



As 2016 comes to a close, we think it's more important than ever for our community to do everything it can to support our children and public schools. We're committed to supporting teachers by growing our impact every year, finding higher impact projects that meet the needs of teachers and students and encourage new ideas. We're setting the course for more Strategic Impact and Community Partnership Grants and we've got some exciting projects and collaborations in the works for next year!

GRANTS AND TEACHER SUPPORT



After a few years of broadening our grant opportunities for teachers, last year we established a group of annual grants as Community Partnership Grants. In addition to our Classroom Grants, Strategic Impact Grants, Friends & Family Grants and Summer Teacher Fellowships, we now have formalized our annual

grants for programs provided by community organizations such as Community Resources for Science, the Berkeley Symphony, Writers Coach Connection, LBNL and the Berkeley Rep. These programs have been receiving Schools Fund grants for many years, but the new category ensures their continuation year after year and establishes our goal to bring more of Berkeley's intellectual and cultural resources into our schools through partnerships in the community.

Classroom Grants

We received over \$445,000 in Classroom Grant requests in 2016, a \$100,000 increase over two years, and we were able to award grants to over half of the teachers in the District. Like last year, we saw a significant increase in STEM-related grant applications, more than doubling over two

years. Check out the full list of Classroom Grants awarded in 2016 [here](#).

Strategic Impact Grants

During the 2015-2016 school year, we awarded over \$195,000 in Strategic Impact grants, \$50,000 more than the year before. So far in the 2016-17 school year, we have awarded over \$123,000. Projects supported to date include year three of Be A Scientist, Dance for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Classrooms, Professional Development in Play-Based Learning for Pre-K and TK teachers, and programs provided by our Community Partners: Music in the Schools (Berkeley Symphony), Support for K-8 Science Instruction (Community Resources for Science), and Story Builders (Berkeley Rep).

Friends & Family Grants

Now it its third year, Friends & Family Grants is a crowdfunding platform developed by the Schools Fund and Cal's software development group, Blueprint. Right now, the site has the biggest grant request to date, to raise over \$54,000 to [send King 8th graders to Washington, DC](#).

Summer Teacher Fellowships

In the summer of 2016, we had nine Summer Fellows including two trips to Guatemala and two trips to Africa. Others didn't travel as far, staying in the U.S. for training to support the District's literacy programs.

View our Annual Report [here](#).

FUNDRAISING

We didn't quite hit the high mark we made in 2015, but we got close, with \$938,000 in 2015-16 fundraising. As an organization that's fully funded by donations from individuals in the community and local businesses, we're always proud and thankful for our success. A few fundraising highlights from last year:

Spring Luncheon

Our annual Spring Luncheon focused on music education, "Let the Music Play", and we honored all of the District music teachers - eighteen teachers who teach thousands of children every year. This event brings local businesses, politicians, teachers, and community members together to celebrate Berkeley education. Last year's event was our most successful fundraiser ever. Check out photos from the event [here](#).



Boatwright Weinstein Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert

In October, the [Boatwright/Weinstein Scholarship Fund](#) held a concert at Freight & Salvage with phenomenal performances by local jazz musicians Herbie Mims & Friends, including guest vocalists Janice Maxie Reid and Daria Nile. The scholarship provides private music lessons for students who have interest in deepening their musical training beyond the BUSD middle school program, but can't afford private lessons. The goal is to maintain diversity in the music program as it becomes an elective in middle school and high school.

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

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