

Haven't heard from AOB recently? No news is GREAT news!
Catch up below on our busy past few months.



Laurie Berkner at Burroughs Elementary



A Busy Winter for An Open Book

Sometimes no news means *great* news, and that's the case for An Open Book Foundation these past few months! The mild winter meant fewer travel complications this year for visiting authors and a full calendar with school visits in and around Washington, DC. Please read on to learn about big staffing changes, an exciting grant AOB received, and some program highlights.

Welcome, Heidi

Heidi Powell joined AOB full time as Co-Executive Director of the organization she and Dara La Porte founded six years ago.

After fourteen years with Politics & Prose Bookstore, the past six as manager of the Children & Teens Department, Heidi hit the ground running in late February and is thrilled to expand her already integral role with AOB. She will be focusing on developing partnerships with area nonprofits, identifying grant opportunities, and long-term planning for the organization. Heidi is shown here with author Kenneth Kraegel, Ms. Marshall from Wheatley Education Campus, and AOB Education Director Janet Zwick. Welcome, Heidi!



AOB Authors Earn Top Awards

Congratulations to the many AOB authors and illustrators who won an array of national awards for their outstanding contributions to children's literature. A



listing of 2017 award recipients who have donated their time and talent to AOB is **in the News section** of our website. At left, a student from Simon Elementary enjoys Carole Boston Weatherford's multiple award-winning *Freedom in Congo Square*.

And, Speaking of Awards...

An Open Book recently received a grant from the **DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities**, which is funded by DC and the National Endowment for the Arts. These generous funds will support seventeen author/illustrator events. AOB will take this important opportunity to provide more varied and in-depth programming. For example, illustrators will create murals with children and teach book-making. For our first grant-sponsored event, author and musician Laurie Berkner engaged Burroughs Elementary School Pre-K and special needs students with interactive songs (shown above).

Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

With multiple author/illustrator visits scheduled every week for the remainder of this school year, we anticipate meeting over 2,200 students—and giving each of them a book—between now and mid-June. Throughout this exciting time, AOB continues to offer an incredible array of high-quality books and programs to local students from PreK through high school. And we already have visitors on our calendar through November! We continue to be grateful for the generosity of those creative authors and illustrators who volunteer to visit schools with AOB, like Don Tate, shown at right sketching a caricature of a student from Bishop Walker School for Boys.



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