826 National
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

LET'S WRITE

MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

03

## ABOUT 826 NATIONAL

- Who We Are 04
- What We Do 06
- Our Impact 07
- Why Writing? 08
- 826 Network 09

## YEAR OF DATA

- The 826 Network at a Glance 10
- Network Program Results 11
- 826 Students 12
- 826 Volunteers 13

## YEAR OF WRITING

- 826 Digital 14
- Welcoming 826 MSP 16
- 826 Dallas Project 17
- Student Publications 18
- Pandemic Voices: A Good Time to Write 19
- Civic Engagement: Poets in Revolt! Featuring a Foreword by Amanda Gorman 20

## SUSTAINABILITY

- National Partners 22
- Story Soirée 23
- Today and Tomorrow Fund 24

## FINANCIALS

- Revenue and Expenses 25

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Institutions 26
- Individuals 26
- Staff and Board 31
Let’s write, make things right...
Let’s hold hands, as we climb
Up the ladder to equality.

Paris A., Grade 9, 826LA, Poets in Revolt!
Dear Friends,

This year was divided between before and after. Before, 826 worked tirelessly to ensure that students in classrooms in the United States had access to the power and joy of writing. The 826 Network celebrated the new year by welcoming 826 MSP in Minneapolis/St. Paul to our movement in August. An exciting new phase in expanding our reach had arrived. It was a good time to write.

After, we met teachers and students in living rooms and at kitchen tables to do the same. With the arrival of Covid-19, our focus remained razor-sharp: to support student writers.

When the pandemic swept over all of us with an overwhelming sense of uncertainty about what was to come, it was a good time to write.

When the world witnessed the murder of George Floyd and the movement for Black lives grew from our collective determination to end white supremacy, it was a good time to write.

Despite these challenging circumstances, 826 staff, students, and families across the network sprung into action. At National, we shifted our focus to meeting the moment and supporting a network-wide transition to virtual programming. 826 Digital became a go-to writing resource for teachers and parents everywhere. In chapter cities, teams produced at-home learning kits and students wrote letters to essential workers thanking them for their service. We established a dedicated fund to support chapters during potentially damaging financial circumstances.

This year, our work was more necessary than ever. Being creative when you’re stuck inside was more important than ever. Using language to search for safety was more important than ever. Using writing to connect to your community was more important than ever.

As always, our students’ voices light the way. Their words speak the truth of these times and the potential of our future.

Thank you for helping us build the 826 movement—before, after, and well into the future.

In partnership,

Laura Brief, CEO
ABOUT 826 NATIONAL

WHO WE ARE

MISSION
826 National amplifies the impact of our national network of youth writing and publishing centers and young authors’ words. We serve as an international proof point for writing as a tool for young people to ignite and channel their creativity, explore identity, advocate for themselves and their community, and achieve academic and professional success.

826 is a movement that celebrates the power of youth voice, promotes effective and equitable writing education, and emphasizes the importance of writing in the cultivation of the next generation.
THE 826 MOVEMENT
Reading is access, and writing is power.

Through our pencils, pens, and keyboards, we can conjure universes, build understanding and empathy, and catalyze change. As the largest youth writing network in the country, each year 826 teaches thousands of young people in under-resourced communities to harness the power and joy of writing.

Rooted in the belief that strong writing skills are essential for academic and lifelong success, the 826 Network serves K-12 educators and students ages 6 to 18 across the nation. We engage youth through 826 Digital, our free online platform, and in writing programs offered by nine chapters in Boston, Chicago, Detroit/Ann Arbor, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

We work towards a country where the power and the joy of writing is accessible to every student in every classroom.

826 National is the hub of the 826 movement.

Through advocacy and resource development, we are partners in our chapters’ impact and success. As fervent ambassadors of student voice and writing education, our work extends beyond the walls of our chapters. 826 National calls for increased public understanding of the role writing plays in the education system, career development, and a healthy democracy.

Founded by author Dave Eggers and educator Ninive Calegari, 826 National was established in 2008 to support our growing network of writing centers.
COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE
At its heart, 826 National functions to support each of its chapters and their students. By connecting with relevant thought partners in our community, we create meaningful network-wide training and professional development. We facilitate network-wide integrated systems to ensure efficient and impactful operations nationally. This includes fundraising, database management, and an annual staff conference. While each 826 community is unique, our common practices and vision unify us.

ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH
We tell our data story not just to strengthen our work but also to help move the field of writing education forward. Our research helps us measure the impact of our programs nationally and locally. Through our research process, we support the continual improvement of our evidence-based programs, identify best practices as well as lessons learned, and disseminate our findings to the larger field.

SCALE FOR IMPACT
826 works towards a vision of every student in every classroom having access to the power of writing. We support the growth within existing chapters and scale the 826 approach to new communities and classrooms. This year, in addition to growing the 826 Dallas Project, 826 MSP, and 826 Digital, our expansion efforts have been rooted in community partnerships. We scaled our reach nationwide through programs like The Great College Essay Project, whole-school partnerships, and publications that include voices of students across the country.
TOOLS FOR LEARNING
826 National provides educators with quality writing curriculum to get students excited about and engaged in writing. All content is developed and field-tested by educators, volunteers, and students affiliated with the 826 National Network. These materials are distributed through 826 Digital and publications like Don’t Forget to Write and STEM to Story.

FUNDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH
We raise funds to sustain our own impact and direct approximately 20% of all funds raised to chapters. This has been more critical than ever as our nine chapters navigated the challenges of Covid-19. Read on to learn about our 826 Today and Tomorrow Fund, which provides emergency and resiliency grants to ensure the financial health of the network.

OUR IMPACT
The 826 Network has activated and inspired writing education that celebrates the power of youth voice, promotes an effective approach to supporting literacy development, and emphasizes the importance of writing in the cultivation of the next generation. 826’s programs are designed to have an impact in three broad domains:

ACADEMIC GAINS
Writing skills
Engagement and motivation in school and schoolwork
Homework (completion/understanding)

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL GAINS
Confidence/pride
Self-efficacy
Fostering creativity

COMMUNICATION GAINS
Increased self-expression
Learning to ask for help
Interacting with adults
Three out of four twelfth graders are not writing at grade level proficiency; that number increases to nine out of ten Black and Hispanic students (National Center for Education Statistics, 2012). Studies show that youth who cannot effectively convey thoughts and ideas through writing are more likely to receive lower grades, especially in classes where learning is assessed through projects and tests requiring written responses (Graham, 2006). Writing proficiency is also central to success in the workforce: American businesses spend $3.1 billion annually in remedial writing training (National Commission on Writing, 2004).

The 826 Network addresses this opportunity gap by investing in the writing, communication, and creative thinking skills of students in under-resourced communities across the country. We believe writing is the key to cultivating a new generation of creative and diverse thinkers who will define a better, brighter, and more compassionate future with their bold and honest ideas. Through our creative, student-centered approach to writing education, even the most reluctant young writers can learn to share their story with joy, authenticity, and pride. And their words have power.
826 NETWORK

9 CHAPTERS • 12 CITIES • 285 STAFF • 120 BOARD MEMBERS

826BOSTON.ORG
Storefront: The Greater Boston Bigfoot Research Institute

826LA.ORG
Storefronts: The Echo Park Time Travel Mart & The Mar Vista Time Travel Mart

826CHI.ORG
Storefront: Wicker Park Secret Agent Supply Co.

826MICHIGAN.ORG
Storefronts: Liberty Street Robot Supply and Repair Shop & The Detroit Robot Factory

826NEWORLEANS.ORG

826VALENCIA.ORG
Storefronts: The Pirate Supply Store, King Carl’s Emporium, & Woodland Creature Outfitters, Ltd.

826DC.ORG
Storefront: Tivoli’s Astounding Magic Supply Co.

826MSP.ORG
Storefront: Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute

826NYC.ORG
Storefront: Brooklyn Superhero Supply Co.

826DIGITAL.COM

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20
YEAR OF DATA

THE 826 NETWORK AT A GLANCE

109,087 STUDENTS SERVED

7,327 EDUCATORS SERVED

549 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

178 IN-SCHOOL PROJECTS

651 WRITING WORKSHOP SESSIONS

1,440 AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING SESSIONS

3,948 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

561 FIELD TRIPS

THE 826 NETWORK AT A GLANCE
NETWORK PROGRAM RESULTS

During the 2019-20 school year, 826 programs reached nearly 110,000 students and 7,300 educators and caregivers across the country in our tutoring centers, satellite locations, within public school classrooms, and through 826 Digital.

92% of students surveyed believe 826 has helped them to become better writers

96% of students surveyed believe that 826 has helped them to improve their grades at school

94% of students surveyed liked working with the tutors

99% of students surveyed feel safe at 826

“You know that book we made? At home, I read it every night.”

Hana, Grade 2, 826 MSP
826 works with educators, schools, and community partners to ensure that our writing programs are reaching students from traditionally under-resourced communities and backgrounds.

89.3% of students surveyed across our nine chapters are BIPOC.

85.6% of our partner schools have a majority of students from low-income households.

“[At 826] I had the deepest pleasure of meeting different people from different backgrounds with different cultures, ideals, and values. 826 unites us all, both students and staff. 826 is a place that allowed me to believe in myself and the magic wand [that] lies in the power of what we are able to do.”

Former 826michigan student and intern, Madeeha Khan
Volunteers play an essential role in our work and help keep 826 programs tuition-free. These passionate individuals are found at our centers and neighboring schools each day—assisting 826 staff members during morning field trips, sitting side-by-side with students after school, and helping entire classrooms learn the art of writing. And in 2020, these dedicated volunteers joined us in supporting our virtual programs remotely.

“\textit{This place reminds me of the way the world could be.}”

Tim, 826 Boston Volunteer
826 Digital is a free online platform designed for educators by educators. By providing an ever-expanding collection of engaging, adaptable, standards-based resources—designed to captivate young writers and empower their educators—826 Digital aims to reach students everywhere, whether they are aspiring authors or reluctant writers.

826 Digital’s steadily growing following was met with a surge of support in the past year as 826 Digital served the essential role of providing accessible writing materials to parents and educators amid a historic national shift to remote learning. In FY2020, 826 Digital reached an estimated 82,000 students across the country. Digital serves educators in all fifty states and sixty countries.

Following the sweeping school closures that began in March 2020 to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, 826 National quickly adapted lessons originally designed for classroom teachers into low-tech, parent-friendly #AGoodTimetoWrite Remote Learning Kits downloadable for free on 826 Digital. Through the end of the 2019-20 school year, we continued to release timely new resources like Essential Words: Letters of Gratitude to Essential Workers and Life in the Time of Coronavirus. And in June 2020, we released Protester Portraits to complement Change the Ending, Take Back Your Power, and other resources to help students engage with and process the Black Lives Matter movement and write toward social justice.
Check out highlights from 826 Digital in the past year:

82K STUDENTS SERVED ACROSS ALL 50 STATES

53.6K USERS

186.5K PAGEVIEWS

3.3K NEW SUBSCRIBERS

10K TOTAL DOWNLOADS

“The writing prompts from 826 Digital have been amazing and have inspired my sixth graders to develop interesting characters and hilarious and suspenseful stories during remote learning. I am so glad I discovered you!”

Alison Rice, Teacher, Arlington, VA
On 826 Day (August 26th) of 2019, the 826 Network welcomed our ninth chapter, 826 MSP!

826 MSP, formerly Mid-Continent Oceanographic Institute (MOI), was created by a group of dedicated local educators and writers who were inspired by the 826 model. The writing center offers opportunities for 1,500 local students each year to dive into creative writing, tutoring, and publishing with the support of more than 60 volunteers.

Minnesota has one of the widest educational opportunity gaps in the country, with graduation rates for students of color that are 20-30% lower than their white peers. These disparities show up in the literacy gap too: In 2017, Minnesota ranked 16th in the nation for fourth-grade reading proficiency overall, but Latinx and Black students ranked 33rd and 37th, respectively. 826 MSP works to close this gap by utilizing writing as a tool for processing experiences and building community.

They recently expanded their youth leadership opportunities by launching the Young Authors’ Council, a program focused on youth-leadership skill building, civic engagement, and writing enrichment for students in grades 6–12. In spring 2020, Young Authors’ Council students engaged in their first project and wrote letters of gratitude to the essential workers helping to keep us healthy, fed, and safe. Their words of encouragement were sent to a local children’s hospital and published on yard signs around the Twin Cities, spreading hope at a time when many felt hopeless.

“I am a mirror. I reflect on my family and friends the tenacity of my grandmother, the cooking of my mother (sambusa, pasta, rice).”

Bahsra, Grade 7, 826 MSP
**826 DALLAS PROJECT**

We are also proud to welcome our newest chapter in development: 826 Dallas Project.

826 Dallas Project is a coalition of local Dallas youth-serving organizations, including Big Thought, For Oak Cliff, Paul Quinn College, Southern Methodist University MADI, Deep Vellum Publishing, and The Writer’s Garret. Convened by the University of North Texas at Dallas, the coalition is working with 826 National to build an 826 chapter in Dallas from the ground up. While 826 Dallas Project is in its formative stages, it has accomplished so much in the last year!

826 Dallas Project kicked off its work with students fall 2019 with its participation in The Great College Essay Project. They hosted two successful college essay workshops in which college-bound seniors worked one-on-one with volunteer tutors.

In the spring, they continued to build on their programming with the Young Author’s Book Project. The result was a stunning publication: **Faceless: Untold Side Effects of Culture, Race & COVID-19**. The series of prompts used for the project was published on 826 Digital as “Life in the Time of Coronavirus” and became one of our most downloaded lessons during the 2019-20 school year. The lesson sparked conversation surrounding isolation, fear, hope, and resilience to a national level. Most importantly, it brought young voices in conversation with one another at an unlikely time. Read the excerpt from **Faceless**, written by Dilyan, to discover how writing has allowed students to process the moment.

“My friends, whom I shared these past four years with all are capable of changing the world, literally. I have no doubt that many of them will go on to do great things. And it is because of this feeling that I don’t let this pandemic weigh me down, and I know for a fact that others feel the same way too.”

From “The Beginning of the End” by Dilyan Arizmendi, Grade 12, Trini Garza Early College High School, 826 Dallas Project
At 826 chapters, young people become published authors. Their words are featured in beautiful publications that sit on the shelf alongside best-sellers. Students have powerful things to say—this year’s Young Authors’ Book Projects honor their voices and are available for purchase in our chapters’ stores and websites.

**My Generation Can: Public Narratives for Community Change** by twelfth-grade students at the E.M. Kennedy Academy For Health Careers
826 BOSTON

**Let Us Keep What We Love** by 826CHI’s Teen Writers Studio
826CHI

**We Matter: Notes From DC’s Generation Z** by scholars from Brookland Middle School
826DC

**We the Almighty** by tenth-grade students at G.W. Carver High School
826 NEW ORLEANS

**Time to Heal: Expressions of Resistance, Resilience, and Reimagination** by the ethnic studies students of Roosevelt High School
826LA

**All I Have to Say** memoirs from 826NYC students at the High School of Fashion Industries
826NYC

**Because No One Else Could Do It** photography and memoir by students at Ypsilanti Community High School
826MICHIGAN

**The Freedom to Live Without Fear** written by twelfth-grade students at Mission High School
826 VALENCIA

**Indigenous Originated: Walking in Two Worlds**

by ninth- and tenth-grade All Nations students from South High School
826 MSP

**The Freedom to Live Without Fear**

written by twelfth-grade students at Mission High School
826 VALENCIA
Our commitment to students’ voices has taken many new forms this year given the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to producing our annual schedule of professionally bound books, we also recognized a need for student voices to connect to their communities and to the world with immediacy. Check out some of the creative ways the 826 Network inspired, cultivated, and celebrated students’ voices during the pandemic this spring.

**PANDEMIC VOICES: A GOOD TIME TO WRITE**

In addition to sharing writing prompts, 826 National’s YouTube channel featured many authors, staff, and volunteers reading student writing. Some pieces of student writing were also illustrated by professional artists.

**WRITING ON THE WALL**

In New Orleans, young people published their work right on their front door. 826 New Orleans staff and volunteers distributed chart paper, markers, and other writing supplies to bring joy and color to neighborhoods around the city.

**QUARANTEEN VOICES**

In this program from 826NYC, students met guest authors to talk about writing, ask questions, and share their writing at an open mic. Students in the program learned from luminaries like Inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, filmmaker Spike Jonze, and National Book Award-winner Jacqueline Woodson.

**#AGOODTIMETOWRITE VIDEOS**

*Hope is dreams*
*That are still within us and the last beacon*
*and there’s still hope for life in this universe*
*and there’s still hope for aliens that live to this day*
*and there’s still hopes and dreams and the last chance to get something and there’s still hope for other planets and hope is the last man standing and hope is magical and hope is joy and hope is your last chance and hope is amazing and hope is overjoyful and hope can bring peace and hope can bring anything*

Adam & Ayub, Grades 6 & 3, 826 MSP
At 826, we elevate youth voices by offering tools and platforms for self-expression. Through thought-provoking writing projects and lessons, we invite students to think critically about the world we live in and join the conversation around the issues that matter to them.

In an election year marked by a global pandemic, environmental disasters, and a resurgent movement for racial justice, fostering civic engagement and critical thinking is taking on new resonance. Young people are raising their voices and sharing perspectives on these vital issues.

Featuring poems by young writers from all over the country, 826 National’s publication Poets in Revolt! A Call to Action by Young Writers demonstrates how students’ stories can deepen our understanding of our contexts, both near and far. Whether it’s Black Lives Matter, the March for Our Lives, or the Youth Climate Strike, young people are at the frontlines of combating injustice and changing the world. Diverse voices have shaped our country’s history, and young writers in 826 programs will write its next chapter.
“826 authors are courageously and unapologetically filling in the literary gaps of yesterday, and demanding that we explore new topics and voices in this sociocultural moment. They are writing the poems that they want to read, and what’s more, writing poems we all should be reading.”

Amanda Gorman, Inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate and 826 National Board Member, from the foreword to Poets in Revolt! A Call to Action by Young Writers
At 826 National, our partners are vital to helping us reach students in every corner of the nation. Thanks to their support, we have hosted college essay writing workshops in cities across the country and published some of our most popular lesson plans on 826 Digital. We’ve made 826 writing tools accessible to students, caregivers, and educators nationwide and hosted workshops that challenge students to write for inclusion and stand up to bullying. We’ve made publications printed on beautiful paper, collaborated at conferences, and even gained new board members from our partnerships. Their investment in our network is felt every day, and we are proud to call them partners in our mission. Thank you!

**NATIONAL PARTNERS**

**PROGRAM PARTNERS**

Amplifier
Anti-Defamation League
AT&T’s Youth Voice Collective
Barkley
Beau Biden Foundation
Cartoon Network Stop Bullying: Speak Up Initiative
CNN
Common App
Common Sense Media
Grammarly
PBS NewsHour, Student Reporting Lab
Reach Higher
Wide Open School
Zingtrain

“Keep writing. Let your voice be heard—what you’re doing is important, and what 826 is doing is important...[Writing] inspires others and teaches empathy, and makes people feel special. I would ask you to keep [writing] and keep inspiring us all.”

Christina Miller, former president of Cartoon Network, when asked what advice she would give 826’s students.
“Through writing at 826NYC, I discovered the incredible power of world-building. So thank you for believing so much in 826, in my voice, and in the voices of my fellow students.”

Noemi Martinez, 826NYC alumna

Celebrating a movement centered on creativity, democracy, and amplifying student voice through writing—that’s what happened on November 7, 2019, in New York City at the inaugural 826 Story Soirée, an evening hosted by 826 National and 826NYC. The event was generously sponsored by AT&T, WarnerMedia, International Paper, Microsoft, Lynda and Stuart Resnick, and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP.

At the Soirée, Wyatt Cenac, Ira Glass, Maulik Pancholy, and Jon Scieszka joined the festivities. Together we celebrated President of Cartoon Network Christina Miller as well as author and Man Booker Prize recipient Marlon James.

Attendees watched a video animated by Cartoon Network of a story by Nana-Wadieh, a ten-year-old student who’s been participating in programming at 826NYC for two years. His story was part of the 826 National Inclusion Storytelling Project—an initiative to promote kindness, caring, and empathy among students across the country in partnership with Cartoon Network’s Stop Bullying: Speak Up campaign.

“Never dreamed that Cartoon Network would animate the anti-bullying story you just saw, and that more than one million people would see it,” said Nana-Wadieh, as he presented Christina Miller, former president of Cartoon Network, with the Super Citizen Award.

Noemi Martinez, an alumna of 826NYC and current college student, read an excerpt from a fantasy story she’d written in high school and presented Marlon James—who is also a founding board member of 826 MSP in Minneapolis-St. Paul—with the inaugural Literary Luminary Award.

James explained why he believes in supporting 826: “Because I never stopped being a teacher, and I’ve seen that moment a student comes across a mind-blowing book, it’s irreplaceable.”
TODAY AND TOMORROW FUND

826 National raised $250,000 this year for the 826 Today and Tomorrow Fund to support the 826 Network’s continued ability to serve K-12 students in under-resourced communities who are most deeply affected by school closures.

The Covid-19 crisis has reinforced several realities about the 826 Network, including the courage and ingenuity of the 826 staff, the readiness of chapter leadership to come together to support each other, and the importance of the network’s overall financial resilience. It has also provided a catalyst to accelerate 826 National’s long-term plans to support the overall stability and sustainability of the 826 Network by funding a dedicated pool of cash resources for chapters in extraordinary times of need.

The 826 Today and Tomorrow Fund provides support and platforms for the tens of thousands of students and teachers learning at home today, and prepares 826 Network chapters for the moment when students once again fill our schools and youth writing centers.

While created in response to Covid-19, this fund will outlast our current crisis and evolve as the 826 Network grows.
FINANCIALS

TOTAL REVENUE
$2,359,303

- Foundations 41%
- Corporate 37%
- Government 4%
- Individuals 8%
- Chapter Fees 9%
- Earned Income 2%

TOTAL EXPENSES
$1,902,163

- Programs 74%
- Fundraising 16%
- Management + Administration 10%
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INSTITUTIONS

Acton Family Giving
AmazonSmile
AmeriCorps VISTA
Anonymous (2)
AT&T Foundation
Attion Consulting
Barkley Inc.
Bonfire Funds
California State Library
California Student Author Program
State of California
Cartoon Network
Charities Aid Foundation of
America
Colliers International NY
Creative Artists Agency
The Eucalyptus Foundation
Exelon Corporation
Field Notes
Givguard Charitable
Goldman Sachs
Good Today
Google
Hachette Book Group, Inc.
Hellman Foundation
Humble Bundle
International Paper Foundation
Jentes Family Foundation
JP Morgan Chase
Judd Apatow’s Sick in the Head
Keough Family Foundation in
honor of Lane Brown
Meredith Corporation Foundation
Merge Records & A Very She & Him
Christmas
Microsoft
National Endowment for the Arts
News Corp
Panta Rhea Fund
Penguin Random House
Polk Wealth Management
Postmates
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart &
Sullivan
The Resnick Family Foundation
Richter Foundation in memory of
John T. and Martha R. Richter
Rollins College
Rosenfield Linde Fund in honor of
Amanda Gorman
Singer Family Foundation
State Street Global Advisors
StellarEngine Consulting
Target Corporation
Tattly Temporary Tattoos
Truist
UncommonGoods
Warby Parker
WarnerMedia
William I. Smith Family
Foundation
Yellow Chair Foundation
Yerba Buena Fund
YourCause
Zingerman’s Community of
Businesses

INDIVIDUALS

Aaron Dannenbring in honor of
Gary Dannenbring
Abbey Hayward
Abraham Shafar
Adam Abensohn
Adam Gensler
Adam Keeper
Adam Koehler
Adam R. Levine
Adam Rex
Adam Weiss
Adele Chavez
Agustin Cervantes
Aimee Peterson
Alan Eustace and Kathy Kwan
Alexa Brnilovich
Alexander Ward
Alexandra Suich Bass and
Kyle Bass
Alexandra Takayesu
Alexandria Phelps
Alfred Lafave
Alfredo Reyes
Alisha Phillips
Allegra Rosenberg
Allison Potocki in honor of
Cameron Messinides
Amanda Lipitz and Greg Smith
Amanda Uhle in honor of
Nick Hornby
Amber Hopper
Amelia Whittington in honor of
Larry Sims
Amir Mokari
Amy Mayo
Amy Young
Andie Kully
Andrea Ball
Andrea Rickard
Andrea Van Hagen
Andrew Colville in honor of Miles Schiff
Andrew Morwood
Andrew Rubenstein
Andrew Schweig
Andrew Sparkler and Starling Marshall
Andrew Strickman and Michal Ettinger
Andrew Womack
Andy Samberg
Andy Swist
Angela Showalter
Anh Nguyen
Anikah McLaren
Anjali Viji
Anna Gross
Anna Mayersohn
Anndee Hochman
Anne Tromsness
Annelise Hagar Preciado
Anthea Weixel
Anthony Hayes
Anthony Rowe
Antonio Merenda
Anuraag Chigurupati
April Champion
Ari Kahan
Arita Vernon
Arlette De La Cruz
Ashley Antler
Astrid Golomb
Audra Robb
Avi Shafar
Barbara and Rich Furman
Barbara Kessler and Richard Sobel in honor of Anna Rose Moore
Becky Silverstein and Naomi Sobel
Bertha Gorman
Bertha Sanchez
Bethany Freund
Bethany Kristovich
Betsy Yates
Dr. Beverly J. Simmons and Dr. Ross W. Duffin in honor of Selena Simmons-Duffin
Brandon Silberstein
Brennan Lyons
Brian Doyle
Brian Juergens
Brian and Paula Powers
Brian Salomaki
Brooks Kenny in honor of Lisa Novick
Bryan Gaertner
Caitlin and Zack Balgeman
Calvin Huang
Candice Ferguson
Candie McClain
Cappy and Janie McGarr in honor of Alexandra Bass
Carina Traub
Carlos Clay
Carly Barnhardt
Carol Goldberg
Carole Levine
Carolyn Ainslie
Cary Lerman
Catherine Butz in memory of Doris Rochlin
Catherine Hilton
Catherine Miller
Cathleen Hartge
Cece Balman
Celeste McNeil Clark
Celia Pinzi in honor of Victoria Havlicek and Owen Farcy
Chris Colabella
Chris, Lisa, and Richard O’Toole
Chrissy Gipko
Christian Herr
Christian Pulley
Christiane Hayward in honor of Abbey Hayward
Christie Bahna
Christopher Bragdon
Christopher Conway
Christopher Tague
Cindy Ogasawara
Claes Morén
Claire Davis
Claire Meaney
Conor Donegan
Conor and Lauren Lastowka
Corey Delaney
Cynthia Zapata
Dan Kuruna and Justine Jentes
Dana Kapp
Dania Cortes Cervantes
Daniel Conway
Daniel Galban
Daniel Shader and Elisabeth Dutton
Danielle Davis
Danielle Sinay
Danny and Amity Horowitz
Dave Grable
Dave Morgan
David Billingsley
David Bradley
David Eiseman
David Fredericks
David Luiken
David Nowers
David Owen
David Perlson
David and Lori Schnadig
Dennis Wolf
Diane Cassanego
Diane Doolittle and Michael Grady
Dinah Berland
Donald Verrilli
Donna Cowan and Barry Nelson
Drew Holmes
Eduardo Lander
Edurne Diaz
Edward Lovett
Eileen Manning
Elaine and Robert Andrews
Elena Megalos
Eliot Merrill
Elissa Klopfer
Elizabeth Caswell
Elizabeth Dukes
Elizabeth Herrera
Elizabeth Stokes
Elizabeth Wade
Ella Vorenberg
Elliott Feng
Elliott Waxer
Emilia Agrafojo
Emily Chu
Emily Feinberg in honor of Elisha Cooper, Lily Williams, Karen Blumenthal, and Nick Bruel
Emily Gelb
Emily Lenzner in memory of Doris Rochlin
Emily Luther
Emma Levitz
Eric Abrams
Eric Demby
Eric Lin
Eric Winston
Erik Gulsrud
Erik and Kendra Ragatz
Erika Ortiz
Erika Pulley-Hayes
Erika Swyler
Erin Ellenbolt
Erin Liviskie
Erin Phillips
Erin Ryan
Ethan Sawyer
Eugene and Suzanne Valla
Evan McGarvey and Allegra Asplundh
Farley Ziegler
Felipa Quiroz
Flavia Vidal
Frances Robinson
Francesca Kelley
Freek Staps in honor of Japke D. Bouma
Gabrielle O’Leary
Gerad Ball in honor of Maura Baker
Gina Cargas
Gina Siddiqui
Giovanna Gioffre
Glenn Baxter
Grant Nguyen
Greg West
Gregorio Magarelli
Gregory Paul
Grethe Mo
Gustav Roman
Halima Hudson
Heather McAdam
Heather Takahashi
Heidi Lee
Heidi Wrightsman
Henry Lee and Elia Herrera
Hilary Gridley
Holly Byrd in memory of Debra West Maciazek
Holly Gordon
Holly and Jerry Suich
Huntley Rodes
Ido Ostrowsky
Ilsa Bruer
Isaac Celis
Isabel Pinner
Jack Bertges
Jacob Best
Jacob Schmidgall
Jacob Stebel
Jacqueline Woodson
James Burke
James Delgadillo
James Esposto
James Jiang
James Muske in honor of Sandra Lee-Muske
James Neff in honor of Victoria Havlicek and Owen Farcy
James Swartchild
James Walters
James Wynne in memory of Sally Steinberg
Jamie Hwang
Janelle Adsit
Jaret Butler
Jason Brown
Jason So
JD Horton
Jeffrey Coddington
Jeffrey Snow in memory of Dwain and Sue Smith
Jeffrey Szudy in honor of Scot Ranslem
Jennifer Bertman
Jennifer Bryant
Jennifer Gubicza
Jennifer Houser
Jennifer Repo
Jennifer Struss
Jeremy Legg
Jessica Coalsen
Jessica Delgadillo
Jessica Leung
Jessie Gienow
Jill King
Jill and Joe Lervold
Joe Rieke
Joey and Susan Klein
John Box
John and Kelly Couch
John Erickson
John Keough in honor of Lane Brown
John Owen
Thank you to all of the 826 National board and staff members who worked tirelessly to grow the 826 Network over the past year.

826 NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ERIC ABRAMS, President
826 Valencia Representative
Chief Inclusion Officer, Stanford Graduate School of Education

HOWARD YOON, Vice President & Secretary
Literary Agent, Ross Yoon Agency

ELIA HERRERA, Secretary
Attorney

JOHN COUCH, Treasurer
Investment Management, Goldman Sachs

KRISTEN CONRY
Senior Vice President Global Design, US & Canada, Marriott International

DONNA COWAN
826 Boston Representative
Active Community Volunteer

JODIE EVANS
826LA Representative
Co-Founder of CODEPINK

SAMEER GADKAREE
826CHI Representative
Senior Program Officer, Joyce Foundation

AMANDA GORMAN
Inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate and 2021 Inaugural Poet

RONICKA HARRISON-BRISCOE
826 New Orleans Representative
President, Legacy Inventive Solution for Schools

KEVIN JOHNSON
826CHI Representative
Founder & Executive Coach, The Transformance Group
LOUIS LUCIDO
826LA Representative
DoubleLine, CASA of Los Angeles

MICHAEL MASSERMAN
Senior Advisor at Albright Stonebridge Group and former Head of Global Policy & Social Impact, Lyft

TONI MORELL
Managing Partner, Zingerman’s Mail Order

SANDRO OLIVIERI
Founder & President, Productive, LLC

KATE O’SULLIVAN
General Manager, Digital Diplomacy, Microsoft

ERIKA PULLEY-HAYES
President and Chief Executive Officer, WMFE|WMFV

TOM RACCIATTI
826MSP Representative
Director, West Monroe Partners, Minneapolis

LACIE SANDSTROM
826michigan Representative
Account Executive, Google Ann Arbor

MARY SCHAEFER
Consultant

ALEXANDRA SUICH BASS
Senior Correspondent for Politics, Technology and Society, The Economist

MORGAN W. TOVEY
Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

TOM VIEHE
826DC Representative
Director of Business Development, Systems Engineering Group

ANNE WINTROUB
Director, Social Innovation, AT&T

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

NÍNIVE CALEGARI
826 National Co-Founder
CEO, Enterprise for Youth
President & Founder, Teacher Salary Project

DAVE EGGERS
826 National Co-Founder
Founder of McSweeney’s Publishing & Award-Winning Author

KATHRYN YONTEF
826NYC Representative
Director of Corporate Initiatives, Everytown for Gun Safety

826 NATIONAL STAFF
Tierra Alston-Johnson, Maggie Andrews, Laura Brief, Lauren Broder, Skylar Burkhart, Liz Dwyer, Sarah Faunce, Megan Faunce, Anna Griffin, Abbey Hayward, Lauren Humphrey, Cecilia Juan, Doug Keller, Kona Lai, Caroline Moon, Arfi Oktavianti, Gabi Oliveira, Maria Potratz, Kait Steele, Shida Zamani, and Debbie Zambetti.
“Writing allows me to walk with millions of others in a march that may not end in this century, or the next—but each step counts, no matter how small.”

Jeremy Hsiao, Grade 11, *Poets in Revolt!*

*Connect with us!*  
826NATIONAL.ORG