# 65 Foundation



Annual Report 2019

# A word from our Board President & Executive Director



#### **Dear Friends:**

The 2018-2019 fiscal year was one of new beginnings for Foundation 65. With the leadership transition to the fourth Board President in Foundation 65's history, Dr. Keith Robinson, and the arrival of our second Executive Director, Alecia Wartowski, Foundation 65 is excited to honor its history and to build upon the good work of our predecessors. Together, we look to utilize Foundation 65 grantmaking to support our community-wide commitments and values around education.

We know that Foundation 65 supporters are committed to public education, and we are hopeful that our Foundation's work helps to create an equitable education for each student within District 65. As we work together to impact literacy outcomes for our striving students and support perspective-taking through the arts, we know that your support makes a difference in the lives of our District 65 children.

Keep an eye on Foundation 65 in the coming year as we evolve and grow. We are committed to our community, and we work passionately each day to ensure that all children in our community receive a strong and meaningful public education.

We are thankful for your ongoing support and hope to continue to grow our partnerships as we support programs for students, empower educator innovation, and serve as a resource and advocate within our community.

Dr. Keith A. Robinson Board President Alecia Wartowski Executive Director



#### A Special Thank You

Diane Lequar joined the Foundation 65 Board in 2011 and immediately began contributing with her deep commitment to education, her background in accounting and finance, and her love of Evanston. In 2016, she became Foundation 65's third Board President. In 2018, she generously offered to serve as Interim Executive Director. For six months, Diane tirelessly gave to Foundation 65 and created a seamless transition to a new Executive Director. We will forever be grateful for her service, wisdom, and commitment to this Foundation and the children of Evanston. Thank you, Diane!

# Foundation 65



# Foundation 65 Welcomes New Board Members



#### **Katie Gillies**

Katie works as a Reading Specialist and English teacher at Niles North High School. Katie earned a bachelor's degree from Saint Louis University, a master's degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago in Literacy, Language and Culture with Reading Specialist certification, as well as a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Concordia University, Chicago. Katie and her husband have lived in Evanston for almost eight years and have a 1st grader at Orrington Elementary and a preschooler.



#### **Beth McDonald**

Beth has a background in Human Resources. She recently served as the Director of Administration for the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern. There she served as a board member for the Association of Northwestern University Women. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and a master's in Education and Human Development from George Washington University. An advocate for social justice and equity, Beth has facilitated workshops on responding to racism and deconstructing structures of inequity. Beth and her spouse have been residents of Evanston for more than a decade. They are parents to a daughter at Nichols and a toddler/future District 65 student.



#### Mita Sanghavi Goel

Mita is an Internal Medicine physician and faculty member at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, where her research and educational focus is delivering high quality health care to diverse populations. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, her MD from New Jersey Medical School, and her Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. She and her spouse, Anu, have lived in Evanston for more than a decade and are parents to two children attending King Arts School.



#### **Courtney Viamille**

Courtney is a Business Valuation Analyst and Forensic Accountant. He provides valuation services for gift & estate tax determinations, succession planning and litigation support purposes. He has both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Accounting from Northeastern Illinois University. He volunteers as a coordinator of the girls' program for the JaHbat youth travel soccer club. Courtney also attended District 65. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters who attended Dawes Elementary and currently attend Chute Middle School and ETHS.



## \$220,500 IN FUNDED PROGRAMS

#### STRATEGIC IMPACT GRANTS

REACH
(Roots of Evanston
ACHievement)

Summer Reading
Program

Foundation 65 invests in literacy and arts through targeted interventions, enrichment for students, and educator innovation. Our grants range from Strategic Impact Grants at the District level, to Engagement Grants within schools and community, to Responsive Grants supporting educator and community innovation.

#### **ENGAGEMENT GRANTS**

Perspectives
Shared Author
Experience

Kindergarten Library Tours and KLEAP Program Evanston Speaks: Youth Poetry Project MSX: MetaMedia Summer Experience

#### **RESPONSIVE GRANTS**

Books and
Breakfast Lincoln
School Launch

Equity Suite Band
Concert with
Musical Offering

Northlight Theater: Northlight on Campus The Language of
Art with Art
Encounter

## STRATEGIC IMPACT

## **GRANTS**



Strategic Grants invest in District-wide change and sustainable improvement in literacy for our K-2 striving readers.

#### Supporting early literacy through REACH

Foundation 65 funded a third year of the REACH (Roots of Evanston ACHievement) grant. Through this grant, District 65 has created targeted literacy coaching for K-2 teachers and has seen promising results, especially for our striving students.

Increase in non K-ready achievement above 5 year benchmarks

1st grade

2nd grade

3rd grade

+8.1%

+7.7%

+6.9%

Increase in Hispanic student achievement above 5 year benchmarks

1st grade

2nd grade

3rd grade

+11.3%

+2.9%

+5.9%



"The coaching cycles with the REACH literacy coach were extremely valuable. As a coach, she really helped me identify my strengths and areas I could work on during phonics time in the most respectful manner. This coaching not only helped me give my students the strongest instruction during phonics time but her wonderful ideas and strategies carried over into other areas of classroom practice." — District 65 teacher

Increase in Black student achievement above 5 year benchmarks

1st grade

2nd grade

3rd grade

+1.6%

+3.0%

+7.6%

#### **Summer Reading Program (SRP)**

SRP highlights Foundation 65's ability to address a problem with targeted and clear intervention. During the summer, rising 2nd graders who have received reading support during the academic year are given 24 books. These books are handpicked by their reading specialists to correspond with their interests and reading levels.

92% of SRP participants maintained or increased their reading level this summer

# ENGAGEMENT GRANTS



Engagement Grants support projects and interventions that expand beyond a single classroom or year to create longer-term impacts and sustainability.



# Perspectives: A Shared Author Experience

As a collaboration with the District 65 library and fine arts departments, students were introduced to the literature and illustrations of R. Gregory Christie when he spent a week in residency at our schools. An author/illustrator who has worked on more than 60 books that offer windows and mirrors for our students to learn from, he provided inspiration and guidance. His book, Freedom in Congo Square, was also used as a basis for a joint art project across District 65 and Evanston Township High School. In addition, librarians and art teachers joined together for a special professional development event.

#### **Evanston Speaks**

The Evanston Speaks Youth Poetry Program completed its third and final year of Foundation 65 funding and demonstrated how teacher innovation can evolve into a community-wide program. In this program, students met over the course of five months to workshop, craft and rehearse slam poetry in preparation for the 2019 Louder Than A Bomb Youth Poetry Festival. Evanston Speaks culminated in an event where parents and community members were invited to participate in the sharing and writing of poetry with guest artist Adam Gotlieb. More than fifty guests participated, including teachers, parents, students and the District 65 School Board President.



# RESPONSIVE GRANTS



Responsive grants are opportunities for educators and community-based organizations to see their fresh ideas and innovations come to life.

#### **Musical Offering**

Musical Offering provided social justice-themed musical composition this year by working with Chute Middle School students to create an equity suite with the band program. Students worked together to bring a new piece of music to life that had never been done before.

#### **Books and Breakfast**

Books and Breakfast looks to create a community where children feel valued and empowered as learners through providing a healthy breakfast, homework support, and work with mentors. The program is focused on advancing educational equity in District 65. This past year, Books and Breakfast expanded to Lincoln Elementary School



#### **Art Encounter**

Art Encounter created a four-part workshop with fourth graders at Dawes Elementary School to introduce them to local artists and then create artwork inspired by those artists. Students then participated in an all-grade school assembly with local artist Fran Joy.



#### **Northlight Theater**

Northlight Theater and King Arts partnered to create a 12-session program across three classrooms. Students played theater games that built communications skills and wrote and performed a play. The program culminated in a performance at King Arts.

# 2019-2020

# **RESPONSIVE GRANTS**



A record number of Responsive Grants are being ennacted during the 2019-2020 school year. These projects are changing lives by empowering educator innovation.

## **Empowering Kindergarten Latinx Families**

Marcos Alcaine-Soto (Washington) is creating workshops for kindergarten Latinx families to support literacy development.

#### **Send-Home Centers**

Beth Brady (Dawes) is creating Send-Home Centers for the most academically vulnerable ELL students to build stamina and engagement around self-directed play and links to homework.

#### **Black Girl Magic Book Club**

Jenna Arceneaux & Jennifer
Tertulian (Walker) are starting a
book club to serve 3rd-5th
graders. By featuring books
with a protagonist identifying as
a Black girl, they hope to affirm,
empower, represent, and
humanize Black women and
airls.

## **Learn-A-Bration: A Black History Month Celebration**

ShaRita Alexander & Tracy
Hubbard (Bessie Rhodes) are
expanding their annual Learn-ABration. Students will explore
musical styles that influence the
development of hip hop through
poetry, dance, music, and
drumming.

#### Heard!

Trisha Connolly (Washington) is bringing graphic artist Verzell James, to introduce 5th graders to reporting, editing, cartooning, and graphic design.

#### **Take Home Books**

Esther DeLuca (Walker) is creating a take home books project for her 1st grade striving readers. She will share more leveled books and engage their families in literacy support.

#### Musical Offering's Opera Project

Oakton) is creating a oneact performance piece based on a Greek tragedy model. Students will write and create a piece, which will culminate in an April performance.

#### Books and Breakfast Expansion

Kim Hammock is expanding Books and Breakfast to Haven Middle School to advance equity through providing a healthy breakfast, homework support, and work with mentors.

# 2019-2020

# **RESPONSIVE GRANTS**



#### **Drama CDC Collaborations**

Marjorie Hillocks (Lincoln) is working with students in the Communication
Development classroom and the general education classroom to create sensory-based drama lessons.

#### **Literacy Bags**

Enice Reyes (Willard) is providing her Spanish-speaking TWI kindergarten students with literacy bags to provide students with books, a stuffed animal to read with, and activities for caregivers to engage in with their children.

## Sensory-Based Creative Drama

Allison Straussman (Park) is creating sensory-based drama lessons. Using specialized lights and switches, the program will allow students to gain greater autonomy and deeply engage in their drama experiences.

#### Mudlark Theater's Foster School Desegregation Play & Workshop

Maureen Powers and Shorefront (Kingsley) are working with 4th and 5th graders to attend the Mudlark production of a play about desegregration and the closure of Foster Elementary School.
Students will attend the play as well as a pre- and post-play discussion.

#### AAC Core Vocabulary Initiative

District 65 speech-language pathologists (King Lab, Nichols, Lincoln, Park, JEH) are leading a project for children with receptive and expressive language disorders. They are creating a core vocabulary communication board and accompanying lessons.

#### Artists In Residence with Eye on Equity

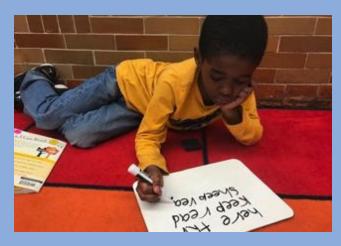
Carolyn Mattox (Dewey) is bringing local artist and activist Ben Blount to work with 5th graders. Students will identify inequities in their community and develop messaging to fight against them.

#### Change Worlds Partnership

Max Weinberg
(Lincolnwood) is bringing
the Changing World
Partnership to 4th graders.
Students will share their
personal stories and family
history to connect with
themes based in social
justice and civic
engagement.

Foundation 65 can only make a difference with your help. It is through your support and investment that our children can continue to thrive. For that, we are deeply grateful.

Because of you, we can accomplish great things.



This list is inclusive of all donations and support from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

This list does not include support from My65 raffle ticket sales.

#### 50,000 +

Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation

#### 30,000 +

Cless Family Foundation Northwestern University

#### 20,000+

Walter Carlson & Debora de Hoyos Jennifer Steans & Jim Kastenholz

#### 10,000+

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#### **Principal's Circle**

The Principal's Circle is comprised of donors who have made an investment in supporting public education by making a gift of \$1,000 or more within fiscal year 2019

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The Thomas Team

# "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." — Marian Wright Edelman

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Albion Residential Chris & Joyce Anderson

Anonymous (2)

Blue Sky Investment Partners, Inc.

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Wintrust-North Shore Community Bank Wintrust Financial Corporation

#### 250 +

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Sieun Choi



# Thanks to our donors, more than 120 educators participated in literacy based professional learning sessions last year to get kids off to a great start.

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Denise Bouras Robert E. Brown, III

#### "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." — Frederick Douglass

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Zhiqiang Cai Zheng Cao Jean Celerin **Judy Chiss** Jennifer Clark Regina Clay Jeanne Cleveland Stacey Cloud

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David & Alecia Wartowski Klaus & Stephanie Weber

Marcie Weiss Mary Beth Whalen Tracy & Brent Woelfle

Kimberly Wolfe & Mike Tanner

Cheryl Wollin Awol Abdu Yassin Michelle Young Kaidi Zhao

#### "Books break the shackles of time - proof that humans can work magic." — Carl Sagan

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#### In-Kind

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Andres Padilla

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Boleo

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Halim Time & Glass Museum

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WGN TV

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Helen Fischer

Jonathan Kimmel

Lorraine Morton

Frances Shusterman

Roger Smith

Roger Smith

Roger Smith

#### Generously donated by:

Lorraine Jahnke

Linda Shusterman

Carol & Stephen Kimmel

**Evanston Community Trust** 

Anonymous

Maria Alvarez

Connie Obrachta

Colleen Smith



#### **HONORING EDUCATORS**

Each spring during Teachers' Appreciation Week, community members are invited by Foundation 65 to honor our educators. Last year more than 160 gifts were made to Foundation 65 on behalf of educators.

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#### Gifts in Honor of

#### Honoring : Generously donated by:

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Esther DeLuca Rick & Carol Humphrey
Esther DeLuca Melissa & Erin Sacluti
Esther DeLuca Robin Saldanha

Chris Demos Laura Fairman





National Teacher Appreciation Week 2019



#### "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." — Sitting Bull

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#### Gifts in Honor of

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Marla Dobrin Rowena Edwards

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Daniel and Henry Fennell

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#### Gifts in Honor of

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# "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." — Kofi Annan

This list is inclusive of all donations and support from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. This list does not include support from My65 raffle ticket sales.

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Honoring: Generously donated by:

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#### Thanks to our donors, 148 rising 2nd graders received a total of 3,552 books through our Summer Reading Program.

This list is inclusive of all donations and support from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. This list does not include support from My65 raffle ticket sales.

#### Gifts in Honor of

Tawana Stiff

Allison Straussman

#### Generously donated by: **Honoring:** Sandy Siebert Cathy & Nitan Jain Sandy Siebert Julie & Nate Merseth Cook Warner Sills Dana Dodzik Alex Skipworth Awol Abdu Yassin Dan & Elizabeth Burns Saronita Skipworth Christine Skoglund Debbie & Bob Burns Alison & Eli Finkel Mary Slattery Meg and Rick Slayton Brian & Aimee King Colleen Smith Ralph Wanger Megan Smith Rabbi Lisa Greene Lisa Spillman Sieun Choi Mariana Stamates Laura Fairman Mariana Stamates Anonymous Ashley Stanley Cory & Patti King Kerry Stellberg Zhiqiang Cai

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0	County on County C Mink and Ki

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Freda Wood-Livingston Monika & Nauris Tankevicius Steve Yasukawa Marino & Angie Fresch Steve Yasukawa Julie & Kyle Smith





#### **REVENUE**

Destricted

restricted	
Donations and Grants	\$25,410

#### Unrestricted

Donations and Grants	\$179,444
In-Kind Support	\$10,540
Misc Income	\$151,109
Investment Income	\$3,042

TOTAL REVENUE \$369,545



#### **EXPENSES**

Programs	\$252,210
General and Administrative	\$53,351
Development and Fundraising	\$87,067

TOTAL EXPENSES \$392,628

#### **FUND BALANCES**

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$210,393
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$130,050

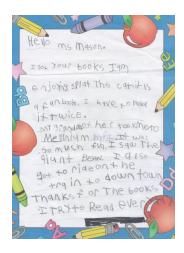
TOTAL NET ASSETS \$340,443 Change in Net Assets (\$23,083)



PTA Equity Fund Liability (6/30/19) \$41,055

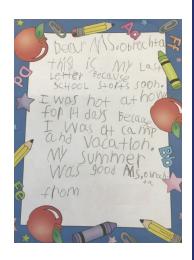
\* Foundation 65 is acting as fiscal agent on behalf of District 65 for the PTA Equity Project (PEP). A PEP seed fund was started at the end of FY2018. Disbursements began in FY2019. Contributions and disbursement decisions are made by the PTA Equity Committee, which has representation from every District 65 school. Foundation 65 is not a PTA entity.

F65 Assets \$381,498









# Foundation 65

Foundation 65 PO Box 750 Evanston, IL 60204



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A special thanks to Diane Leguar for her service as Interim Executive Director