Impact Update

November 2026

In Gratitude

As GrubStreet approaches its **30th anniversary in 2027**, we are reflecting on nearly three decades of bringing writers together across backgrounds and experiences, amplifying stories, and helping imagine a more just and connected world. Today, we serve writers in all 50 states and 56 countries, while continuing to shape Boston's literary and cultural ecosystem and connect our community to a broader world of stories and ideas. **Thank you for your generosity and belief in the power of every writer's voice.**

Your support helps reduce financial barriers to creative writing education. This year, GrubStreet will provide more than **$272,000 in scholarships and fellowships**, alongside free classes, one-on-one mentorship, and **fully funded programs serving more than 2,500 writers**. These opportunities allow writers to strengthen their craft and pursue their creative goals regardless of their financial circumstances.

Through our Young Adult Writers Program, we are serving approximately 450 Boston-area teens in 2026. Scholarships, school partnerships, and free workshops connect teens with creative opportunities and a community where they feel they belong. This year, we also launched ***Writing Lives***, a new initiative that helps historically underserved youth explore identity, develop self-advocacy skills, and amplify their voices through storytelling.

> ***YAWP has really allowed me to feel more confident overall. GrubStreet is such a welcoming community that allows me to step out of my comfort zone and explore writing.***
>
> **– 2026 Teen Program Participant**



Boston Writers of Color Write On Event

For writers pursuing publication, our second annual **Manuscript Month reached more than 700 writers** through workshops, public events, and direct connections with literary agents and publishing professionals. Our **Contemporary Craft Series** welcomed influential literary voices, including **Bryan Washington**, **Katie Kitamura**, and **Melissa Febos**, generating more than **650 enrollments across just three sessions**. New advanced programs, genre-based offerings, and reading groups expanded opportunities for writers to develop their work and engage with the literary community.

Across GrubStreet, participation continues to grow. In 2026, more than **6,000 writers enrolled in our programs**, with over **300 classes** spanning a wide range of genres. Our Center for Creative Writing welcomed more than **65,000 visitors**, while community members recorded over **300 publications** this year, including 41 books.



Grubbie Debut ft. Yu-Mei Balasingamchow and Chital Mehta



Teen Fellows

Thank you for being part of GrubStreet's story. As 2026 comes to a close, we are reflecting on the lasting contributions of our writers, faculty, and supporters while looking ahead to new possibilities. Your generosity helps sustain a vibrant literary community where writers can develop their craft, share their perspectives, and bring stories into the world that broaden our understanding, deepen our connections, and help shape a more just and inclusive society. We invite you to explore this report and celebrate all that we have accomplished together—and all that lies ahead.

2026 at a glance

- **65,000+ visitors** to the Center for Creative Writing
- Over **6,000 writers enrolled** in programs
- Over **300 classes** offered in a variety of genres
- **585 writers** (and counting!) were awarded program **scholarships**
- Over **2,500 writers** served through **fully funded programs**
- Over **300 publications** from community members including **41 book publications**

> ***I have been seeking a real writing community for years, and I feel thrilled to keep writing, editing, and revising with poets I deeply respect.***
>
> **– 2026 Scholarship Recipient**



MFA and Member Mixer

Our Commitment to Access

Given the systemic inequities that shape access to educational and cultural opportunities, one of the most direct ways GrubStreet works to expand equitable participation is by reducing financial barriers. **Philanthropy plays a vital role in making our programming more accessible, helping keep tuition for our classes and workshops below what it would need to be if participants had to cover the full cost of each program.**

In addition, scholarships and fellowships provide direct financial assistance to teen and adult writers who might otherwise be unable to participate. **In 2026, we are providing more than $272,000 in scholarships and fellowships to teen and adult writers**, supporting participation across our tuition-based programs. We also strive to make the financial aid process straightforward and non-intrusive. Applicants are not required to submit financial documentation; instead, they respond to a few brief questions that help us understand their circumstances and determine appropriate support. Each week, GrubStreet staff review and approve applications, helping ensure that financial need does not prevent writers from accessing our programs, though we see this need continue to increase year over year.

Our **Emerging Writer Fellowship** provides three writers with a year of tuition-free workshops and a month of publishing-focused programming during Manuscript Month. Demand continues to grow: After receiving 114 applications in 2025, we received a record 193 in 2026, a 37% increase. Our 2026 fellows, **Tiffany Kim**, **DeAnna Yvette**, and **Anthony Febo**, have begun their fellowship journey.

In 2026, GrubStreet continued to respond to the interests and needs of our Boston Writers of Color (BWOC) community by offering free classes and events shaped by writers themselves. Recent offerings have included "Writing from the Margins: BIPOC Fiction" and "A Literary Editor's View—On Submissions, Publications, and the Importance of Building Community." **In 2025, fully funded multi-week classes and BWOC events reached 615 writers.**



Jacquinn Sinclair (Left) and Members of the Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition

We also welcomed **Jacquinn Sinclair**, a former **GrubStreet Teaching Fellow**, as BWOC's part-time manager. Jacquinn's return reflects the longer-term opportunities GrubStreet creates for writers to grow from program participants into teaching artists, community leaders, and staff.

Our free, one-on-one mentorship program connects emerging writers with experienced authors and literary professionals for individualized guidance and feedback. Designed to reach writers from low-income and historically underrepresented communities, **the program provided 150 free mentorship appointments in 2025**. Among those surveyed, 61% of participants and 45% of mentors identified as people of color, and 25% of participants reported that they qualify for need-based state support.

> ***I would not be able to access the mentorship program if it was not free so I am incredibly grateful to the funders and donor-members for their contribution. I believe that my novel is going to benefit from the program, but an added bonus is that I'm meeting so many published writers who are part of the GrubStreet community. Thank you so much for making the mentorship program available.***
>
> **– Mentorship Program Participant**

Alongside these offerings, GrubStreet continues to make foundational writing instruction available at no cost through our 24 tuition-free *Draft Generator* classes. These courses give writers dedicated time and guidance to generate new work while preparing manuscripts for publication submissions and other advanced writing opportunities.

Young Adult Writers Program

In 2026, GrubStreet's Young Adult Writers Program (YAWP) is serving approximately 450 teens through summer programs and partnerships across Greater Boston. More than half participate through scholarships or fully funded programs. Through school partnerships, community organizations, free workshops, and transportation support, we work to reach young people who have historically had limited access to arts education.

YAWP offers two-week genre-based summer intensives and a four-week paid Summer Teen Fellowship at our Center for Creative Writing, combining writing instruction, mentorship, and peer collaboration.

> ***For me this was such an amazing opportunity that I was granted and I am forever grateful for the doors it has opened for both me and my career.***
>
> **– 2026 Summer Teen Fellow**

To deepen our reach among young people facing systemic barriers, we launched *Writing Lives*, a multi-week workshop developed with Tufts University professor Dr. Jayanthi Mistry and community-based partners. The program centers identity-based storytelling, self-advocacy, and civic voice development.

In spring 2026, we piloted *Writing Lives* with Urban Achievers, a Roxbury charter school serving 95% boys of color from underserved communities. Building on this pilot, we are expanding through partnerships with organizations such as Bridge Boston Charter School and developing additional workshops with schools and community organizations across Greater Boston for the 2026-2027 academic year.



Teen Fellowship Reading and Showcase

Free workshops, school visits, open mics, and visiting author events create additional opportunities for teens to explore creativity, connect with peers, and discover pathways into creative careers. **Many participants described feeling that they had "found their people,"** while parents reported noticeable increases in **confidence, self-expression, and enthusiasm**. This year's partners include Brookline Middle School and Excel Academy.

> ***This was my first workshop in about 15 years and it did wonders for my growth as a writer. My instructor created an environment where I felt comfortable taking risks and challenging myself.***
>
> **– 2026 Scholarship Recipient**



Teen Fellows and Fellowship Instructors

Pathways to Publishing

GrubStreet's second annual **Manuscript Month** brought together more than **700 writers** for a dynamic, monthlong series of workshops, sessions, and events designed to help writers move their projects toward publication. Multi-week workshops in romance, memoir, and novel development drew enthusiastic participation while online seminars exploring advanced craft topics, publishing, and revision engaged writers at all stages of their journeys. To help ensure that financial barriers do not limit access to these opportunities, GrubStreet awarded **$5,500 in scholarships** for Manuscript Month programming.

Public events, Manuscript Mart, and Shop Talks further expanded opportunities for writers to learn from industry professionals, strengthen their work, and build connections within the publishing community. The month opened with *Fiction and Nonfiction Walk Into a Bar*, a standout event at The Rockwell in Somerville featuring award-winning authors **Hernan Diaz** and **Alexander Chee**. **Manuscript Mart** provided more than 300 one-on-one sessions, **connecting writers with literary agents** for personalized feedback and guidance. Building on this success, GrubStreet is hosting a second Manuscript Mart this November, creating opportunities for more than 200 additional writers to connect with agents and editors.


Fiction and Nonfiction Walk Into a Bar ft. Alexander Chee and Hernan Diaz

> ***GrubStreet helped me appreciate that everyone has a voice, and that all voices have a right to be – and deserve to be – listened to.***
>
> **– 2026 Class Participant**

Together, these programs equip writers with the skills, confidence, and professional relationships to advance their creative work toward publication. The results extend well beyond a single month: over the past seven years, GrubStreet community members have published **more than 50 books annually**, with **41 book publications already recorded in 2026**. These milestones reflect the lasting impact of an engaged writing community and the transformative opportunities your support makes possible. **By helping more writers bring their stories into the world, we contribute to a richer literary landscape where diverse perspectives deepen understanding, foster empathy, and connect us across differences.**

Program Innovation

At GrubStreet, innovation drives our ongoing evolution as we respond to the needs of our growing community and the changing literary landscape. In 2026, we continue to broaden creative opportunities that meet writers where they are, both artistically and geographically, while strengthening the connections between craft, career development, and community.

Our **Contemporary Craft Series** has become a cornerstone of **accessible literary excellence**, offering affordable opportunities to learn from some of today's most influential literary voices. This year's sessions have included *Scene by Scene* with **Bryan Washington** and *Art Writing, Writing Art* with **Katie Kitamura**, both of which received enthusiastic participation and feedback. Across just three sessions so far this year, the series has generated more than 650 enrollments. These programs reflect GrubStreet's commitment to a dynamic, relevant curriculum that encourages writers to experiment, sharpen their skills, and engage with the broader literary conversation.

> ***This class helped me reconnect with my creative voice and gave me the structure and permission to set aside dedicated time to write for myself again.***
>
> **– 2026 Scholarship Recipient**



GrubStreet at the Boston Book Festival ft. Daniel José Older, Lori Goldstein, and Steve Almond

Our commitment to advancing emerging literary voices has also fueled the expansion of our advanced and genre-based programming. GrubStreet continues to strive to meet our mission of providing rigorous craft writing instruction, which shapes our distinctive role in helping committed writers revise, complete, and publish their work. Our intensive programs remain central to this mission, and our newest advanced offering, the *Autofiction Immersive*, generated strong interest from its launch, attracting strong applications and enrollment. Additional new programming includes *Writing an Unputdownable Life Story: Memoir for Writers Over 50* and reading groups that invite community members to engage with literature even if they do not yet identify as writers. **These offerings create more entry points into the literary community** and expand pathways toward publication for writers across the country, particularly writers of color and LGBTQ+ writers.



Boston Writers of Color and Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition Writing Retreat

> ***I'm amazed at where I am now in the process of writing a memoir compared to where I was before this class.***
>
> **– 2026 Class Participant**

> ***I find myself stretched each time I tackle the issues my classmates bring to the table, and my instructor provides a supportive environment for doing that.***
>
> **– 2026 Class Participant**



Katherine A. Sherbrooke in Conversation with Susan Bernhard

Looking ahead to 2027, we are thrilled to launch GrubStreet's new **Writer-in-Residence** program with celebrated author **Jesmyn Ward**, a two-time National Book Award winner. The residency will bring an **acclaimed literary voice into closer conversation with our community of writers and readers**, creating opportunities for writers to learn from her craft, engage with her work, and deepen their own creative practice. As the inaugural Writer-in-Residence, Ward will receive the Grubby Award at our annual Lit Up gala in April of 2027 and participate in the Contemporary Craft Series, a special session with our Intensive program participants, and other programming throughout the year.

Through these forward-thinking initiatives, **GrubStreet continues to evolve alongside our community**, responding to writers' changing interests and aspirations while building a more inclusive, connected, and vibrant literary future.


A Conversation with Colson Whitehead ft. Callie Crossley

> ***This class was an amazing community. Having a BIPOC space allowed for open experiences.***
>
> **– 2026 BIPOC Class Participant**

Thank You

Thank you for being a vital part of the GrubStreet community. Your generosity opens doors for writers of all ages and backgrounds to strengthen their craft, share their stories, and find connection through the written word. Together, we are making transformative creative writing education more accessible, creating spaces where stories foster empathy, new perspectives emerge, and meaningful change takes root. With your continued partnership, we can help more writers find their voices, bring their stories into the world, and shape a more just, connected, and equitable future.

If you'd like to make a gift or learn more about supporting GrubStreet, please contact Mariona Lloreta, Director of Development, at mariona@grubstreet.org or call 617-695-0075.

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