

# For BUSD Educators

FEBRUARY 2023



Hope this rainy winter weather is finding you and your students well!

**Some more good stuff** from the Schools Fund for BUSD educators:

- Equity Grants: Deadlines & Office Hours
- Grantee Spotlight: Belonging for Arab American Students @ BAM
- BSV Classroom Volunteers winding down for '22-23
- Volunteer Spotlight: A Food Security Partnership for BUSD Families
- Save the Date: the Schools Fund's All-BUSD Spring Block Party

In partnership,

Duffy Ross & the Schools Fund Team

## Equity Grants for Educators

### Thinking Ahead For Next Year's Equity Opportunities

We are still more than 2 weeks from the **March 16** deadline for district-wide (or multi-school) [LEADING for Equity](#) grants for '23-24.

For educator teams hoping to apply for [LEARNING for Equity](#) grants, the application is open with an **April 10** deadline.

Got project ideas but want to some thought partnership or feedback? Come to the Schools Fund's [Grants Office Hours](#) or email [duffyross@berkeley.net](mailto:duffyross@berkeley.net) directly.

## Grantee Spotlight: Equity in Action



### From Isolation to Belonging: Building Arab American Community @ BAM

"I wanted to find kids who were like me when I was in school - kids who feel alone, like they're the only one." Today **Nabatah Ahmed** works as a Family Engagement Specialist in Berkeley's public schools. As a Yemeni American, Ahmed grew up as one of the few Arab Americans in her schools. "It was hard to fit in. [The other kids] didn't understand my culture and as a kid, you don't know how to explain these things. I couldn't connect with them naturally."

With support from a [LEARNING for Equity](#) grant from the [Berkeley Public Schools Fund](#), Ahmed is transforming isolation into community through the creation of an Arab American Student Group at Berkeley Arts Magnet (BAM) Elementary. Her effort may be the first of its kind in any BUSD elementary school.

"I started to hang out with these kids on the yard and realized there's a growing population of Arab kids at BAM." After checking the school roster and noting students in almost every grade, Ahmed thought, "I can bring this community together from within the larger BAM community, and kids won't have to feel so alone."

\*\*\* Learn more about Ahmed's Arab American affinity group [HERE](#)

## BSV Classroom Volunteers



**A Heads Up!** The **BSV Classroom Volunteers** program will be winding down new volunteer placements for the '22-23 school year on Wednesday, **March 1st**.

After **March 1**, educators with urgent support requests can email [bsv@berkeley.net](mailto:bsv@berkeley.net) while interested volunteers can "register their interest" for next year using this ['23-24 Interest Form](#).

This year, BSV's Classroom Volunteers program placed **over 250** long-term volunteers across BUSD classrooms, after school programs, libraries, and gardens.

## BSV School Support Volunteers



### Volunteers Supporting Food Security in BUSD

Having adequate healthy food is critical for students to succeed in school, and the Schools Fund's **Berkeley Schools Volunteers (BSV)** remain a critical human connection between the resources of our local Berkeley Food Network and district families.

**Spike Alper** and **Natalie Malam** joined the **BSV Grocery Drivers Team** this year. They deliver groceries each week to families who aren't otherwise able to access these resources at school:

"It's such a basic thing to bring nutritious food to people with limited resources," says Alper. "It makes me feel good and I know it's appreciated."

For Malam, the work connects her to the community. "I want to live in a caring and supportive community, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to volunteer in this way. Some families are settling here from other countries. I've been there before, and it can be difficult. This is a way to add a positive and welcoming act into their week."

\*\*\* Read the full BSV Grocery Driver Spotlight [HERE](#)

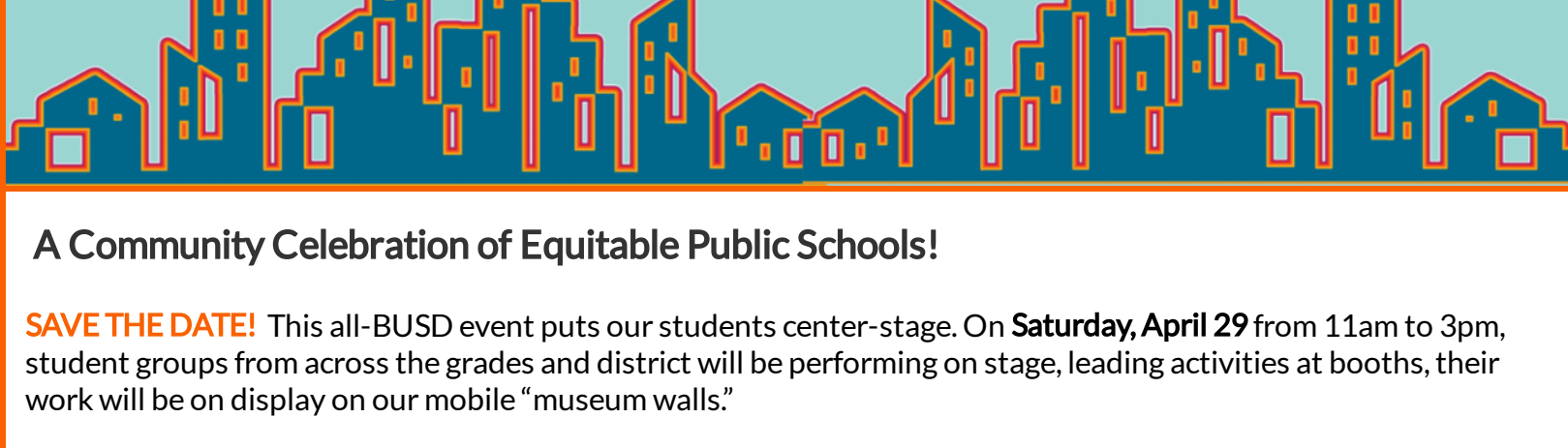
## SAVE THE DATE!

## Berkeley Public Schools Fund

# COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

APRIL 29 2023

CIVIC CENTER PARK



### A Community Celebration of Equitable Public Schools!

**SAVE THE DATE!** This all-BUSD event puts our students center-stage. On **Saturday, April 29** from 11am to 3pm, student groups from across the grades and district will be performing on stage, leading activities at booths, their work will be on display on our mobile "museum walls."

Here are just a few student performances already on the line-up:

- The Transitional Kinder Singers from **BUSD's** Healthy Me/Saludable Soy Program
- The Hip Hop Dancers of **Washington** Elementary
- Traditional Filipino Dances by **Willard's** "Spam Fam"
- Cuauhtli Mitotiani Mexica (Mexican Eagle Dancers) from **RISE @ Berkeley High**
- The Winning Orators of **BUSD's** Black History Oratorical Fest

Mark your calendar now and plan to bring your whole crew!

And with equitable public schools in mind, if you know of a *student group* who'd like to **table**, or you know of *student work* we might **display**, please reach out directly: [duffyross@berkeley.net](mailto:duffyross@berkeley.net)



# Schools Fund Calendar

We look forward to connecting with you soon!

- **Mon Feb 27** 4-5pm [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Wed Mar 1** BSV Classroom Volunteers Closes for '22-23
- **Wed Mar 8** 4-5pm [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Thurs Mar 16** - [LEADING for Equity](#) Grants DEADLINE
- **Tues Mar 21** 4-5pm [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Wed Mar 29** 4-5pm [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Mon Apr 10** - [LEARNING for Equity](#) Grants DEADLINE
- **Sat Apr 29** - 11am - 3pm Schools Fund Spring Block Party
- **Fri, May 24** - All Grant Applicants Notified about Grant Status for 2023-24

## Take Action

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