The 2021-22 school year was one of growth and expansion for AOB. We launched our STEM Residence Program, modeled on our successful Artist-in-Residence Program. We moved to a bigger office space, closer to many of our partner schools. We welcomed a full-time program coordinator in April and created an office assistant position for the 2022-23 school year. We added two new nonprofit partners to our roster: City Blossoms and Planet Word, and we collaborated on an event with New Heights, a school-based service delivery program that supports expectant and parenting DCPS students. We secured several new grants, received support for capacity building, and successfully transitioned our fiscal year to align with our programming cycle.

Roadkill may seem an unlikely subject for a STEM lesson, but author and scientist Heather Montgomery (Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill) will quickly dispel that notion. Not only is it science, it’s gross—and engrossing to the third graders who participated in Montgomery’s three-day residencies at LaSalle Backus ES. The first in our new STEM Residence Program, classes studied the impact of humans on wildlife migration and constructed model bridges to help wildlife safely cross busy roads. Other STEM residencies included citizen-scientist Lenora Todaro focusing on local wildlife and habitats, and author-activist Tony Hillery championing urban planning and school gardens.

Impact

- Through our New and Emerging Artists of Color Program, 60% of students said they could imagine being an author after meeting one.
- After participating in a STEM Residence Program, 85% of students wanted to learn even more about science.
- Nearly 70% of students said they’ll read the book they received right away.
- 83% of educators tied the visit to the classroom, grade, or school curriculum.

Survey data from students and educators collected during a 6-week period.

Programs

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Financials

- Programming 88% $500,143
- Administration 10% $55,340
- Fundraising 2% $10,349

View our 2021-22 financial documentation at www.anopenbookfound.org

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AOB’s Flagship Program began a partial return to in-person visits mid-year. Here, illustrator Vashti Harrison chats with a student at Houston Elementary School while signing her book.