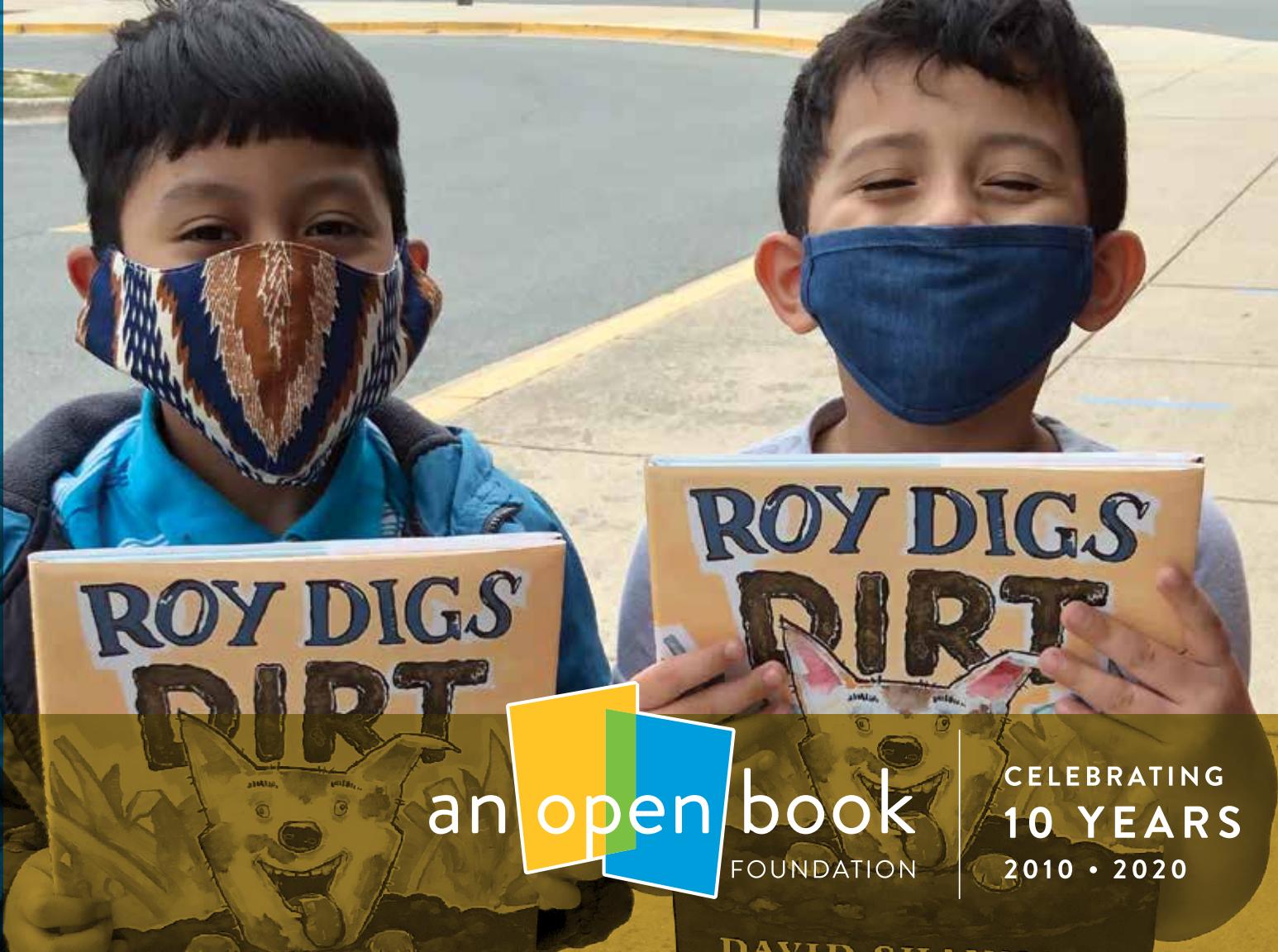


ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



an open book
FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
2010 • 2020



Connecting authors, illustrators and their books with Washington, DC-area students to build equitable access and nurture a lifelong love of reading.



CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
2010 • 2020

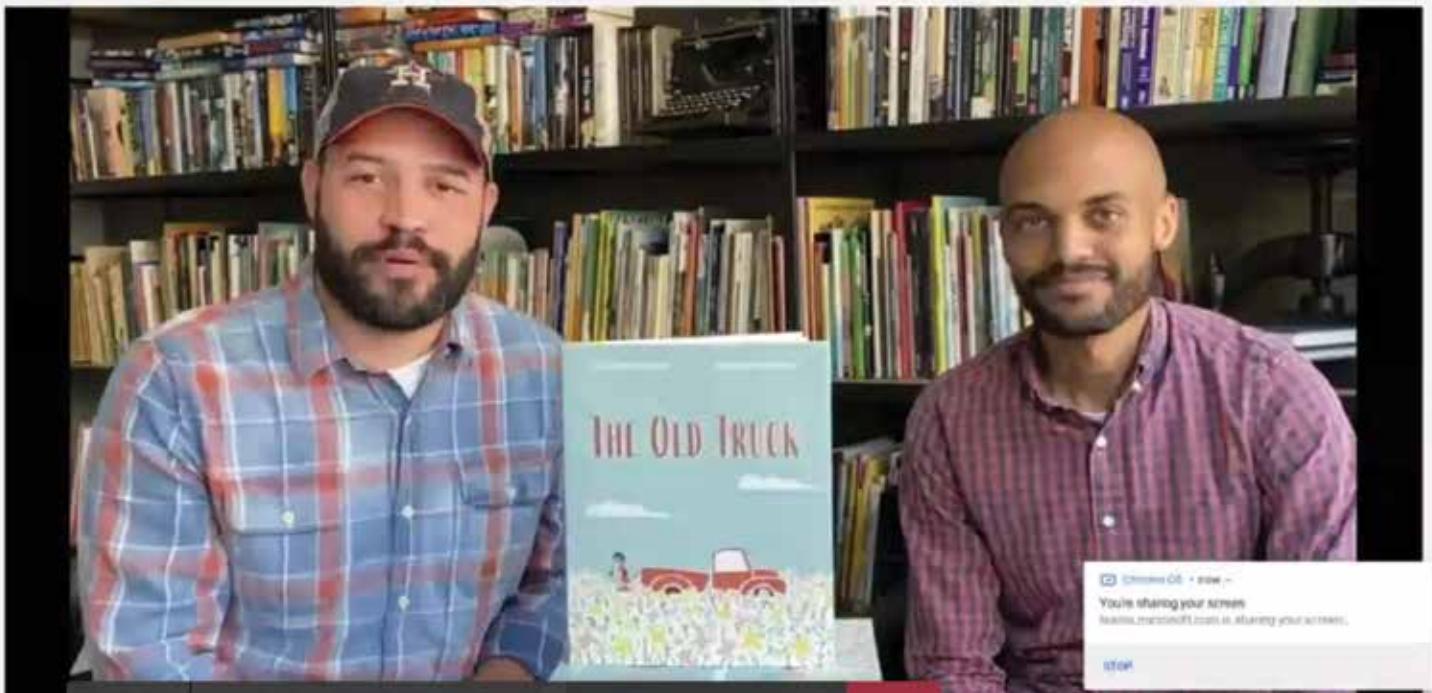


Your status is set to do not distract. You'll only get notifications for urgent messages and from your priority contacts. Change settings.



General

Posts File Class Notebook Assignments Grades playpost



“An Open Book Foundation has been a critical partner for our school for many years. Despite the challenges we are all facing, you found a way to continue to promote your mission of getting books to students in need. We are most grateful for your support and look forward to our continued efforts to foster a love of reading.”

—elementary school librarian

EG

KA

GP

LETTER FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Members of the AOB Community,

Every school year presents unique challenges, but the 2019-20 school year was unlike any we'd experienced. Despite formidable obstacles, our team at An Open Book met each new challenge with flexibility, resourcefulness, creativity and deep reflection. In mid-March, when the global pandemic forced schools to shift to distance learning, we retooled our existing programs and initiated a few new ones to support the community we serve and continue to fulfill AOB's mission. Throughout the remainder of the school year, we continued to connect students with authors, illustrators, and their books with video visits. When violent racial incidents at the end of May sparked nationwide protests, we reaffirmed AOB's commitment to antiracist work, and with the July issue of the AOB newsletter began sharing details of our ongoing efforts towards educational justice.

In addition to providing program statistics for the entire 2019-20 school year, this annual report divides the year into the period before and after school buildings closed in mid-March. Over the course of the entire 2019-20

school year, 100 authors and illustrators generously waived their speaking fees to participate in 133 visits to 91 schools and community service organizations where they made 202 presentations to 10,772 students, and nearly 12,000 books were added to home, classroom, and school libraries. We stocked Little Free Libraries at six schools allowing students and their families to select and keep 752 additional books. AOB's education coordinator or our nonprofit partner FoodPrints led extension activities for 12 classes at elementary schools across DC. Finally, our education coordinator facilitated 5th grade book groups at two DC public schools.

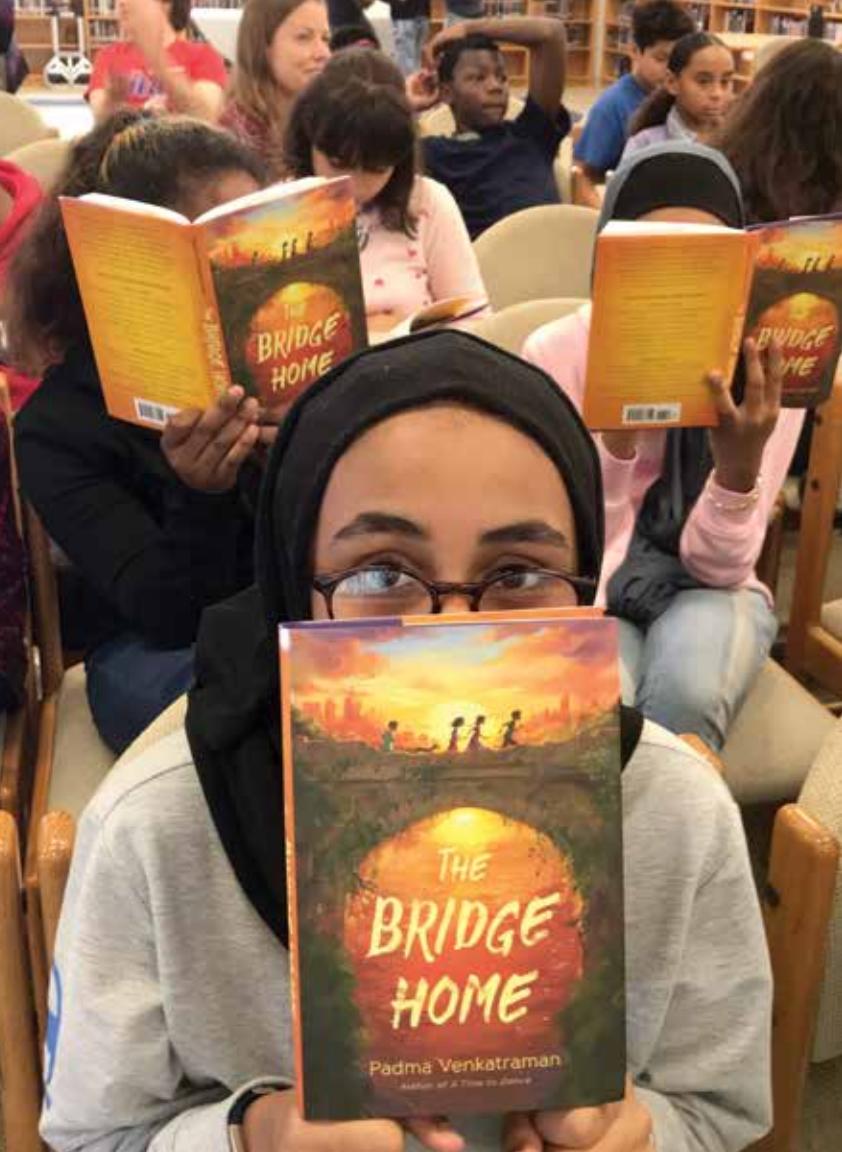
The first section of this annual report features highlights from our busy fall semester. The second section focuses on the *Silver Linings* that AOB and our inspiring partners—authors, illustrators, educators, and local nonprofits—discovered in a difficult situation. In the third section, we share the ongoing *Reflections* of the AOB team and board about the work we do with our community partners to build educational justice.

In the 2020-21 school year, we will celebrate a milestone—our 10th anniversary. Ten years of exciting author and illustrator visits, engaging books, and enriching programming including writing and art workshops, and music and movement activities. Ten years of conversations, ranging from silly to sincere, between book creators and students. Ten years of rewarding partnerships with generous authors and illustrators, dedicated educators, and area nonprofits.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that An Open Book provide DC-area students with meaningful programs and engaging books. We are confident that your ongoing support and generosity will ensure our success.

We are proud to be a part of the DC area's strong network of nonprofit organizations that work each day to support our community. We remain committed to building equity and remain hopeful that brighter days are ahead.

Dana DePorte Heidi Powell



IN SCHOOLS ENRICHING OUR PROGRAM

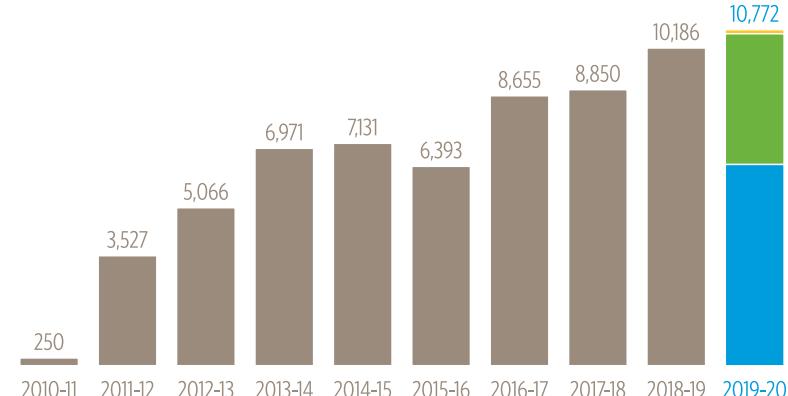
Our fall calendar was full of meaningful author and illustrator visits, partnered events, extension activities and book group meetings. Between September and mid-March, 79 authors and illustrators visited 85 schools where they gave 166 presentations to 6,452 students. AOB gave 8,099 books to those students, and their classroom and school libraries.

In addition, 268 students from six DC elementary schools participated in 12 extension activities where they engaged in a range of projects from preparing and eating a meal to transforming a piece of their own writing into another form, such as a skit or performance poetry, an illustration or a diorama, to making and putting on a play with shadow puppets.

We started our second 5th grade book group (Book Acquisition Team, or BAT) whose 12 members researched which books they wanted to read and wrote grants to AOB for copies for themselves and their library. Students gained advocacy, writing, and public speaking skills.

STUDENTS SERVED

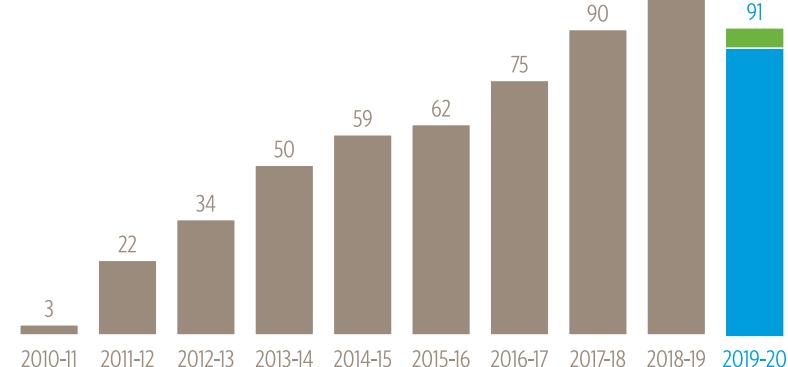
● Pre-COVID: 6,452 ● Post-COVID: 4,274 ● Summer: 46



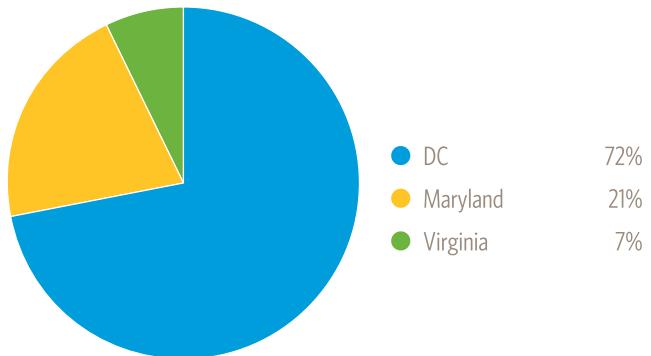
SCHOOLS & INSTITUTIONS VISITED

(Many schools host multiple AOB events each year.)

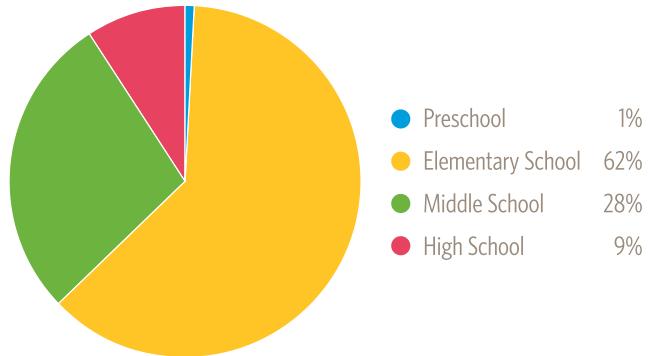
● Pre-COVID: 85 ● Post-COVID: 6



EVENTS BY LOCATION



STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL



Other long-term projects we were working on in the fall included updating our strategic plan, exploring ways to further develop our extension activity program with pre- and post-event activities to enhance the impact of AOB visits, and developing additional ways to measure the impact of our program by collaborating with librarians on displays and evaluation of circulation data, as well as student and teacher surveys following selected presentations.

“Not only did it get them interested in reading the book, it made them realize that writing is possible too. I am excited to let you know that every single one of my students asked me if we could start reading the book on Monday. I have never had this level of excitement over reading a book before.”

-8th grade teacher

ON SCREENS

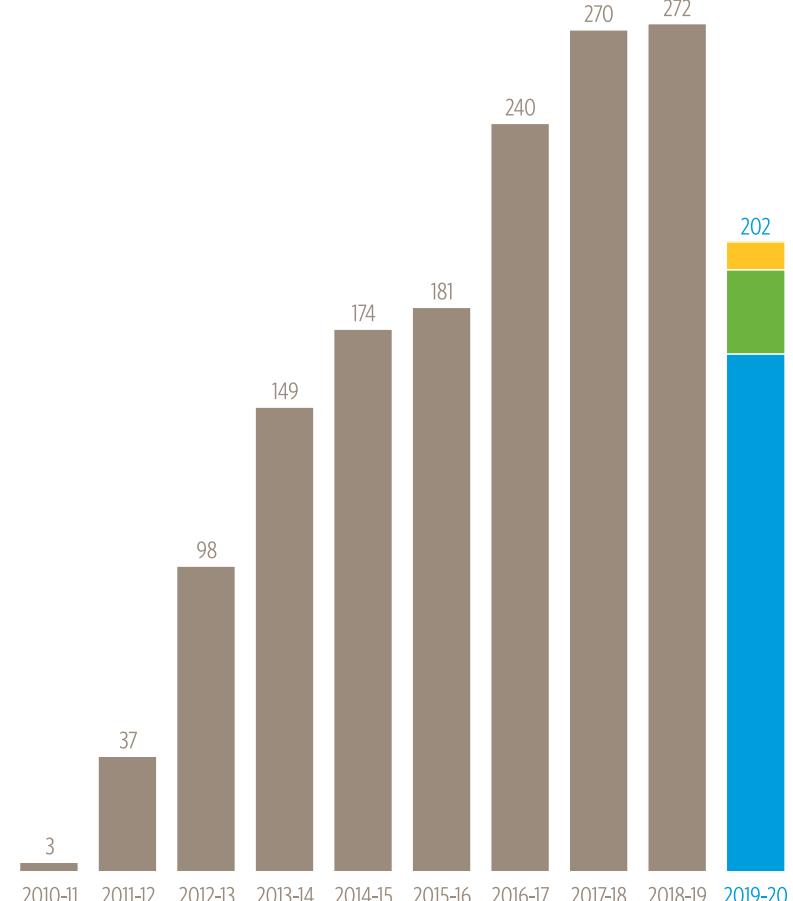
FINDING THE SILVER LININGS

In mid-March, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel our remaining events and work from home. Every day, our team met virtually to brainstorm creative ways to modify our programming. By the end of March, schools in the DC metro area had instituted distance learning. We continued to serve students with two new initiatives: book deliveries and an online educators' resource guide. Between mid-March and June, we delivered 5,621 carefully curated books to 39 of our partner schools for distribution during meal and packet pick-up. We also compiled a spreadsheet of online resources for educators which we continue to maintain. Our events program resumed in May, virtually, as we tackled technology logistics alongside educators, authors and illustrators. By the end of the school year we had successfully coordinated 36 virtual author and illustrator visits and a virtual book group meeting.

Committed to connecting with students but unable to travel, authors and illustrators from across the country agreed to pre-record their presentations, which they often tailored to the students and the school. In some

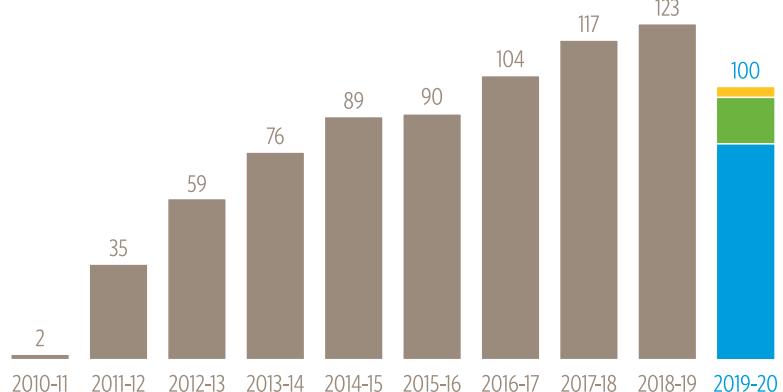
AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR PRESENTATIONS

● Pre-COVID: 166 ● Post-COVID: 27 ● Summer: 9



PARTNERING AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

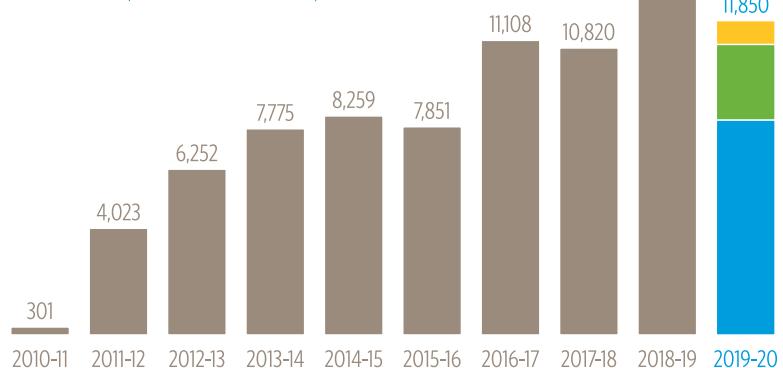
● Pre-COVID: 79 ● Post-COVID: 17 ● Summer: 4



BOOKS DONATED

(at author programs)

● Pre-COVID: 8,099 ● Post-COVID: 2,852 ● Summer: 899



cases, we submitted students' questions for the authors and illustrators to answer as part of their pre-recorded presentations. As always, AOB purchased copies of the featured title to give to every student and a set of the author's/illustrator's titles for the school and classroom libraries. Some librarians were able to coordinate book deliveries, but we plan to deliver most of the books directly to the schools when they reopen.

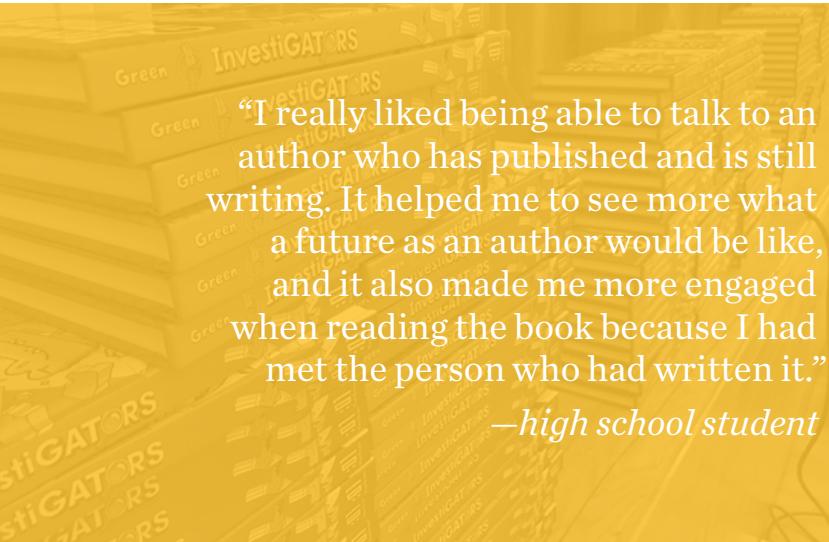
Every semester, AOB's education coordinator collaborates with a school librarian or a teacher to jump-start a book group that the librarian, teacher or students will sustain independently. Although school buildings were closed, our education coordinator met with the spring semester's book group virtually. Students selected the book they wanted to read and An Open Book

provided each member of the newly formed book group with their own copy of that book. The students diligently researched titles and advocated for their choices.

The final silver linings of the virtual school year were two partnered summer programs. First, An Open Book worked with Shout Mouse Press (SMP), a local nonprofit writing and publishing program dedicated to amplifying underheard voices. AOB arranged for Mahogany Browne, a prominent poet, author, educator, and organizer to present her work, share her lived experience, and provide a writing prompt as part of SMP's #ShoutInPlace initiative to collect stories from young people during the

pandemic. SMP authors asked questions about her poetry and writing process, and shared their experiences as writers and presenters. Every young person and the SMP library received a copy of her book, *Woke*, from AOB.

An Open Book also partnered with the local nonprofit FoodPrints and San Francisco-based publisher Readers To Eaters to provide summer enrichment programming for 30 students from five DC public elementary schools in Wards 7 and 8. The program connected students to reading, gardening, and cooking. Students learned about food and nutrition through hands-on experience and stories. They also gained insights into the process of writing and illustrating books. Every week, students received a bag of produce, supplies, and two books delivered directly to their homes. An Open Book had suggested titles and ordered the books, and together with Readers to Eaters coordinated the author and illustrator visits. Students enjoyed daily cooking classes and book club meetings. They had a weekly virtual workshop with the author or illustrator of one of the books they read that week. Students studied the books during their book club meetings and prepared their questions in advance. By building equitable access to nutritious food, books, and food literacy we had a direct and positive impact on students and their families.



"I really liked being able to talk to an author who has published and is still writing. It helped me to see more what a future as an author would be like, and it also made me more engaged when reading the book because I had met the person who had written it."

—high school student

Grades
PreK-1

Please
take a
book
to read
at home!
one book per student, please

Brought to you by
an open book
foundation.org



Grades
2-3

Please
take a
book
to read
at home!
one book per student, please

Brought to you by
an open book
foundation.org



Grades
4-5

Please
take a
book
to read
at home!
one book per student, please

Brought to you by
an open book
foundation.org



COMMUNITY-WIDE REFLECTING ON THE WORK WE DO

Over the past 10 years, AOB has refined our mission statement in an effort to reflect our growth and evolution. At the beginning of the 2019-20 school year we began work on the latest modification, and in early June AOB's board unanimously approved the revised mission statement:

Connecting authors, illustrators and their books with Washington, DC-area students to build equitable access and nurture a lifelong love of reading.

As a literacy organization, AOB focuses on equitable access to authors, illustrators, and books for all students. Addressing issues of social and racial justice is inherent to our mission.

The violent racial incidents and subsequent protests in the spring of 2020 prompted us to reflect on our values and the work that we do with the communities we serve. Central to our process of reflection and action is sharing our progress with the AOB community. An Open Book will continue to:

- Amplify the creative voices of Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color.
- Educate ourselves and interrogate our own biases in order to continuously grow, aware that anti-racist work is an ongoing reflective process.
- Actively listen to our BIPOC constituents and integrate their voices as AOB evolves.

Guided by these values, we will continue to connect young readers with authors and illustrators who share stories—everyone's stories—to nurture a love of reading. We will continue to focus on creators, stories and characters that reflect the world in which we all live, encouraging students to use their written and visual literacy skills to navigate a complex world and define their own futures.

As part of our effort to amplify the voices of BIPOC authors and illustrators, AOB was awarded a grant from the Maurice Sendak Foundation to support a program for these new and emerging artists. The pilot phase of this new program focuses on new and emerging Black authors or illustrators. Furthermore, the grant covers the cost of purchasing books directly from local Black-owned bookstores.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Support received from January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

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 | Loyalty Bookstore |
| The Catalogue for Philanthropy | The River School |
| Edmund Burke School | Sidwell Friends School |
| FRESHFARM FoodPrints | Turning the Page |
| Georgetown Day School | Writers and Artists Across the Country |
| Kramerbooks | |

Foundation, Institutional and Organizational Donors

| | |
|---|---|
| Abraham Rosen Memorial Fund | The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation |
| Bou Family Foundation | National Capital Optimists Club |
| CareFirst | Rotary Foundation of Washington DC |
| Cedar Hill Foundation | Robert I. Schattner Foundation, Inc. |
| DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities | Shepard Family Philanthropy Fund |
| DMV Women Writers | The Shepard Gusfield Family Fund |
| The Elkes Foundation | Sprint Communications |
| Foley Hoag Foundation | Tabizura Foundation |
| Kirkland & Ellis LLP | Temple Sinai |
| The Matthew Korn and Cynthia Miller Family Foundation | Venable Foundation |
| Little Brown Books For Young Readers | Washington Hebrew Congregation |
| | Community Issues/Social Action Committee |

Individual Donors

In Honor Of

AJ and Emma's Wedding
Jim Baldwin
Benjamin Champa
Kristen Bialik & Aaron Handsman
Cecilia and Curt
The Costabiles
Randy Goldel's birthday
Hazel
Jennifer's Birthday
Kate
Deborah Litt
Madison, Mikendra and Jay
Mikayla's First Communion
Benjamin Miller Kohler's 5th
Birthday
Kimberly Mott
Debbie & Jim Regan
Mrs. Barbara Rosing
The Rudnik Family
Kathie Weinberg
Adam Wolgamot

In Memoriam

James Chase
Dr. George W. Elford
Janet Griffin
Joan Romano
Ethel Turner

David & Martha Adler

Fernando & Adrienne Alegre

Michelle Applebaum
Richard Baker
Josiah Baldwin
Tara Balfe Clifford
Katherine Ballenger
Barbara Barger
Polly Baber Bassoni
Carolyn Vinson Bou & Stephen Bou
Susan Beal
Susan Bell
Brian Berger
Howard Berger
Scott Bergmann
Jennifer Bialik
Arlene & Steve Bowes
Sarah Boxer
Martha Bradshaw
Elizabeth Breckenridge
Rabbi Bronstein
Peter & Elizabeth Bruce
Guy & Laura Cecala
David Champa
Megeen Charvala
Genevieve Chase
Paula Chase Hyman
Cliffe & Cheryl Cheston
Edward Cohen & Charlene Barshefsky
Kelsey Coriell
Jean Crocker
Jane Dana & David Aufhauser
Audrey Dannenberg
David & Susan Dannenberg
James & Dena Dannenberg
Matt Dannenberg
Ann Dannenberg & Glenn Rosen
Beverly and Chris Darnell
Diane Deming
Jean Diehl
Bob & Liz Doherty
Mary Douglas & James Dick
Nancy & Walter Douglas
Stuart Drake
Jennifer & Matt Eliot
Kathryn Erskine
Janet Fairbank
Helen Fillion
Sarah Fleischer
Mary Alice Garber
Russell Ginnis
Megan Goodman
Joan Gordon
Jill Graff
Lauren Greenberger
Margaret Greene
Michael & Georgia Guhin
Merna & Joseph Guttentag
Elizabeth Hadley
Meghan Haigh
Karen Harris & Rob Gurwitz
Hope Harrod & Michael Ferguson
Jacqueline Hechtkopf

Bold indicates repeat donors or returning authors and illustrators.

Christopher & Helene Hemus
Jeffrey & Ellen Huvelle
Terry Jennings
Libby Jewett & Stephen Teach
Jean & Michael Kaliner
Lori Kilkelly
Patti Kim
Barbara J. Kraft
Betsy Kraft
Susan Kuklin
Ari La Porte
Nathan La Porte & Leah Handel
Todd & Betty La Porte
Todd & Dara La Porte
Joey Lampl & Steven Taswell
Katharine Landfield
Joanne Leedom-Ackerman
Bob & Ellen Leibenluft
Sally & Richard Levie
Debbie Levy & Rick Hoffman
Richard & Diane Levy
Lauren Lexton & Kevin MacCarthy
Debby & Robert Litt
Catherine Litten
Sue Liu
Felix Lloyd
Harriet McGuire
Elizabeth & Dale Meers
Miriam Metzger
Leo Michel
Katherine Miller
Lorrie Miller Kohler & Ben Kohler
Denise Mitchell & Bob Weinberg

Lee Mitchell
Helen Morgan
Kara Morillo
Erin Murphy
Montahah Muthana
Caryn Nagler & Glenn Northern
Abigail M Nolan
Megan Ogborn
Elissa & Bill Oshinsky
Ron Page
Kerri Poore
Simon & Heidi Powell
Susan Prytherch
Scott Rabinowitz
Renee Redpath
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Nancy Riker
William & Donna Roberts
Mary Ellen Rogers
Alena Rosen & Ed Besher
Brooke Rosing
Marc & Anna Rotenberg
Paula & Tim Ruszel
Lucia & Adam Saperstein
Kem Sawyer
M Saylor & J Dehli
Michael Schmahl
Laura Seabourne
Joseph & Laurie Sellers
Eva Sereghy & Andy Lipps
Sylvie Shaffer
Nancy Simon
Stacey Singleton

Deborah Sloan
Steven Smith
Gail D. Solomon
Susan Spock
Susan Stockdale
Patty Stonesifer & Michael Kinsley
Lauren Strohecker
Paul Strumph
Susan Sullivan
Anna Swenson & John Kunkel
Brian Szymanski
Michael Terborg
Carrelle Tiller
Paulina Velasco
Marc Villa & Melanie Tung
Harry Walter
Beth Wehrle
Kathie & David Weinberg
Jeffrey & Susan Werthan
Michael West
Natalie Wexler
Wendy & Lawrence White
Jason Whiteman
David Williams
Emily Winchitz
Sharyn Wolf
Joy & Graham Wyatt
Mary Kay Zuravleff

Authors & Illustrators
(2019-20 school year)
Atia Abawi
Mary Amato
Julissa Arce
Jorge Argueta
Marcie Flinchum Atkins
Gabrielle Balkan
Mac Barnett
Andrea Beaty
Phil Bildner
Louise Borden
Fred Bowen
Mahogany Browne
Nick Bruel
Pablo Cartaya
Joelle Charbonneau
Paula Chase
Lesa Cline-Ransome
Deanna Cook
Angela Dominguez
Daniel Ehrenhaft
Zetta Elliott
Mia Garcia
Laura Gehl
Maria Gianferrari
John Patrick Green
Tommy Greenwald
Dean Hale
Shannon Hale
Deborah Heiligman
Leah Henderson
Tiffany D. Jackson

Kimberly Jones
Lita Judge
Karen Kane
Jessica Kensky
Patti Kim
Thanhha Lai
William Lashner
Francie Latour
June Jo Lee
Cynthia Levinson
Sanford Levinson
Caron Levis
Debbie Levy
Carole Lindstrom
Mariama Lockington
Alexander London
Kyle Lukoff
Kevin McCloskey
Megan McDonald
Lisa McMann
Juana Medina
Kate Messner
Heather Montgomery
Pam Munoz Ryan
Innosanto Nagara
Claire Nivola
Jerdine Nolen
Rex Ogle
Zachariah OHora
Baptiste Paul
Daria Peoples-Riley
Mitali Perkins
Erica Perl

Christine A. Platt
James Ponti
Margi Preus
Katherine Pryor
Jarrett Pumphrey
Jerome Pumphrey
James Ransome
Raúl the Third
Doug Salati
Michelle Schaub
Jon Scieszka
Gilly Segal
Suzanne Selfors
Ruta Sepetys
David Shannon
Bob Shea
Kashmira Sheth
Laura Shovan
Dashka Slater
Ronald L. Smith
Kelly Starling-Lyons
Joshua David Stein
Susan Stockdale
Nic Stone
Thomas Taylor
Jennifer Thermes
Duncan Tonatiuh
Padma Venkatraman
Elizabeth Wein
Steven Weinberg
Alicia D. Williams
Erin Yun

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Carolyn Vinson Bou, Chair *†**
Counsel, Venable, LLP
- **Hannah Oliver Depp †**
Owner, Loyalty Bookstores
- **Michelle Edwards, EdD †**
Executive Director, Live It Learn It
- **Mary Alice Garber *†**
Buyer, Children and Teens Department,
Politics and Prose Bookstore
- **Hope Harrod *†**
Teacher, John Burroughs Elementary School, DCPS
- **Libby Jewett, PhD *†**
Director of the Ocean Acidification Program, NOAA
- **Minh Lê *†**
Children's author
- **Deborah Litt, PhD *†**
Associate Professor of Education (retired),
Trinity University
- **Deep Master †**
Tax Supervisor, Marcum LLP
- **Deb Shapiro †**
President and Founder, Deb Shapiro & Company

*served in the 2018-19 school year

†served in the 2019-2020 school year



BECOME A SUPPORTER

Support from foundations, institutions and individuals is critical to the ongoing success of An Open Book Foundation.

You can donate by visiting anopenbookfound.org

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial data for the period of January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Unrestricted Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gifts-in-kind* | \$ 253,945 |
| Individual Contributions | \$ 70,806 |
| Partnerships | \$ 1,476 |
| Government Grants | \$ 37,827 |
| Foundations | \$ 114,000 |
| Total Unrestricted Income | \$ 478,054 |

Other Income

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fiscal Sponsor | \$ 510 |
| Dividends & Interest | \$ 15,091 |
| Investment Income (unrealized gain) | \$ 95,139 |
| Restricted Income | \$ 67,346 |
| Total Other Income | \$ 178,086 |
| Total Income | \$ 656,140 |

Expenses

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Author Expenses* | \$ 236,803 |
| Books-in-kind | \$ 17,142 |
| Books | \$ 94,296 |
| Other Event Expenses | \$ 3,984 |
| Direct Programming Expenses | \$ 98,280 |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 293,695 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 645,920 |
| Total Net Income | \$ 10,220 |

*forgone author honorariums and per diems



"AOB's support has meant a lot to me. Today's presentation was an amazing experience because Dough Boys was for them. I was honored to present the book to them and vocalize that they are seen. The young man who shared [his personal experience] with me stole my heart. Knowing that his experience is likely represented through Simp and Rollie reinforces why this book is special to me. That single moment reinforced why I write."

—Paula Chase, author



CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
2010 • 2020

5901 Utah Avenue NW, Washington DC 20015

202 686 7115

info@anopenbookfound.org • www.anopenbookfound.org

Facebook: facebook.com/anopenbookfound • Twitter: @AOBFound • Instagram: AOBFound