Bringing authors, illustrators and their books to Washington, DC-area students in low-income settings to spark a love of reading.
“Thanks again for another amazing author event. The students were engaged from beginning to end. I appreciate everything you do to inspire our students to read.”

—elementary school librarian
Dear Members of the AOB Community,

For the past nine years, teachers, school librarians and students have shared stories about the impact of An Open Book Foundation’s author and illustrator visits and books. Teachers describe these events and the conversations they spark as powerful experiences for students, inspiring or emboldening students’ dreams of becoming writers, illustrators and even researchers. Librarians are thrilled that children seek books by the author or illustrator who visited their school and, thanks to AOB, those books are on their shelves. Students who meet authors or illustrators and take home their signed books share the experience and the book with their families, multiplying the number of people the book reaches.

Authors and illustrators have always incorporated activities such as writing workshops or art lessons into their visits. During the 2018-19 school year, AOB strengthened its impact by returning to schools to lead extension activities that reinforced the content of the author or illustrator visit and the book. Extension activities tie the AOB visit to current lessons and give students an opportunity to delve more deeply into their new books.

This year, 123 authors and illustrators generously waived their speaking fees to participate in 166 visits to 99 schools and community service organizations where they made 272 presentations to 10,186 students. In addition, twice a month, AOB’s education coordinator or our nonprofit partner FoodPrints returned to classrooms to lead extension activities.

Thanks to your generosity, students are connecting with inspiring authors and illustrators; reading their own signed books; drawing, writing and creating; arguing about favorite characters in the hallways and at cafeteria tables; and learning about people and places they may recognize and those that are worlds away. We look forward to your continued support as An Open Book strengthens its impact on students throughout the Washington, DC metro area.

Dara La Porte and Heidi Powell
Co-Founders, An Open Book Foundation
An Open Book Foundation serves Washington, DC-area students in Head Start through high school; on average 85% qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.

During the 2018-19 school year, An Open Book Foundation:

- Served 10,186 students.
- Gave 12,688 books to students and their classroom and school libraries.
- Visited 99 schools.
- Stocked 950 books in Little Free Libraries at six elementary, middle and high schools and one Homeless Children’s Playtime Project site.
- Coordinated 14 extension activities for over 300 children at five schools.

### Students Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>3,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>5,066</td>
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<td>6,971</td>
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<td>2014-15</td>
<td>7,131</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>6,393</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>8,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>8,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018-19</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,186</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Schools & Institutions Visited

Many schools host multiple AOB events each year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Schools Visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
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<td>2016-17</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018-19</strong></td>
<td><strong>99</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An Open Book's author and illustrator events clearly benefit the students who attend them. In addition to giving each child a new book to read, events broaden students’ horizons by introducing them to artists and illustrators, and to new subjects, worlds and ideas. A powerful ripple effect spreads beyond the event into students’ homes and schools. Students share books with families and friends, and school and classroom library copies donated by AOB circulate to additional students for years.

During the 2018-19 school year, 123 authors and illustrators delivered 272 presentations at 166 school visits. Their presentations were as varied and creative as their words and pictures—some authors and illustrators taught bookmaking, collage, mindfulness or movement. An Open Book also followed multiple events with in-class extension activities and coordinated post-event extensions with our nonprofit partner, FoodPrints.

Extension activities deepen students’ experiences with authors’ and illustrators’ books—and explore how books act as catalysts to action and investigation. Extension activities strengthen AOB’s impact by enriching educators’ and students’ interest in their new books and the topics they explore.
“I know they will treasure their books for years to come. I wish you could have seen the excitement at dismissal! Personally, this event was a highlight of my teaching career.”

—2nd grade teacher
AOB’s education coordinator works with educators during events to identify appropriate follow-up. She then designs and leads extensions tailored to each classroom’s needs, explorations or passions. Finally, she documents her lessons so AOB staff and teachers can successfully reproduce them in conjunction with future author or illustrator visits. This year’s extension activities were many and varied.

In several first grade classrooms, students transformed into scientists, prompted by the carefully researched *Stripes of All Types*. Students tested knowledge of animals’ protective mechanisms and then applied their knowledge of protective coloration to create non-fictional or fictional animals in various habitats. “Let me check my research,” uttered one young zoologist as he consulted his new book.

FoodPrints, a local nonprofit that integrates gardening, cooking and nutrition education into the curriculum at DC schools, teaches hands-on lessons that motivate students to grow, prepare and enjoy fresh, local foods. FoodPrints complements An Open Book author and illustrator visits with interactive multisensory experiences inspired by the books’ content. For example, after Linda Sue Park presented *Bee-Bim Bop!*, kindergartners prepared and tasted the dish, alongside FoodPrints teachers and AOB staff. Such activities bring books to life in vivid, experiential—and often delicious—ways.

“I like that the author was from Latin America because most of the authors we read aren’t from there.”

—6th grade student
Thanks to contributions from foundations, institutions, community partners and individuals, An Open Book Foundation is able to help children see themselves as readers who can navigate a complex world and define their own futures. We are so grateful for all of AOB’s generous supporters.

Community Partners
Barstons Child’s Play*
Duende District Bookstore
Everybody Wins DC*
FreshFarm FoodPrints
Georgetown Day School*
Jubilee Jumpstart
Loyalty Bookstores
Martha’s Table*
Solid State Books*
WAAC: Writers and Artists Across the Country
*on-going partnership

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### Unrestricted Income
- Gifts-in-kind* $ 236,808
- Individual Contributions $ 71,260
- Partnerships $ 10,465
- Government Grants $ 41,592
- Foundations $ 129,287
**Total Unrestricted Income** $ 489,411

### Other Income
- Dividends & Interest $ 11,895
- Investment Income $ 21,006
- Restricted Income $ 58,360
**Total Other Income** $ 91,261

**Total Income** $ 580,672

### Expenses
- Author Expenses* $ 236,808
- Books $ 91,538
- Other Event Expenses $ 10,114
- Direct Programming Expenses $ 338,460
- Operating Expenses $ 227,282
**Total Expenses** $ 565,742

**Total Net Income** $ 14,930

*Forgone author honorariums and per diems


“It is great to see this wonderful work of An Open Book. An Open Book is one of my favorite organizations in working with kids and schools toward personal and social growth.”

—author-illustrator