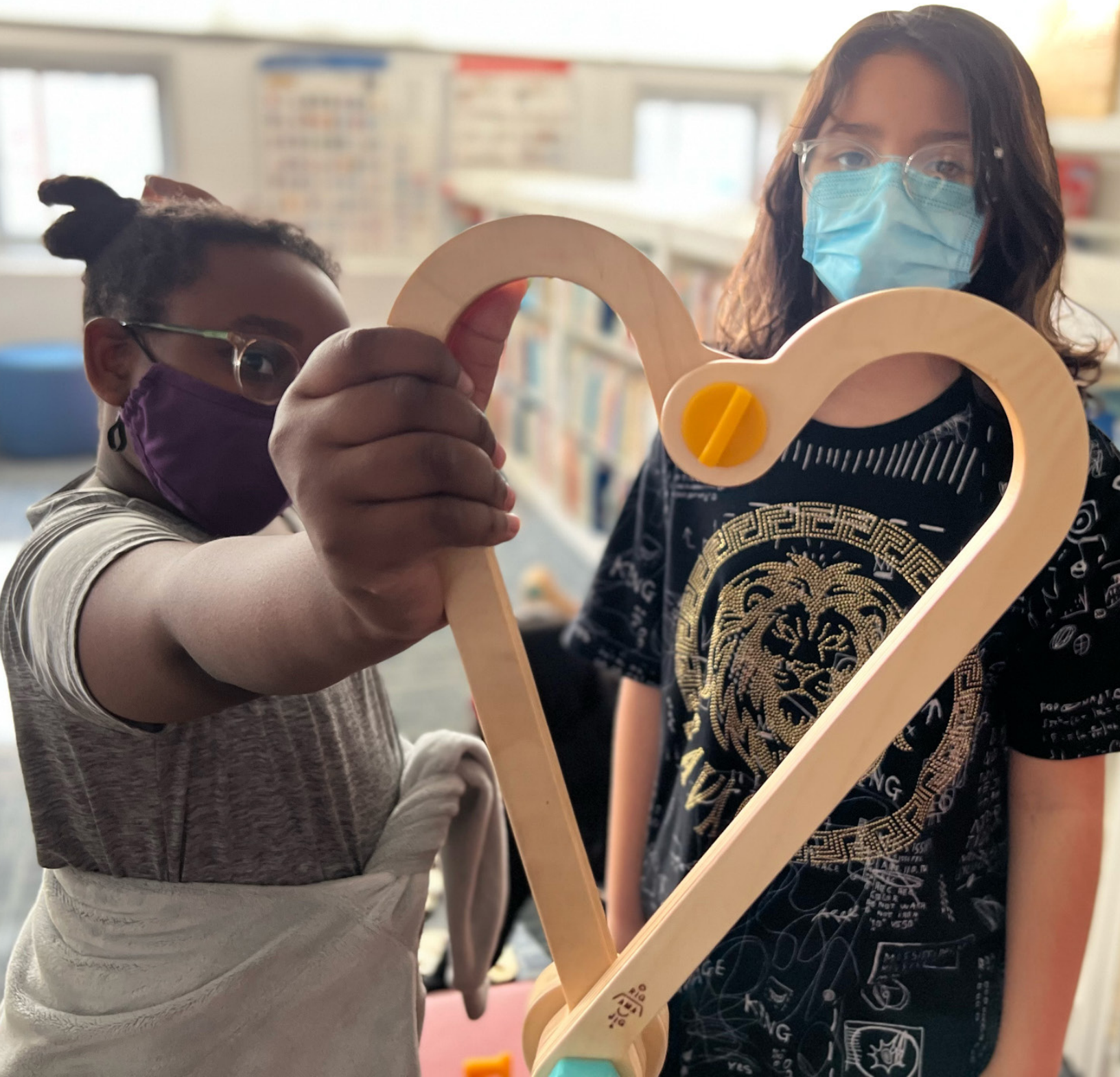


# F<sub>65</sub> Foundation 65



2021-2022 Annual Report





*“The support from Foundation 65 allowed our students to make a variety of items and consider how to solve problems creatively, and that will provide the foundation of an entrepreneurial mindset in our students.”*

David Davis • Kingsley Elementary Principal  
Kingsley Maker Lab



# Dear Friends:

## Your support of Foundation 65 means more today than it ever has before!

We are proud to be the grantmaking organization that creates avenues for educators to learn, grow, and bring innovative methods to their classrooms, all in the name of creating educational equity.

The programs and educators profiled in this year's Annual Report tell a story of the ways in which an educator's vision truly makes an impact when given the resources they need.

At the same time, it is an exciting time for Foundation 65. I am proud to be serving a new term as Board President, with Diana Sheehan as Vice-President. We recently welcomed six new board members to the foundation whose depth of experience and diverse professional and personal backgrounds promise to deepen our commitment and ability to improve equitable outcomes for D65 students. We are embarking on a process to reflect on how Foundation 65 has served our community in the past decade and how we can position ourselves as an effective community resource for decades to come.



**Alison Finkel**  
Foundation 65 Board President

Support for public education and our teachers has never been more important. Education allows children to come together, form connections, and learn with one another. We are proud to support the incredible work that our educators do and are excited to walk with them as they envision new possibilities for their students.

As you read these stories and learn more about the work of some of our amazing D65 teachers and staff, I hope you feel inspired and proud of your part in Foundation 65's grantmaking. We are thankful for all you have done to support the teachers and children of District 65 and look forward to our continued partnership as we help build a more just and thriving community.

Sincerely,

Alison Finkel  
Foundation 65 Board President



# Foundation 65 supports targeted investments and programming for students and empowers educator innovation and leadership.

## Strategic Grants

Strategic Grants invest in District-wide change and sustainable improvement in literacy for our striving readers. Strategic Grants are multi-year grants focusing on achieving a specific outcome. These grants must be targeted to reach a broader audience and be focused on systemic change.

*(Pictured: Six of the graduates of NEIU's Masters in Literacy program, which is significantly funded by Foundation 65.)*



## Engagement Grants

Engagement Grants support projects and interventions that expand beyond a single classroom or year to create longer-term impacts and sustainability. Engagement Grants allow educators' initiatives to grow and for great ideas to spread across District 65. They are single year OR multi-year grants that are targeted to reach a broader audience.

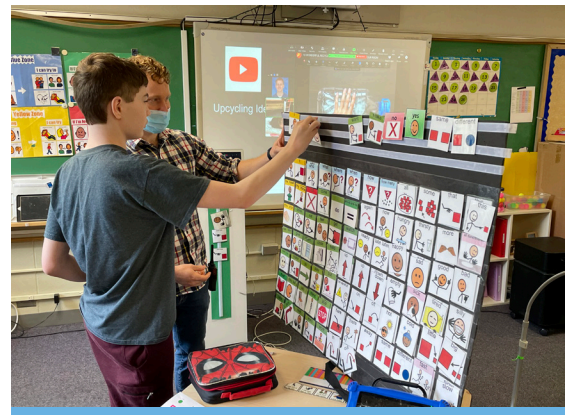
*(Pictured: The Black Girl Magic Book Club finished the year with a District-wide showcase of students' Magic Murals.)*



## Change Agent Grants

Change Agent grants allow educators to have voice and agency in creating change in classrooms and beyond. Change Agent Grant proposals are focused on supporting teachers' work within our schools to create grassroots change that can grow in impact.

*(Pictured: Park School students used 'alternative pencils' like alphabet charts to build literacy skills in writing and exploring letters.)*



# NUMBERS TO KNOW

20

DIFFERENT EDUCATOR  
LED PROJECTS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE DISTRICT AND  
COMMUNITY

11

EDUCATORS GRADUATED IN THE  
FIRST CLASS OF FOUNDATION 65'S  
EDUCATOR LITERACY PROGRAM

25

KINGSLEY  
STUDENTS  
TOOK PART IN  
MAKER SPACE  
ACTIVITIES TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
DESIGN  
THINKING  
AND THE  
MAKER  
MINDSET

7,181

KIDS BENEFITED FROM  
A DISTRICT-WIDE LIBRARY  
GRANT

75

3RD-5TH GRADE  
STUDENTS FROM  
WALKER, WILLARD,  
AND LINCOLNWOOD  
WHO WERE IN THE  
BLACK GIRL MAGIC  
BOOK CLUB

10

BLACK BOYS AT DEWEY  
PARTICIPATED IN THE  
REPRESENT BLACK BOYS  
PROGRAM AND CREATED  
THEIR OWN MIXED MEDIA  
PIECES OF ART

1,500

BOOK GIVEAWAYS AT  
THE CHILD WITHIN  
YOU LITERACY  
CARNIVAL

208

3RD-5TH GRADE STUDENTS AT WILLARD  
EXPERIENCED A NEW SEL PROGRAM  
THROUGH THE RHYTHM PLUS PROGRAM.

# Evanston Teacher Develops Program to Improve Students' Test Scores

It's no secret the opportunity gap between White students and students of color has been an issue of contention for many years. While that gap has shrunk in the last decade, it's still far from where it should be. The City of Evanston is no different. Even with its high-performing schools and the students who attend them, the achievement gap in Evanston is notably wide and many attempts throughout the years have done little to close that gap.

That's where Jacqueline Petrof stepped in. Petrof immigrated to the United States from Guatemala when she was 6 years old, yet she still remembers the frustrations she felt trying to learn math, particularly equations involving complex, language-intensive problems.

Petrof is a second-grade two-way immersion (TWI) teacher at Dawes Elementary. She noticed that her students' math test scores were low and decided to do something about it. "I had been wanting to launch this after-school program for a while, but with three daughters, I never had the time to do it," Petrof said.



As her daughters grew older amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Petrof saw the opportunity to create the High Achieving Students of Color Initiative. Its purpose is simple: provide students who struggle in math with a specialized program designed to increase their math proficiency and standardized test scores. One of the main units Petrof focuses on is word problems.

Black and Hispanic students in District 65 are performing at higher rates than several years ago, according to data from the Educational Opportunity Project. Hispanic students are scoring at the national average, while Black students are performing 0.85 grade levels below the national average. However, this is still dramatically below the scores of White students.

Petrof was proud to be able to change that reality for the students she was working with. All of the participants in last year's group were in the 0-25th percentile when the program began. By the end of the year, 75% of those students met or exceeded expectations on their standardized test.

With funding from Foundation 65, Petrof was able to use her talents and vision to address a persistent challenge and give her students skills that they need. She is excited to be continuing a second year of this program during the 2022-2023 school year.



# Dr. Michael Allen Understands the Power of Stories, Particularly His Own

Growing up, Dr. Allen and his brother had their fair share of challenges and hardships. From experiencing poverty and homelessness, to having his brother move into his college apartment, Dr. Allen can relate to the everyday struggles and hardships many children and their families face on a daily basis.

Taking experiences from both their childhoods, the Allen brothers partnered to write their first book, *A Brotherly Love*, which tells the story of how Dr. Allen, then a sophomore in college and a member of his school's football team, moved his younger brother in with him, becoming his advocate, mentor, and eventually his legal guardian. Allen says he was inspired to write the book because he wanted Evanston children to know that despite the challenges they face, they have everything necessary within themselves to succeed.

On May 7, 2022, Dr. Allen, along with his brother Gilbert, and local author Juleya Woodson, successfully hosted the inaugural The Child in You literacy carnival that Dr. Allen described as “rooted in equity and empowerment.” More than 150 families gathered on Robert Crown Community Center's athletic fields to participate in literacy workshops, meet authors, connect with other community organizations and receive free books.

A former District 65 teacher and administrator, Allen says he conceived the idea of the literacy event when a life-altering event forced him to shift his focus to other avenues.

“I buried both of my parents within a year, so I needed to take time to refocus and recenter myself,” Allen said.

With funding and support from Foundation 65, Allen says the event wasn't a way to recreate the wheel, but rather “support what District 65 was already doing, but didn't have the bandwidth to take to the next level.” The grant allowed Allen the opportunity to share his story so that children and families might build a love of reading, envision opportunities in their future and connect with role models.



*The event wasn't a way to recreate the wheel, but rather “support what District 65 was already doing, but didn't have the bandwidth to take to the next level.”*



# Spreading Black Girl Magic

Malcolm X once said “The most disrespected woman in America, is the Black Woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black Woman. The most neglected person in America is the Black Woman.”

This quote, along with recognizing a need to address the lack of positive Black character role models in children’s books was the basis for Jennifer Tertulien and Jenna Arceneaux’s inspiration for Black Girl Magic, a book club where 3rd-5th graders read and discuss books containing Black female protagonists. As District 65 educators, Tertulien and Arceneaux saw the lack of representation of Black female characters and decided to do something about it.



The book club began at Walker Elementary during the 2018-2019 school year, with 12 participants. The group then expanded to Lincolnwood and Willard. This year they will launch their first middle school book club at Chute.

Each book club meeting is centered around a theme. Student participants complete a self-guided activity that supplements their reading and helps them better understand their own identity. This may be a reflection board with pictures, words, or colors that represent the story under discussion or one of a dozen other activities that allow children to see their similarities and differences with the characters in the books.

The Black Girl Magic book club is open to any student in grades 3 through 5 regardless of their racial or gender identity. This allows all students to be exposed to Black female leads in stories and content. Tertulien and Arceneaux hope that these book clubs affirm, empower and humanize Black girls in our schools and community while providing all children with positive self-esteem, self-image and self worth.

## Change Agent Grants

**Black Boy Literacy (King Arts):** Funds will support purchasing of classroom books featuring Black boy protagonists so that children can experience windows and mirrors in their reading experiences.

**Black SonRise (all):** Supports an out of school time program run by Black men to support Black boys through literacy, STEM, and mentoring

**Black Student Union (Chute):** Supports an after school program to instill power, awareness of

resources, sense of community, and social justice for Black students

**Build a Play residency for RISE Students (King Arts):** Programming to build literacy and art skills for children in the RISE program with communications disorders

**Latinadades: Literacy and Performance (Washington):** Theater and literacy program for TWI students focused on Latinx justice movements.



# Board of Directors

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## \*New Board Members

### Steve Adams

Steven M. Adams is a librarian, educator, speaker and workshop facilitator with more than 21 years of experience creating dynamic learning experiences that spark introspection and nurture group cohesion. As a Northwestern University library faculty member and Posse Foundation mentor, his current research and workshop design projects explore the role of curiosity in creating and sustaining engaging workplace cultures.

### Tiffany Chan

Tiffany Simons Chan is a learning scientist and strategist with a focus on leveraging data to drive toward equity, inclusion, and social and environmental justice. She has carried out her passion for equity through her past service as Willard PTA Co-President, her participation in SEED and Change Makers programs in Evanston, and her service as former Advisory Board member for Unsilence, a nonprofit seeking to unsilence hidden histories, injustices, and marginalized voices through storytelling and the arts.

### Angela Edwards-Campbell, MBA, CDP

Angela Edwards-Campbell is a diversity, equity and inclusion executive consultant with more than 20 years of experience in U.S. and global DEI, management consulting, multicultural marketing, advertising and public relations and strategic business development. Her work spans Fortune 500 companies, U.S government and small businesses, as well as higher education — most recently at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, where she led the school's organization-wide DEI effort.

### Paula Maldonado

Paula Maldonado is a lifelong educator who recently retired after 40 years of teaching, 30 of them in District 65 as an elementary school teacher. She was born and raised in the area known as “Skevanston” and two generations of her family received their education through Districts 65 and 202. She continues to attend workshops and seminars to further her knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities as a white female educator in today's world.

### Conrad Moseley

Conrad M. Moseley is a Director and Development Officer for the Real Estate Banking division of Wells Fargo Commercial Real Estate. He is responsible for the development, engagement and managerial oversight of financial analysts located in the Midwest, Atlanta and Toronto. Conrad is a fourth generation Evanstonian. He attended District 65 schools and graduated from ETHS.

### Dorina Rasmussen

Dorina Aguilar Rasmussen is a higher education administrator with 15 years of experience and expertise in developing equitable and inclusive practices in academic advising and student affairs. She was born and raised on the Southeast Side of Chicago and is a Chicago Public School graduate who benefited from the care and support of many great educators throughout her life.

# Two Memorable Events

## My65 2021 and Date Night for D65

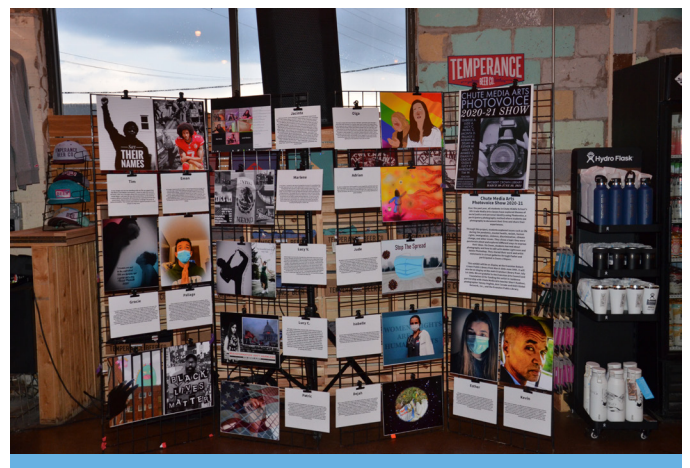
Our community continued to remain in pandemic uncertainty in 2021. While planning our annual benefit, we realized that we would need to quickly re-imagine our fundraiser in creative ways in order to hold an in-person event.

In October, 2021, Foundation 65 hosted its annual benefit at Temperance Brewery. Josh Gilbert, a District 65 alum and parent, and Temperance owner, opened the doors to this great space to allow us to host an indoor and outdoor event on a beautiful fall evening. Marcus Brown of DIME played great music and we were privileged to hear about Foundation 65's impact by District 65 Superintendent Dr. Devon Horton and District 65 educator and grantee, Lisa Harries. Foundation 65 was proud to raise money to support our District 65 educators, while also patronizing a locally-owned business.

In January, 2022, we partnered with Journey Shannon, a District 65 alum, and Noir d'Ébène to hold a virtual chocolate tasting in support of Foundation 65. Participants were treated to a culinary journey of tasting and understanding the origins of chocolate all while learning about Foundation 65 and supporting our educators work to support the children of our community.

These two events brought our community together again to celebrate public education and raise essential funding to award to educators who are making an impact in classrooms every day.

We are especially thankful for our sponsors who have continued to give and invest in Foundation 65, even as small businesses continue their own recovery from COVID-19.



# Principal's Circle

Our Principal's Circle consists of donors who donated \$1,000 or more during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We are thankful for their investment in our educators and our community!

## \$50,000+

Cless Family Foundation  
Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation

## \$20,000+

Walter Carlson & Debora de Hoyos  
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## \$10,000+

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### In Memory Of:

Mitch Boursiquot  
Linda Goranson  
Jonathan Kimmel

### Generously Donated By:

Paula & Tim Schmitt  
Linda & Steve Goranson  
Carol & Stephen Kimmel



# Financial Summary

REVENUE	
<i>Restricted</i>	
Donations and Grants	\$5,500
<i>Unrestricted</i>	
Donations and Grants	\$225,172
Event Income	\$85,381
Investment Income	\$79
Miscellaneous Income	---
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$316,312</b>
EXPENSES	
Programs and Grants	\$221,785
General and Administrative	\$53,847
Development and Fundraising	\$71,548
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$347,180</b>
NET ASSETS	
Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$528,404
Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$133,456
Total Net Assets	\$661,860
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$31,048</b>

As of June 30, 2021





*“Foundation 65 created an opportunity for us to fill a need that we saw in our school.”*

Ashley Stanley • 7th Grade Teacher  
Represent Black Boys Organizer



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A decorative border composed of a grid of small circles in two shades of blue and orange, surrounding the central text.

*“Without Foundation 65’s financial and promotional support, we would not be able to afford to do any of this! Black stories matter and Foundation 65 helps us share them.”*

Jennifer Tertulien and Jenna Arceneaux • 3rd grade teachers  
Black Girl Magic Book Club Organizers