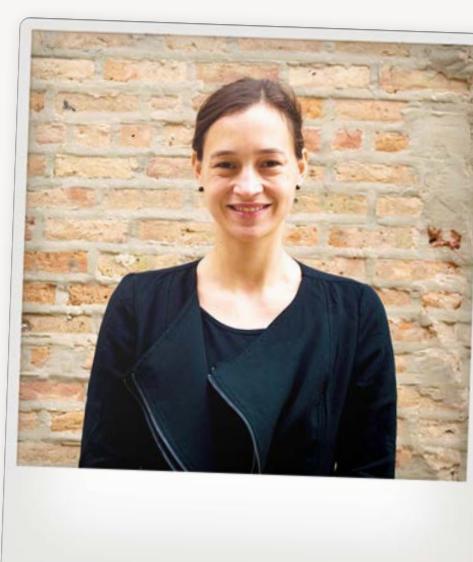
Jane Serenska
Communications
Coordinator



Molly Sprayregen
Program
Coordinator



Tyler Stoltenberg
Operations Manager



Stien van der Ploeg
Director of
Development



Maria Villarreal
Director of Programs



2016-17 STAFF



Kendra Curry-Khanna

Executive Director

Ola Faleti

Data Coordinator

Gaby FeBland

Creative Retail Coordinator

Mike Hernandez

Communications Coordinator

Abi Humber

Publications & Communications Manager

Marty Kezon

Volunteer Coordinator

Sarah Kokernot

Program Coordinator

Esther Lee

Data Coordinator

Molly Sprayregen

Program Coordinator

Tyler Stoltenberg

Operations Manager

Maria Villarreal

Director of Programs

Stien van der Ploeg

Director of Development

Tracy Woodley

Development Coordinator

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Anthony Malcoun

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Sameer Gadkaree

Treasurer

Christine Quinn

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Deirdra Lucas

Brenda Flores Gehani

Amy McKnight

Victor Giron

(Emeritus)

Sheila Patel

(Emeritus)

Ryan Hubbard

Gerald Richards

Daniel Kuruna

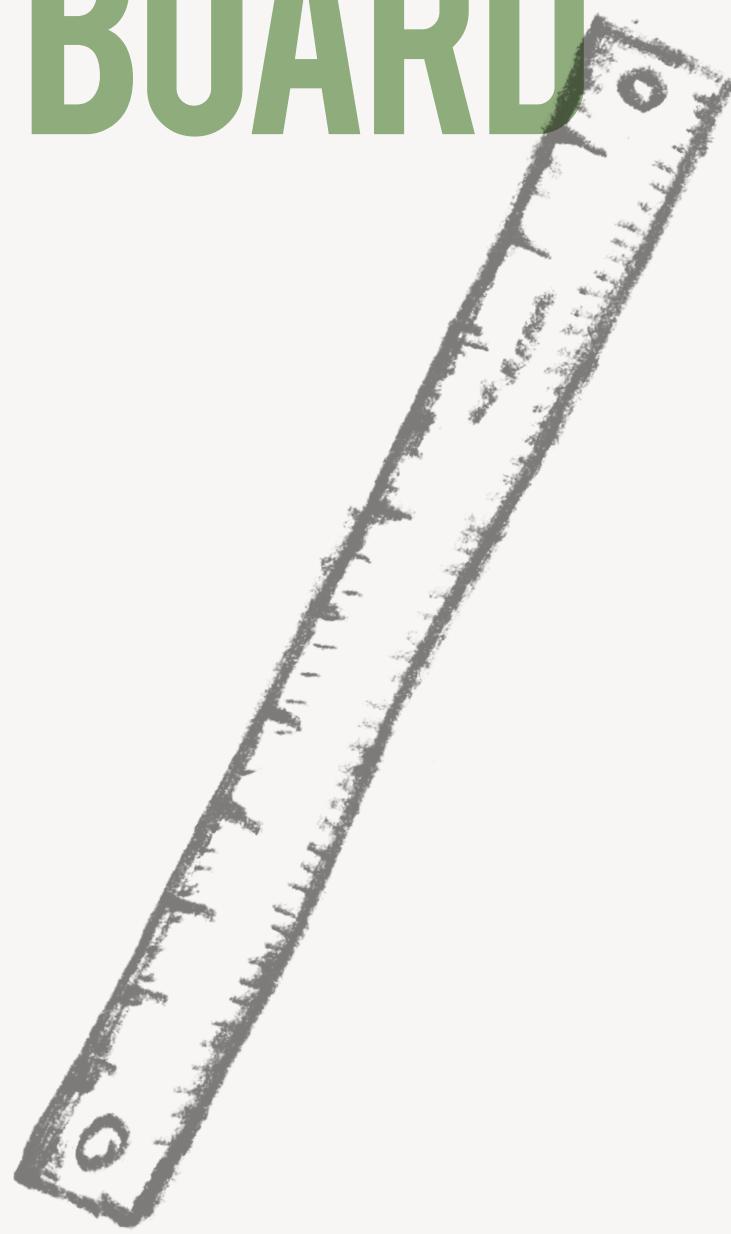
(Emeritus)

Hilary Ward

Jan Zasowski



2016-17 ASSOCIATE BOARD



Matthew Adelman (Emeritus)
Mary Baker
Rowan Beaird
Pashen Black
Gianna Canning
Corey Chan
Kara Deppe
Brendan Dineen
Shawn Gaines
Ali Galante (Emeritus)
Theodore Hahn
Kyli Herzberg
Adel Johnson
Kristopher Knabe (Emeritus)
Ashley Kolpak (Emeritus)
Melanie Krakauer
Rosemary Lane
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Jeffrey Levine
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Sam Mock
Natalie Salim
Heidi Schmid Whiting (Emeritus)
Kate Schriner
Matt Sudman
Nicholas Szczepanik (Emeritus)
Emma Terhaar
Savie Turner (Emeritus)
Libby Walker
Alissa Walkner
David Welch
Natalia Welch
Erin Windle
Stephen Wroblewski

INTERNS

Alexandra Alvarez-Bright
Amy Balmuth
Patrick Carey
Ivan Catudan
Camilla Chee
Emily Duong
Courtney Eathorne
Jessica Ferrer
Diana Fu
Olivia Gonzalez
Waringa Hunja

Victoria Johnson
Lara Jung
Marty Kezon
Kinsley Koons
Emily Lohman
Brianna Loomis
Alexandra Lorez Boone
Lily MacFaydian
Trisha Mahoney
Shay McIntosh

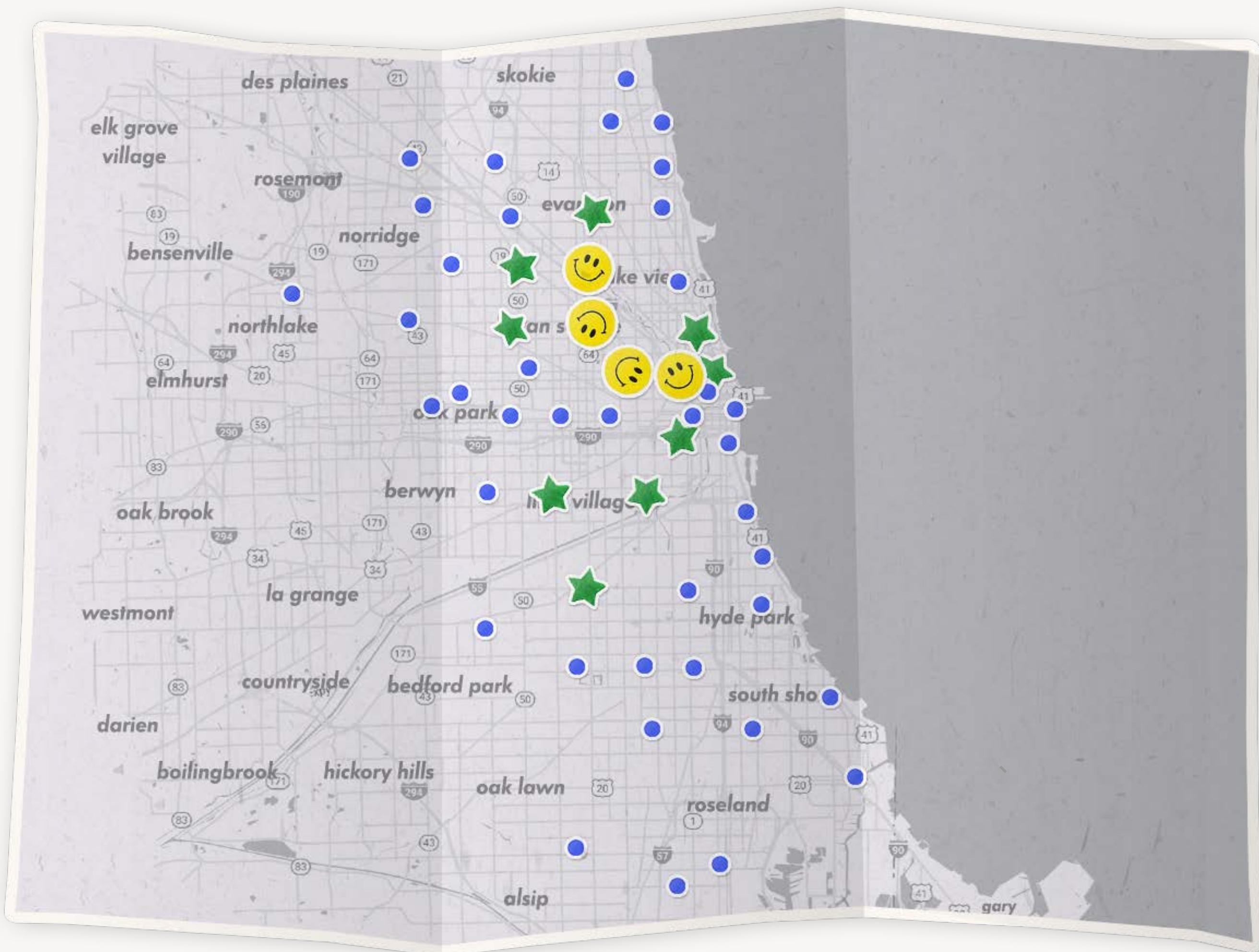
Mercury Rivera
Jazmine Rodriguez
Ariel Robinson
Lilly Scheerer
Samantha Scheib
Connor Shioshita Pickett
Lawrence Silveira
Peter Smyth
Mahalia Sobhani
Tiffany Wong



Annual Report 2017



High concentrations of schools and students served by 826CHI are in the West Town, Irving Park, Archer Heights, and Lower West Side neighborhoods.



key



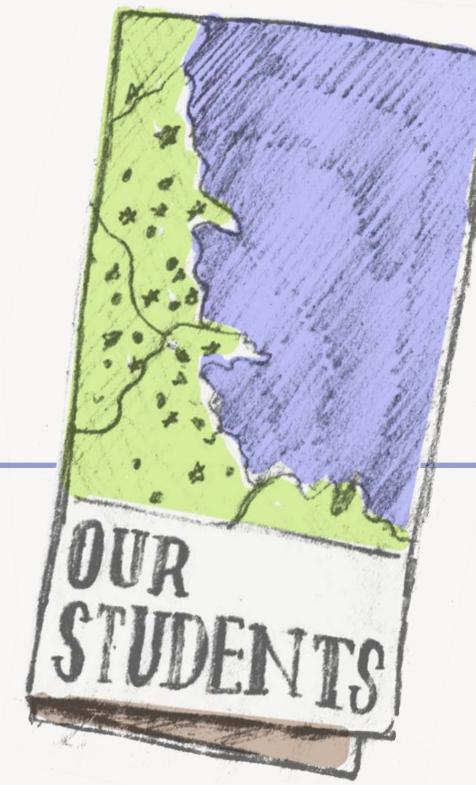
20+ STUDENTS



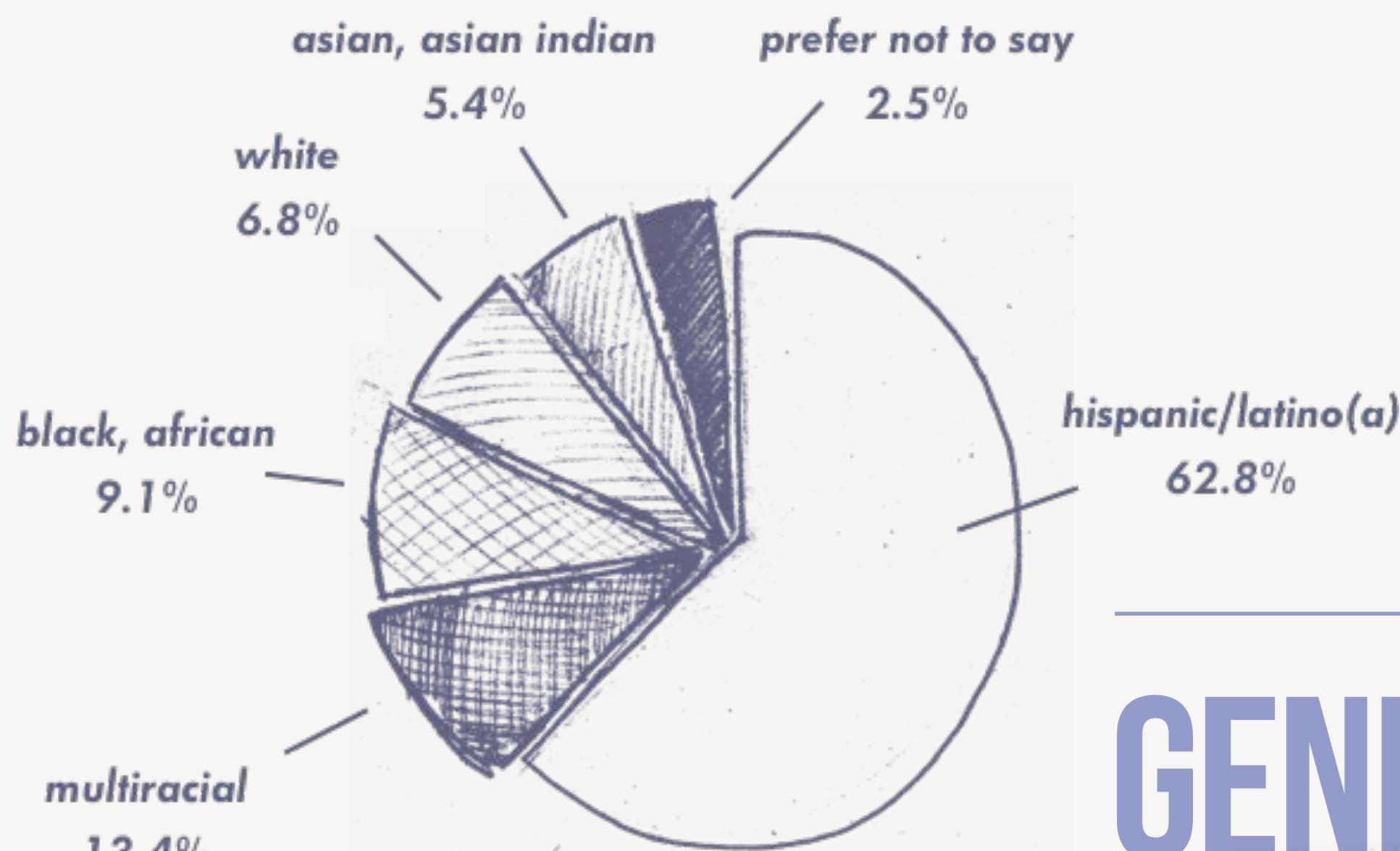
20- STUDENTS



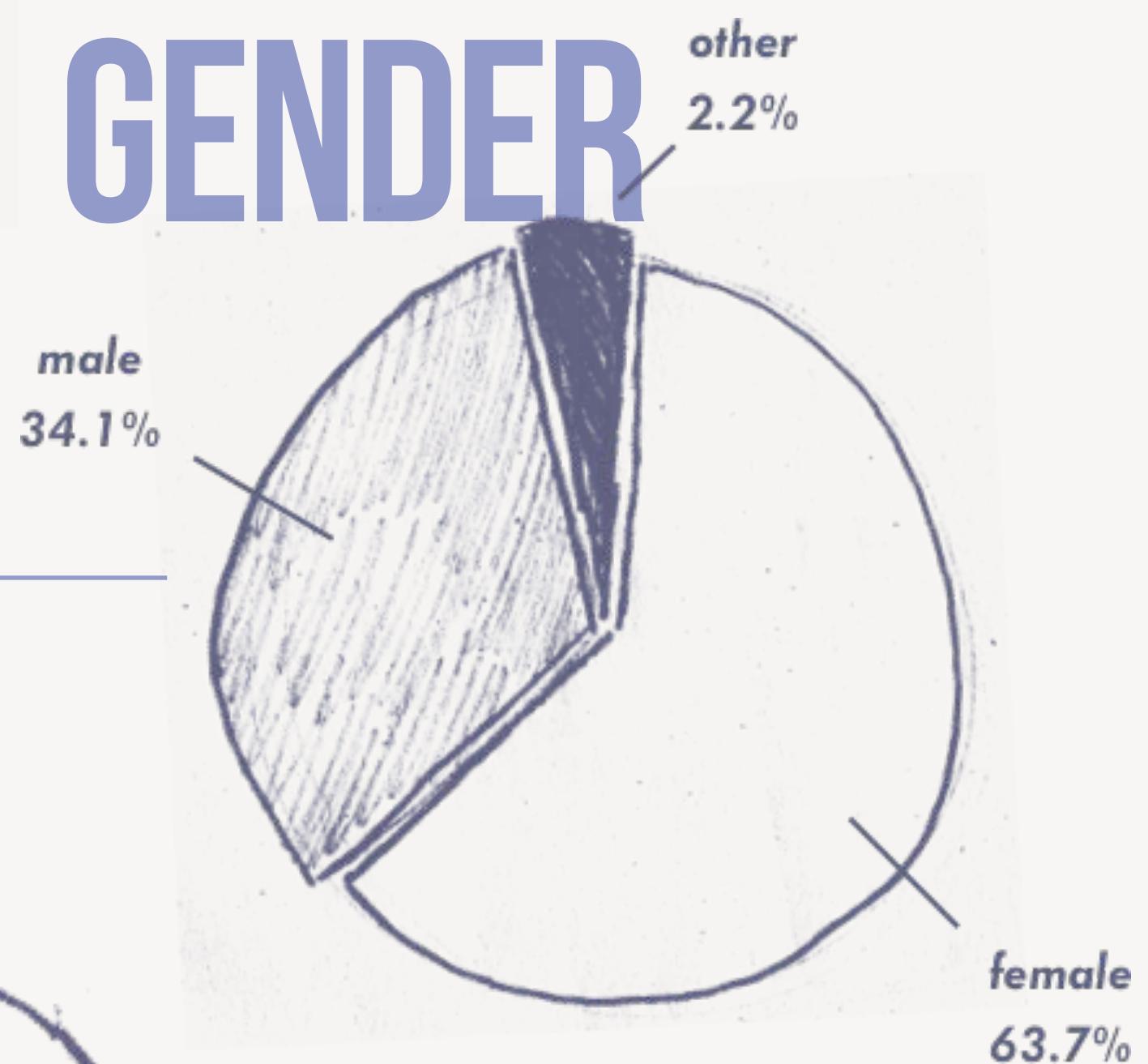
10- STUDENTS



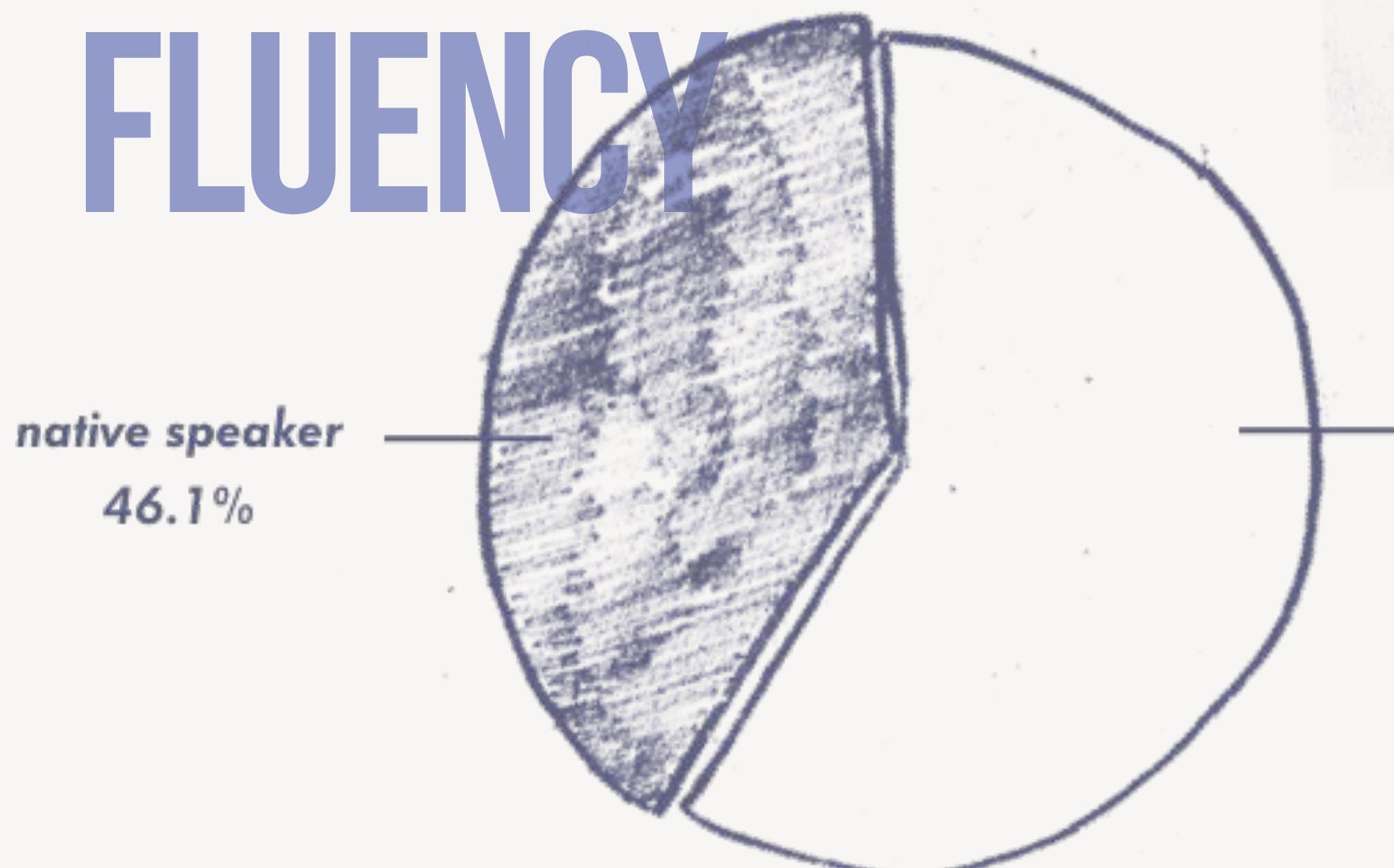
RACE



GENDER



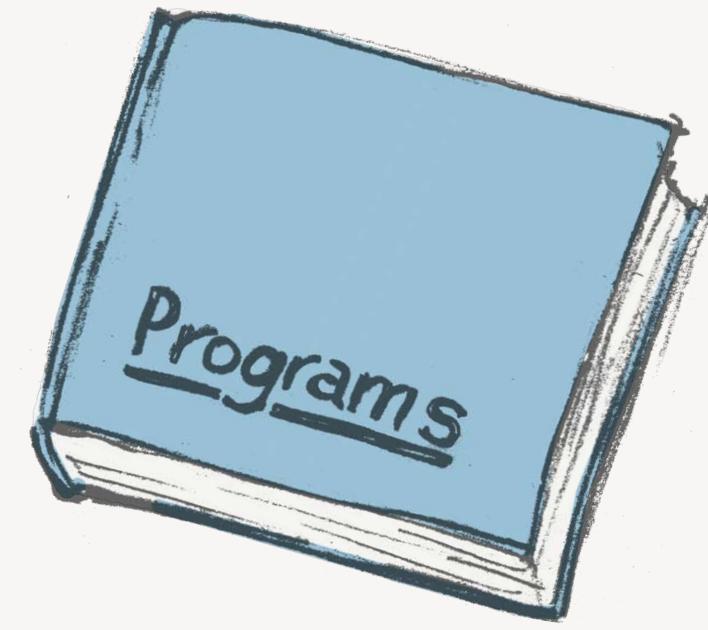
ENGLISH FLUENCY





Annual Report 2017

826CHI offers free, year-round distinctive writing programs for Chicago students. Our After School Tutoring & Writing, Field Trips, Workshops and In-Schools programs engaged 2,507 students from 53 zipcodes across the city. We are committed to bridging gaps in access to high-quality art education across Chicago by prioritizing English language learners and students attending under-resourced schools. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to gain new insights and confidence in the power of their voices.

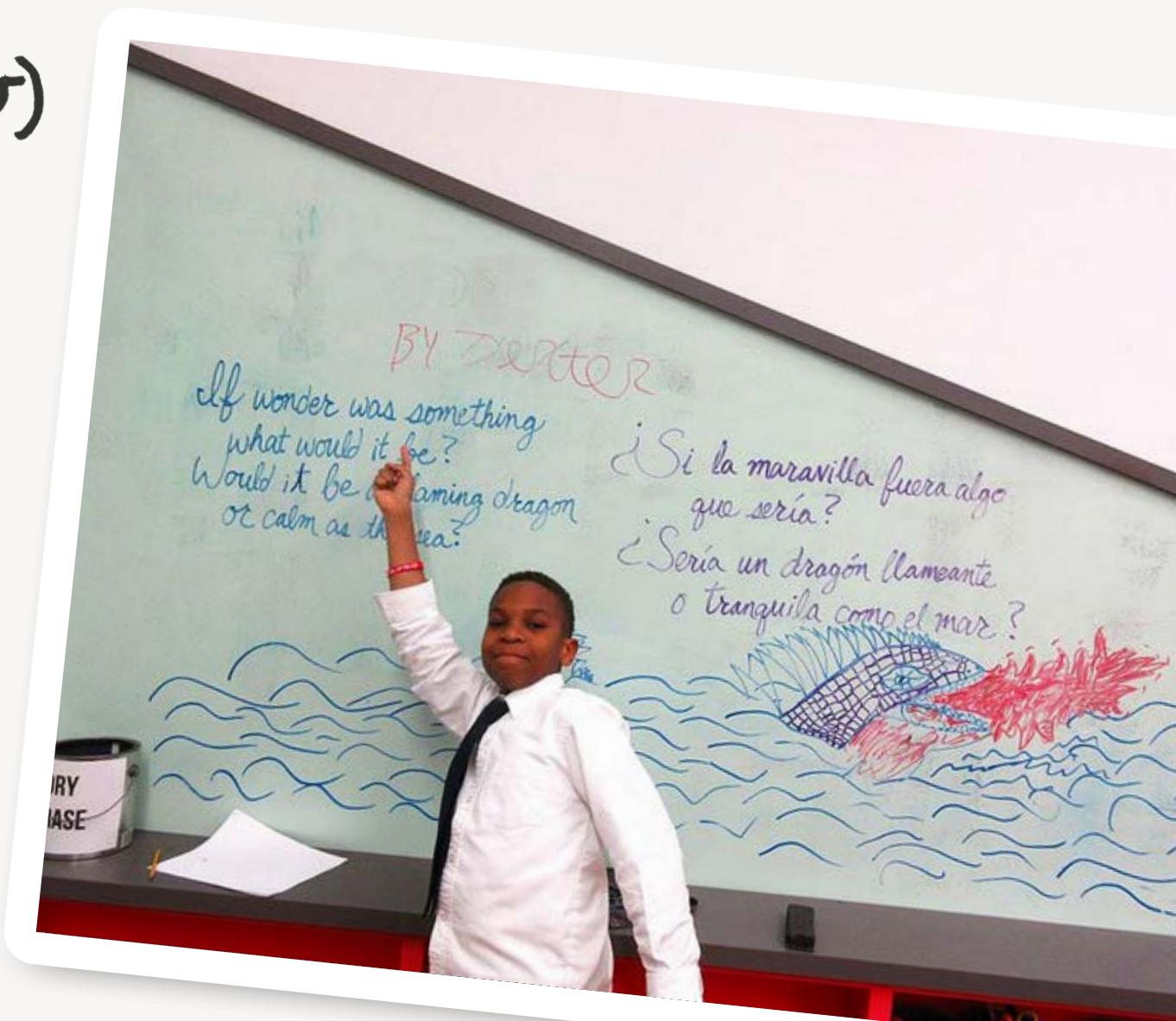


After-School Tutoring & Writing (ASTW)

100% of parents said that finishing schoolwork at 826 allowed their child to spend more quality time with family.

125 sessions **48 students** **21 schools**

From September to June, afternoons at our writing center are filled with students prepared to dive into writing prompts, finish their homework, and do some hula-hooping as a reward. Our faithful cohort of tutors are always on hand to help students with math homework and help them revise their writing. We launched the second year of our Speakers and Snacks program, where guests attend a 45-minute Q&A session from our students about their professions. Speakers this year included a sports commentator, professor and dog trainer. This year ASTW published two chapbooks and one audio project, all of which had individual community readings. For the final chapbook release, we were thrilled to integrate physical movement into the students' readings, courtesy of a partnership with the Dancers Awareness project (DAP).



"826 provides my children exposure to a different demographic where they meet new friends (and get to socialize also) from different backgrounds and practice writing skills in a fun way."

– Theresa, After-School Tutoring & Writing parent



Field Trips

98% of teachers said this experience has given them new ideas on how to approach writing in the classroom.

2060 students

78 field trips

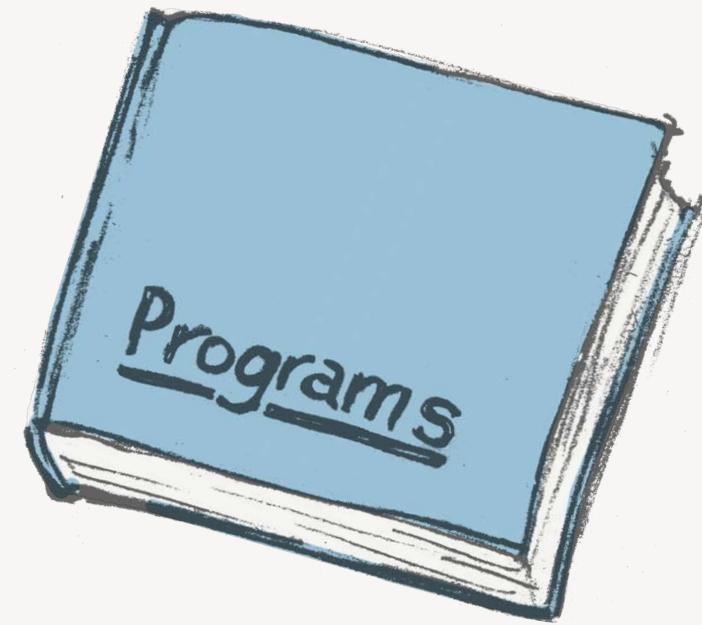
51 schools

During the school year, mornings at 826CHI are boisterous with visiting classrooms eager to create their own books. Our Field Trips expose students to the endless possibilities of creative writing, all while providing teachers with resources to bring our innovative pedagogy back to the classroom. Each Field Trip focuses on plot, character development, and writing with details. In 2016-2017, we welcomed nearly 80 classes of students from 1st through 12th grade. We offered four unique Field Trips: Storytelling & Bookmaking, Small Group Bookmaking, Images & Imagination, and Memoir Writing, each focused on building plot and rich description within a story. Storytelling & Bookmaking remains our most popular field trip, with students taking home their very own bound books. Some choice titles from our trips this year were *Mr. Monkey and His Dance Problem*, *The Adventures of Cheese Dude and Gramburger* and *I Remember...The Big Cannonball Splash*.



"You and your volunteers did a fantastic job, my students had such a great time and their love of writing is fully invigorated thanks to the enthusiasm and engagement of 826!"

– Jonathan, Teacher at Drummond Montessori



Workshops

95% of Workshop students said they are proud of their writing.

123 sessions

247 students

22 workshops

Coding, podcast-making and playwriting only skim the surface of our workshops. Each semester, dozens of 826CHI volunteers propose and teach workshops to 1-12th graders that go beyond the typical English class. Workshops explore the intersections of writing with other disciplines, teaching students that crafting compelling narratives is an essential element for future success in any field. 826CHI staff and volunteers led 22 workshops in 2016-2017. Highlights of the year include a cross-generational poetry workshop led by 826CHI staff and the UChicago Writers' Studio.



"My favorite [moment] was probably the first time we ever met, when I suddenly realized I had found other teens who really liked to write and thought that was really cool."

– London, 9th grade, Teen
Writers Studio student



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In-Schools

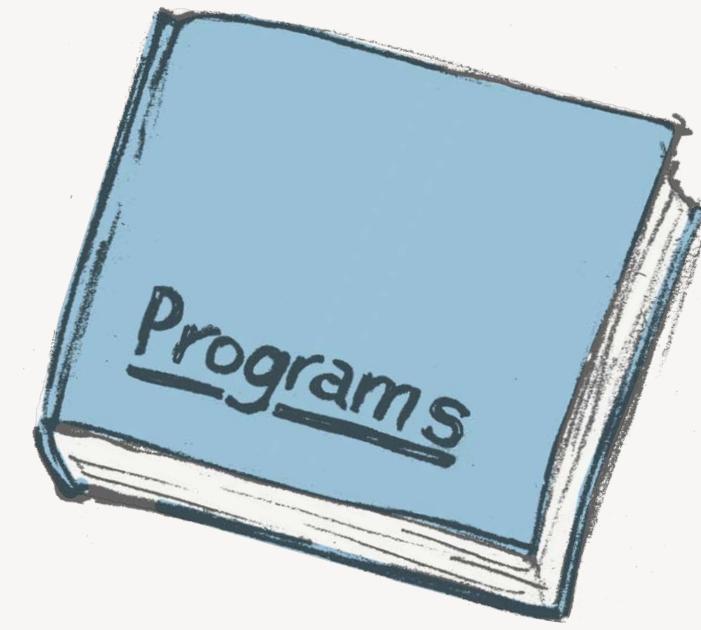
100% of In-Schools students said they learned new things about how to be a good writer.

153 students

59 sessions

4 schools

Every year 826CHI partners with local schools to provide classrooms with individualized, in-depth attention. Program staff work with classroom teachers to create curriculum that inspires, challenges and engages students. In 2016-2017 826CHI worked with four public schools. We facilitated a memoir-writing project at Prieto Elementary and continued our Digital Tutoring program at A.N. Pritzker School. Students from the other two schools—Emiliano Zapata Elementary and Roald Amundsen High School—maintained a year-long letter correspondence. These letters are documented in our Young Authors Book Project for the year, *PS: You Sound Like Someone I Can Trust*. A public reading in June gave students the chance to meet their letter-writing partners in person, for the very first time.



"I learned to find out who I am."

– Kunjame, 9th Grade
Amundsen HS



Annual Report 2017

Publishing

100% of In-Schools students said they learned new things about how to be a good writer.

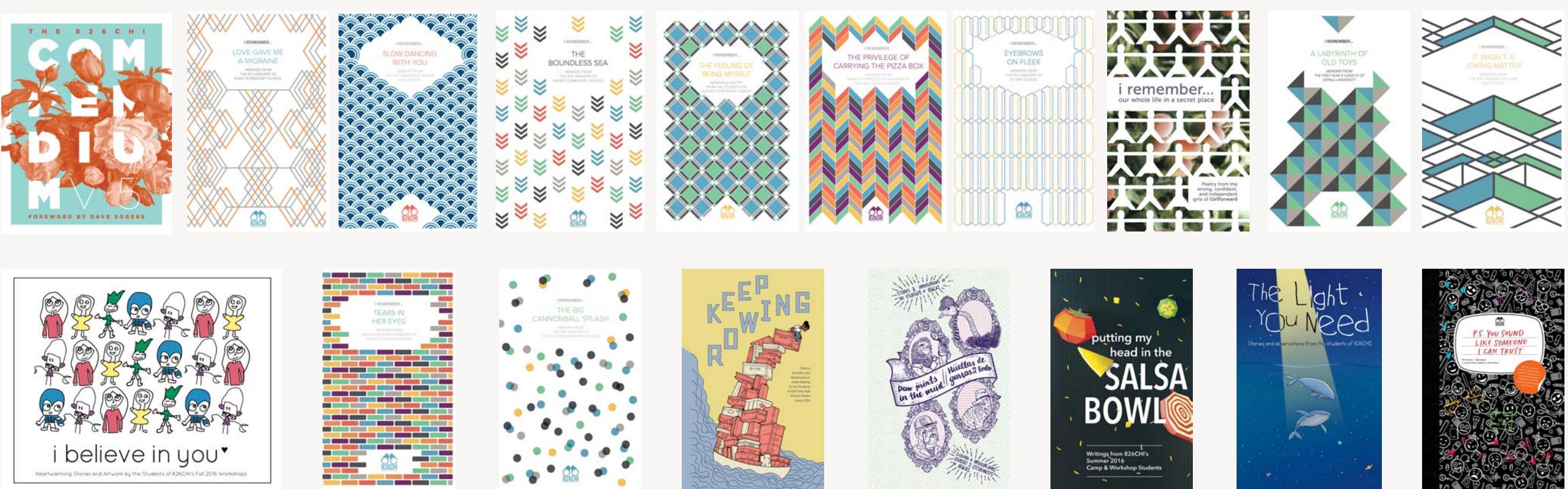
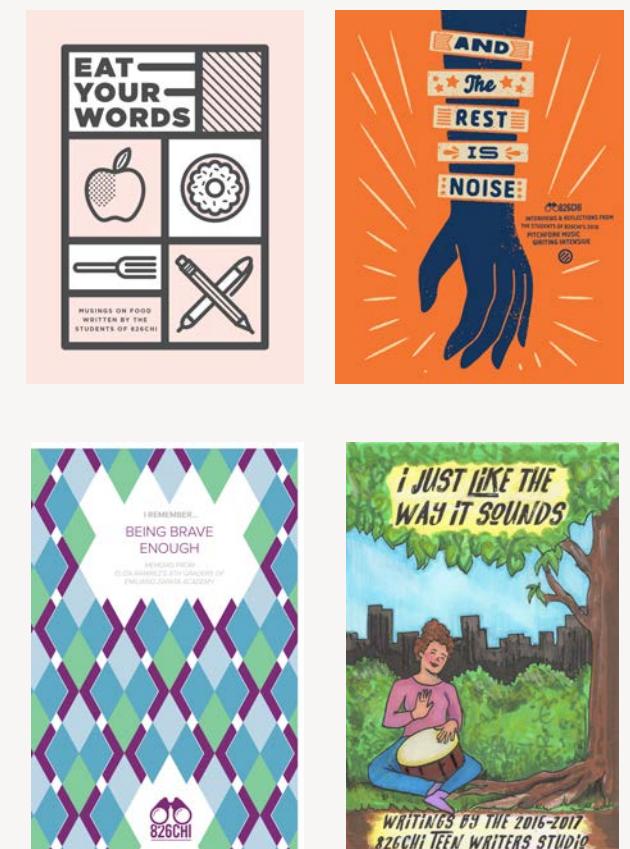
99 unique titles 2 professionally-bound publications 1 award-winning compendium

Publishing is a core tenet of all our programs—by publishing our young authors' work, we aim to foster their confidence, determination, and self-efficacy. No other organization publishes student writing at 826CHI's rate; this year we printed 40% more publications. That means 40% more binding, stapling, copy editing, designing, hair-wringing and ultimately, pride for our students! We couldn't have done it without the help of our Design Cohort and our brand-new Editing Cohort. The greater world is also noticing our students' stories. *P.S. You Sound Like Someone I Can Trust* received local and national press coverage, while *Compendium, Volume 5* won a whopping four Awards from PubWest and National Indie Excellence Book Awards.



"It feels awesome [to be published]! I feel like I've done a good job by writing my story that not only has a lot of meaning to me, but also to all of those Mexican immigrants that I am representing."

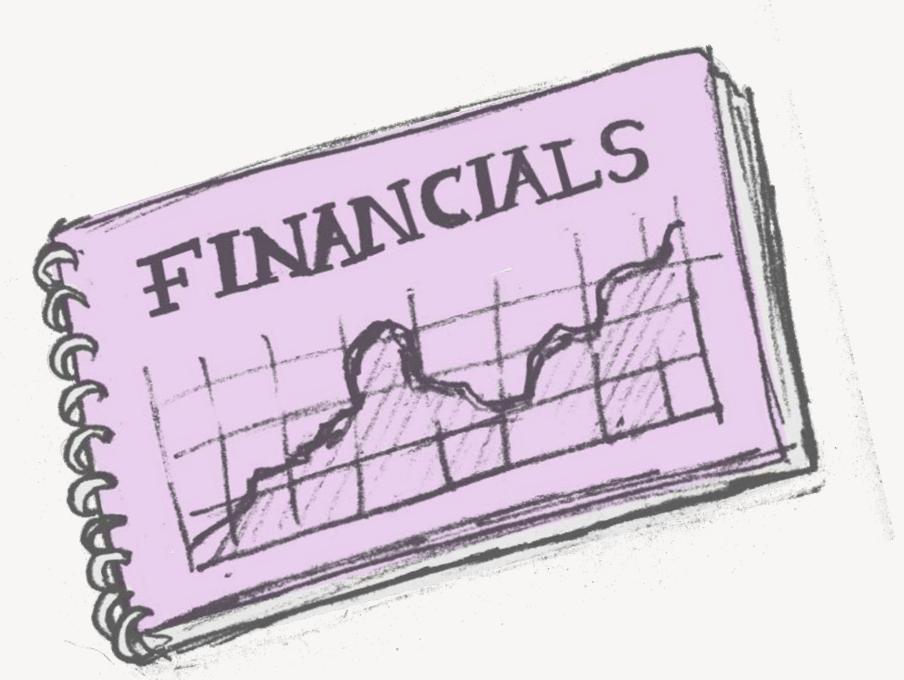
– Cithlaly, 8th Grade,
Emiliano Zapata Academy





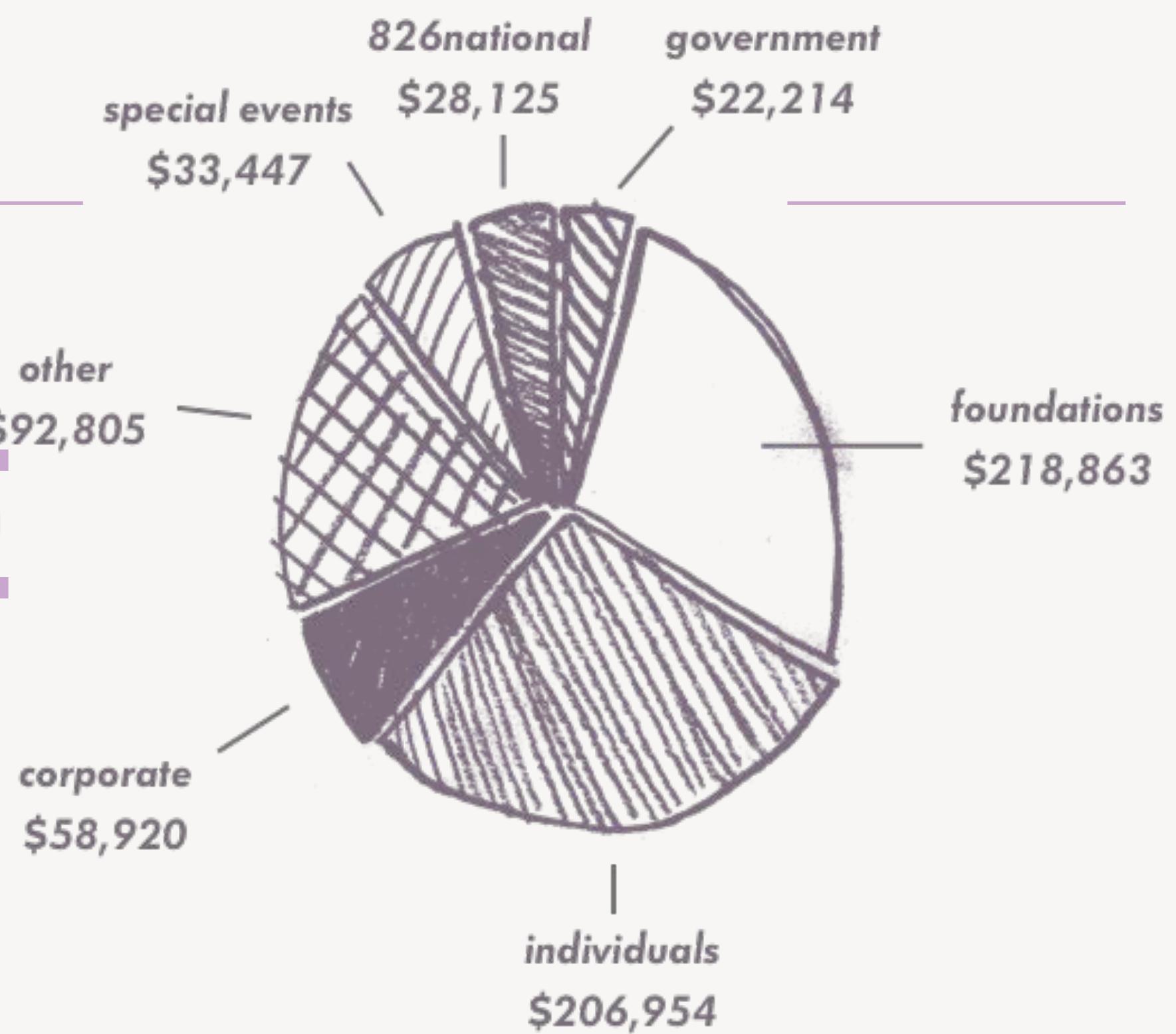
Annual Report 2017

The 826CHI fiscal year starts on July 1st.
This report covers our activities from July 1st,
2016 through June 30th, 2017.



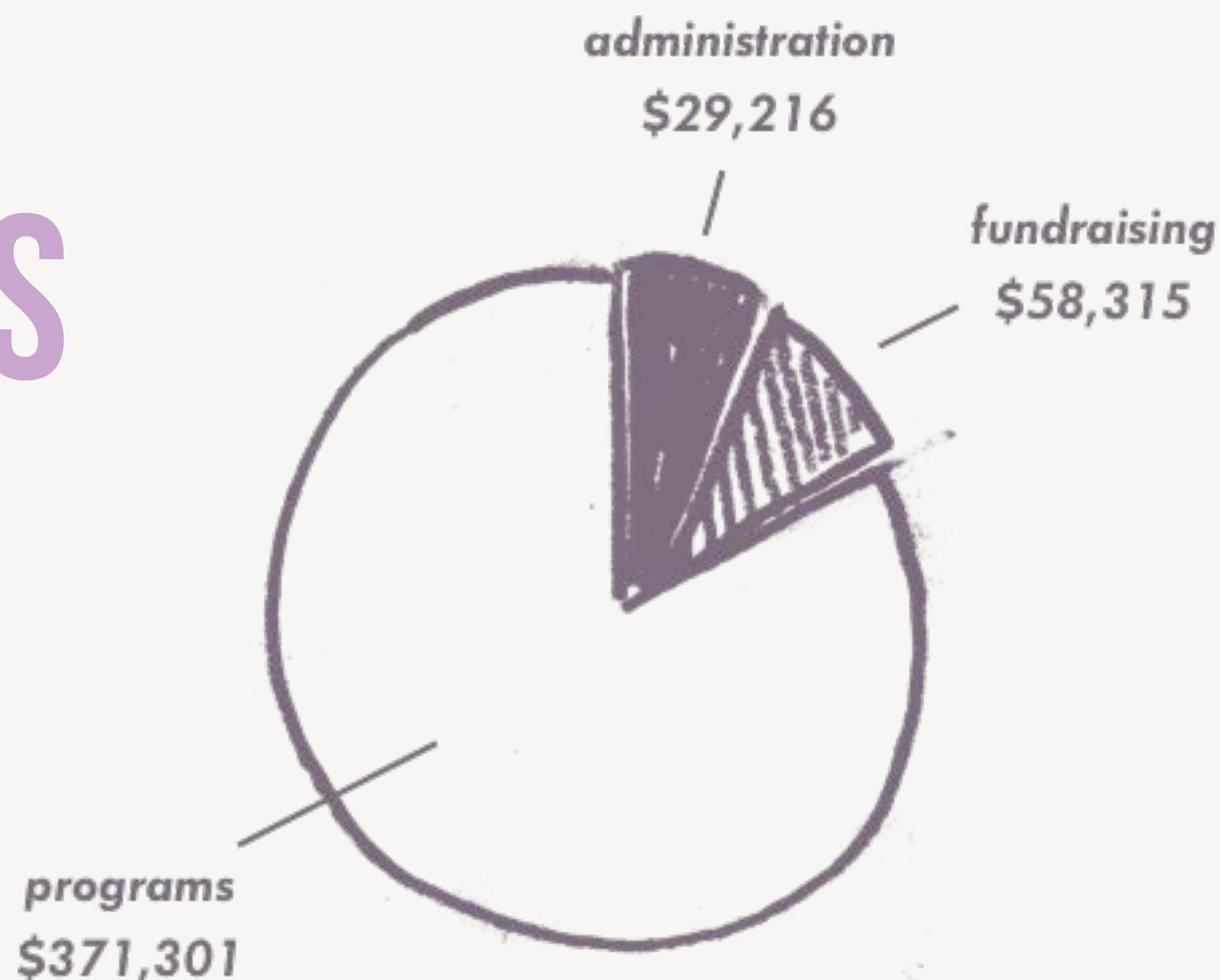
2017 REVENUE

TOTAL: \$661,329



2017 EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$558,832



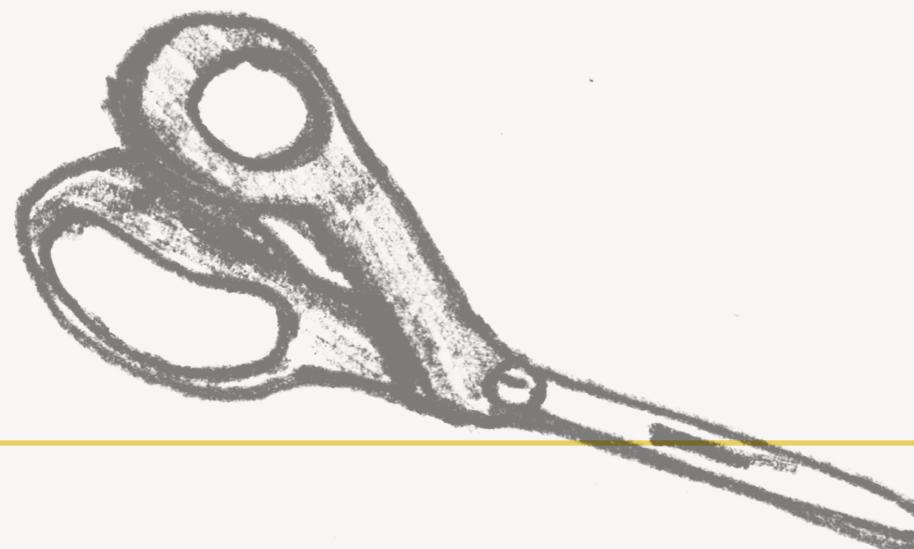


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826 NETWORK

826Boston
826DC
826LA
826 Michigan

826 National
826 NYC
826 Valencia

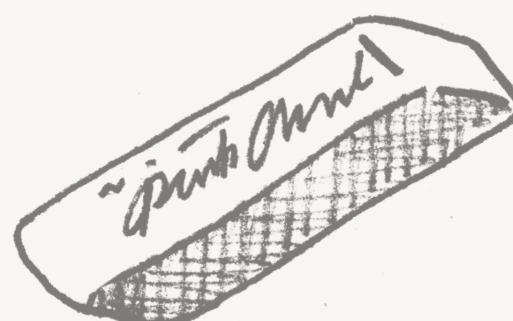


COMMUNITY PARTNERS

57th Street Books

Civic Lab

- American Writers Museum
- Americorps VISTA
- Big Class
- BOKA Group
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago
- Build Coffee
- Cartoon Network
- Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE)
- Chicago Book Expo
- Chicago for Chicagoans
- Chicago Ideas Week // YOUlt Program
- Chicago Independent Bookstore Alliance
- Chicago Literacy Alliance
- Chicago Public Library
- Chicago Reader
- Chicago Semester
- Chicago's Artist Resource
- City Colleges of Chicago
- City Lit Books
- 826Boston
- 826DC
- 826LA
- 826 Michigan
- 826 National
- 826 NYC
- 826 Valencia
- Columbia College
- Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Curbside Splendor
- Dancers Awareness Project (DAP)
- Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)
- Depaul University
- Department of Family and Social Services (DFSS)
- East Village Youth Program
- Escape Artistry
- Essay Fiesta
- GEAR UP
- GirlForward
- Gift Chicago
- Guitars Over Guns
- Independent Publishers Group
- Jewish Child and Family Services
- Kaleidoscope
- McSweeney's
- Morten Group
- My Block, My Hood, My City
- Noble Street College Prep
- Northwestern University
- Open Books
- Pilsen Community Books
- Pitchfork
- Points of Light
- Printers Row Lit Fest
- Revolving Door
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- South Side Weekly
- StoryArts
- Teach for America
- The Den Theatre
- Chicago Tribune
- University of Chicago Writers Studio
- Volumes Bookcafe
- Women and Children First
- Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce
- Young Chicago Authors





SCHOOL PARTNERS

A.N. Pritzker School

Abraham Lincoln Elementary
Academy for Global Citizenship Charter
School

Albert G. Lane Technical High School
Alexander Graham Bell Elementary
School

Alexander Hamilton Elementary School
Ambrose Plamondon Elementary School

Andrew Carnegie Elementary School
Andrew Jackson Language Academy

Anna R. Langford Community Academy

Annie Keller Elementary Gifted Magnet
School

Asa Philip Randolph Elementary School
The British School of Chicago, Lincoln
Park

Calmeca Academy of Fine Arts and Dual
Language

Carl von Linne Elementary School

Charles S. Deneen Elementary School

Chicago International Charter School -
West Belden

Chicago Virtual Charter School

Christopher Columbus Elementary School
Chicago International Charter School -
Prairie

DePaul College Prep

DeWitt Clinton Elementary School

Disney II Magnet School

Dr. Jorge Prieto Math and Science
Academy

Edward N Hurley Elementary School

Ellen Mitchell Elementary School

Emiliano Zapata Elementary Academy

Enrico Tonti Elementary School

Epiphany Catholic School

Federico Garcia Lorca Elementary School

Frances Xavier Warde School

Francis W. Parker School

Frank W. Gunsaulus Elementary
Scholastic Academy

Gale Community Academy

Galileo Scholastic Academy of Math &
Science

Global Citizenship Experience Lab School

George B. Swift Specialty School

George W. Tilton Elementary School

George Westinghouse College Prep

Greenfields Academy

Horace Greeley Elementary School

Humboldt Community Christian School

Inter-American Magnet School

Intercultural Montessori

James E. McDade Elementary Classical
School

James G. Blaine Elementary School

James H. Bowen High School

James Otis Elementary School

John Charles Haines Elementary School

John F. Kennedy High School

John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary
School

John J. Audubon Elementary School

Jonathan Burr Elementary School

Jose De Diego Elementary Community
Academy

Kelvyn Park High School

Kenwood Academy High School

LaSalle Elementary Language Academy

LaSalle II Magnet Elementary School

Latin School of Chicago

Lenart Elementary Regional Gifted
Center

Lincoln Park High School

Lorenz Brentano Math & Science
Academy

Lycée Français de Chicago

Maria Saucedo Elementary Scholastic
Academy

Marie Skłodowska Curie Metropolitan
High School

Mark Sheridan Math & Science Academy

Mark T. Skinner Elementary

Mary Gage Peterson Elementary

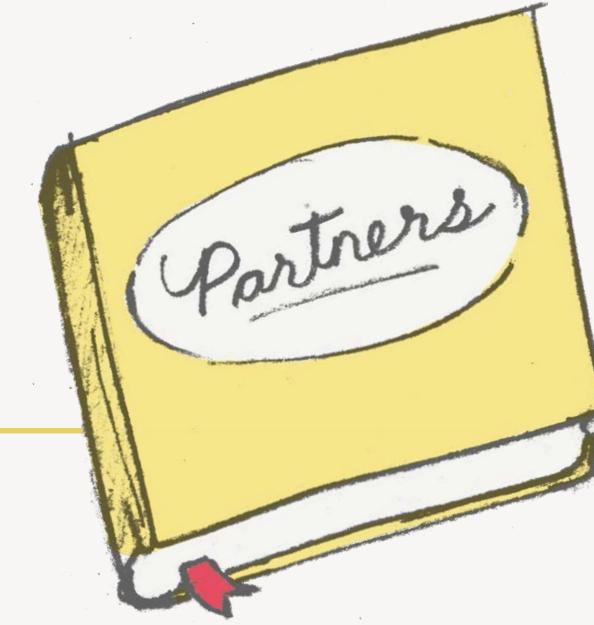
Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet
High School

Namaste Charter School

Noble Street Charter School - Gary
Comer College Prep

Noble Street Charter School - ITW David
Speer Academy

Noble Street Charter School - Noble
College Prep



Northside College Prep

Ole A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic
Academy

Oriole Park Elementary School

Orozco Fine Arts & Sciences Elementary
School

Percy L. Julian High School

Phillip Murray Elementary Language
Academy

Pilsen Elementary Community Academy

Pulaski International School of Chicago

Ridgewood High School

Roald Amundsen High School

Robert Fulton Elementary School

Rowe Elementary Charter School

Salem Christian School

Salmon P. Chase Elementary School

Sauganash Elementary School

Sidney Sawyer Elementary School

Skinner North Classical School

South Loop Elementary School

Saint Ann School

Saint Barbara Catholic School

St. Benedict Preparatory School

Stephen Decatur Classical Elementary
School

Stephen F Gale Elementary Community
Academy

Suder Montessori Magnet School

Telpochcalli Elementary School

Drummond Montessori School

UNO Charter School Network -
Galewood (Near West)

UNO Charter School Network -
Esmeralda Santiago

Walt Disney Magnet Elementary School

Walter Payton College Preparatory High
School

Wells Community Academy High School

West Ridge Elementary School

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School

William B. Ogden Elementary School

William H. Prescott Elementary School

William Jones College Preparatory High
School

William P. Gray Elementary School

Wolfgang A. Mozart Elementary School



Annual Report 2017



VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

Associate Board Outreach

Audio Advisory Team

Design Cohort

Editing Cohort

Parent Advisory Committee

Volunteer Engagement & Support Team (V.E.S.T.)

elonors

We are grateful to the many individuals and institutions who made our work possible in the 2016-2017 fiscal and program year. Because of you, 826CHI can provide a platform for thousands of young Chicagoans to tell their stories and make their unique mark on the world.



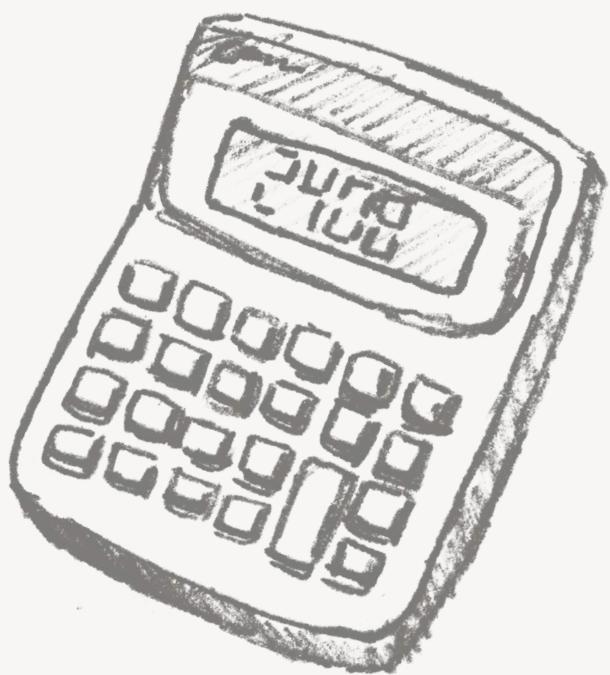


Annual Report 2017



\$50K

Caerus Foundation, Inc.



\$10K+

The Arts Work Fund for
Organizational Development

Chauncey and Marion D.
McCormick Family Foundation

The Crown Family

Helios/Demeter

Justine Jentes & Dan Kuruna

Christine & Thomas Quinn

Stanley McNeil Foundation

The Chicago Department of Family
and Social Services

The Donley Foundation

The Field Foundation of Illinois

The Judy Family Foundation

Jan & Sarah Zasowski

\$5K+

A Bigger World Foundation

Kyle Bruck

Charter Oak Foundation

Chicago Tribune Foundation

Christian Clouston

Adèle Duba-Nagel

Kathleen Evans

Field Notes

Arboret Charitable Trust

Alex Linville

Melcher Charitable Foundation

Diane Quinn

The Comer Foundation Fund

The Leo S. Guthman Fund

The Margaret Baker Foundation

\$1K+

Anonymous

Nathan Arnold

Annie Atzeff

Oscar Guy Bargnes

Beazley Group

Christy Bloom

Bloomberg

Kevin Boehm

Clayco Inc

Jim Coudal

Coyote Logistics

Sandy Dechant

Digitas LBI

Dunkin' Donuts

Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz

Chad Finken

Josh Gantz

Girish Gehani

Ron Grais

Kris Greene

Jeff Hickey

Hilary Hodge

Stephanie Hoit

Dani Hoyler

Ryan Hubbard

Inch x Inch

Holly Johnson Carr

Rob Katz

J. Bradley Keck

Kapil Khanna

Kirkland & Ellis Foundation

Rob Kreuter

Claudia Lovelette

Anthony Malcoun

Joe Malcoun

Amy & Neal McKnight

Sheila Patel

Paul Reaumond

Relativity (kCura)

Rooster Teeth Productions

Vanessa Ruiz

Yuriy Sardarov

Andrew Seputis

Anna Shapiro

Tanta

The Loflin Foundation

Martin Trainor

Tribune Company

WeWork Kinzie

Heidi Whiting

William Blair & Company
Foundation

Gretchen Wilson

Wingstop

Robert Woodley



Annual Report 2017



\$100+
Anonymous

David Abatangelo
AbbVie
Ashley Albert
Barry Aldridge
Barbara Alexander
Phillip Bahar
Jenny Baker
Evelyn Baumann
Rowan Beaird
Teresa Becvar
Debra Beinstein
Austin Berg
Teresa Berry
Matthew Birenbaum
Helen Boggess
Jacob Bowler
Jason Brett
Gregory Brinkman
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Jeffrey Brown
Susanna Brown
Diane Bruns
BuckleySandler LLP
Katie Bundschu
Magda Caballeros
Mark Calaguas
Lynn Callister
Megan Camarigg
Gianna Canning
Cards Against Humanity LLC
Joe Carey
Nancy Carey
CBN Management LLC
Kathy Chan
Corey Chan
Eric Chan
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program
Chicago for Chicagoans
James Choca
Matt Christoff
City Lit Books
Geraldine Clouston
Jane Coen
Sydney Cohen
Lindsay Collins

John Collins
Julia Collins
Sue Conatser
Erin Cook
Elizabeth Cordes
Jean M Corvine
Jayne Cunningham
Merilee Curry
Mark Curry
Kendra Curry-Khanna
Kathleen Curtis
Jeffrey Daley
Carolyn Dehahostel
Kara Deppe
Detention Hall
Mary Diamond
Brendan Dineen
DMC Engineering
E Donohue
Unknown Donors
Eileen Dordek
Michael Dorich
Renee Duba
Clayton Dude
Zach Duffy
Catriona Duncan
Kathleen Dunne
Easy Bar
Rochelle Edens
Educational Testing Service
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Illinois Humanities
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Adel Johnson
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Caryn Joyner

Suzanne Jurusz
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Susan Stepan

Susan Stewart

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Kara Wright

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Binhe Zhang

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Michael Aguilar

Amy Ahearn

Meredith Airaghi

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Kirke Anderson Elsass

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Matthew Butler

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Marlo Buzzell

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Algis Grybauskas

Priscilla Gupana

Michael Gustafson

Susan Hackney

Joseph Hader

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Carol Hamburger

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Claudine Hamm

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Lara Herzer

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Eileen Jones

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Niya Kelly

Mariclare Kerrigan

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Megan Kirby

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Sachin Singh

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Lyrysa Smith

Colleen Smith

Danielle Snow

Sam Snyder

Borja Sotomayor

Lucas Southworth

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Cate Stanton

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Amy Steinhauer

Nick Stenzel

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Scofflaw

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St. Lou's Assembly

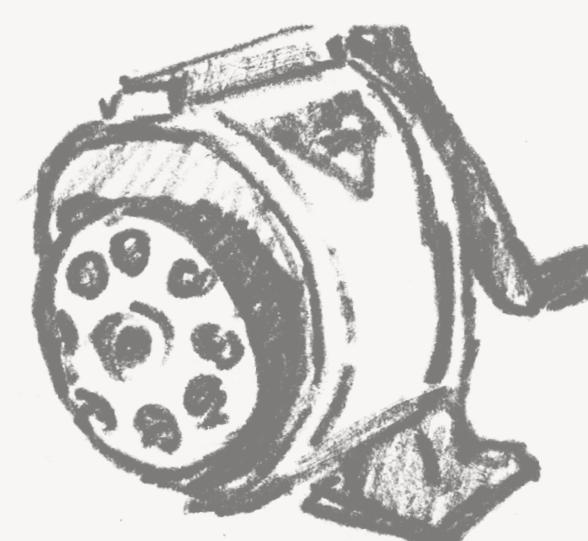
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Trader Joe's

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– Rozina, Chimera Reading Series, donor





Thanks, and until next year!

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