

For BUSD Educators

JANUARY 2023

BUSD Educators of All Stripes,

These Berkeley Public Schools Fund updates are FOR YOU!

We've got loads of educator-relevant news to share:

- Last week's inspiring Grantee Showcase
- LEADING for Equity grants re-opened for '23-24
- New Tools for Grant Seekers (including upcoming Office Hours)
- Spotlight on a Multi-decade Theater/Literacy Volunteer
- Last Offer for Classroom Volunteers

In partnership,

Duffy Ross & the Schools Fund team



Grantee Showcase 2023



Last Friday, the Schools Fund hosted our first-ever **Grantee Showcase**, an inspiring and joy-filled affair. Both celebration and learning opportunity, Friday's event put center stage the Schools Fund values of community, partnership, and equity in action.

Almost 150 of this year's grantees and community partners gathered in celebration while we showcased 5 of our most impactful grantees from last year. Featured speakers included Sylvia Mendez' **Erika Englund**, Longfellow's **Aarón Lechuga**, Berkeley High's **Dawn Williams**, BUSD Induction Coach **Katy McCarthy**, and BUSD Literacy Coach **Joal Arvanigian**. Superintendent **Enikia Ford Morthel** closed the night with an inspiring invitation to all BUSD educators to innovate - putting equity visions into action.

READ MORE about the Grantee Showcase & our **Featured Speakers** [HERE](#)

Equity Grants for Educators

District-wide LEADING for Equity Grants NOW OPEN (for '23-24)

The application is now open for [LEADING for Equity](#) grants. It will be open for two months, closing on **March 16**. These collaborative and equity-explicit grants range from \$5,000 - 30,000, and must be either district-wide or multi-school.

Educator Teams' LEARNING for Equity Grants Will Open Mid-Feb

The application for [LEARNING for Equity](#) grants will open next month. It too will stay open for two full months with an **April 15** deadline. These collaborative and equity-explicit grants range from \$1,000 - \$15,000, and are open to any team of educators united with an equity purpose.

Why are Grants Re-opening Now?

Our grantmaking timeline is permanently shifting to *the spring prior* so as to decrease the start-of-the-school-year grant writing "crunch" (on applicants) and to give funded projects a whole year for project implementation. So far, educators are loving the shift!

Grants Office Hours

Talk Project Ideas Before Applying!

The Schools Fund is here to support educators at all stages of project development. To that end, we will be holding 6 Grants Office Hours sessions throughout this winter and spring for any prospective applicants, whether new or veteran to grant writing.

Jump on Zoom with an impromptu question, a half-formed project, or even a draft of your proposal, and Schools Fund staff will assist you in shaping ideas into more equity-aligned and fundable projects. No RSVP required - just come!

***[See the Schools Fund's Winter-Spring Grants Office Hours Schedule](#)

New Tools for Grantseekers

The Schools Fund "on Equity"

Last year, several educators asked the Schools Fund what we mean by "equity." Together with our board, we spent this summer and fall answering this seemingly simple question. The result is a snapshot of our organization "why" and we hope it's helpful.

***[Read more about the Schools Fund on Equity](#)

Priority Areas in Grantmaking?

As the Schools Fund grows into our new mission, we are consolidating our thinking around the work we think best advances equitable outcomes for *all* BUSD students. We've shaped this thinking into the following **Priority Area Best Practice Guides** which include definitions, underlying principles, grant examples, and suggestions for applicants. We hope they're useful for grantseekers!

[Click on each Priority Area Best Practice Guide BELOW:](#)

- [Focused Academic Support & Intervention](#)
- [Culturally Responsive Learning](#) (incl. [Positive Racial/Ethnic Identity Development](#))
- [Emotional Health & Wellness](#)
- [Equitable Family Engagement](#)
- [Digital Equity](#)
- [Diversify BUSD's Educator Pathways](#)

A huge shout-out to the Schools Fund **Board**, our **Teaching & Learning Advisors** and our **Community Advisors** for contributing powerfully to this thinking.

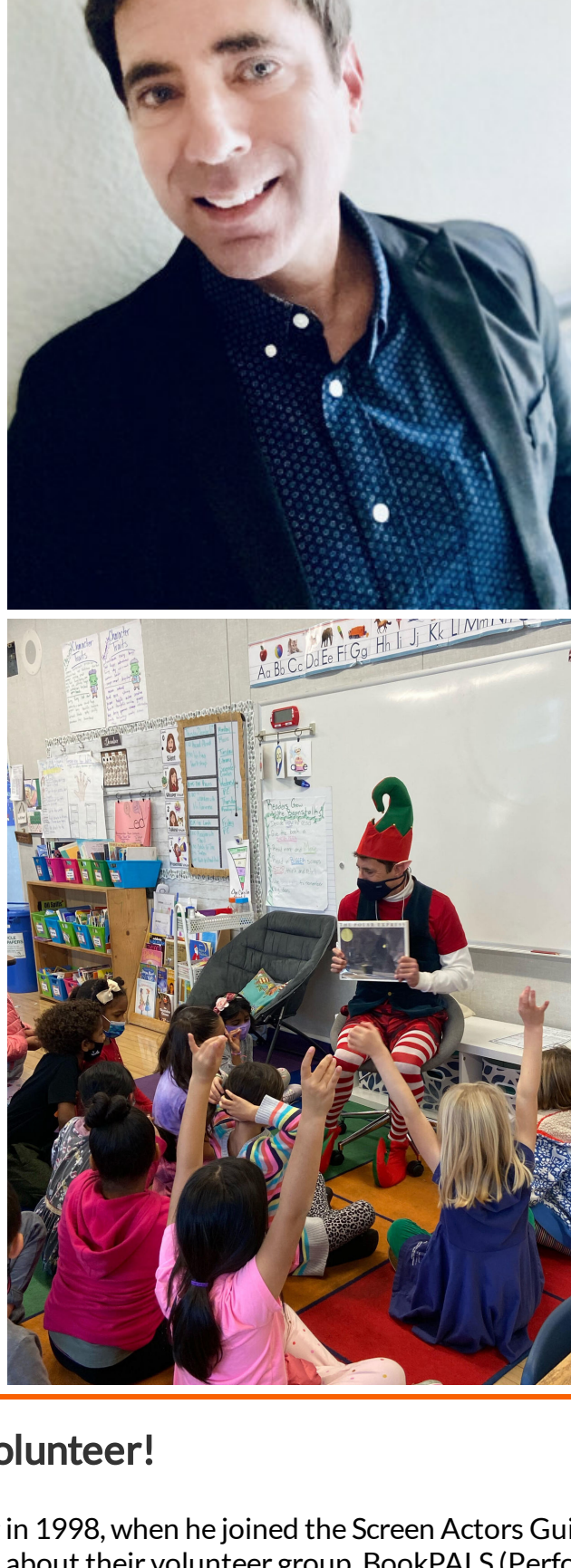
Need a Hotspot?

During the pandemic, the Schools Fund played a significant role in tech acquisition for students and families. Now that we're back to in-person school, much of that work has transferred back to BUSD Technology. But we still get lots of tech questions.

Does the Schools Fund still have hotspots?

No, but BUSD does. Requests for hotspots and other tech *required for school work* should go through the [BUSD Tech Department's Help Desk](#). Note that a student's parent will need to sign a loan agreement and then it takes about a week to get a hotspot activated. Once activated, BUSD Tech will send the hotspot to your school directly (Please do not use the Schools Fund Task Runner Request forms for hotspots.)

Berkeley Schools Volunteers



Celebrating a 25-year Volunteer!

David Stein started volunteering in 1998, when he joined the Screen Actors Guild as a young actor in San Francisco. David quickly learned about their volunteer group, BookPALS (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools), which was looking for volunteer actors to read aloud to elementary students. He signed up on the spot!

David has been volunteering with 2nd grade Berkeley Arts Magnet teacher **Andrea Cruchett** for the past 6 years (though he's volunteering with BookPALS for more than 2 decades). "The highlight has been how open she has been to my approach to reading aloud. She placed a lot of trust in me from day one," Stein commented.

The love and appreciation is mutual! "Mr. David, as our kids fondly call him, comes prepared with enchanting stories and plans elaborate units where students get to compare folktales and learn about different cultures," wrote Cruchett. "David also uses his talents as an actor to bring characters to life and model the best reading skills to our young students. My students are never more captivated than when they are on the rug listening to Mr. David."

Thank you, **David**, for your abiding commitment to making learning come alive!

[Read the FULL David Stein BSV Volunteer Spotlight HERE](#)



Request Volunteer Support

It's not too late to ask for volunteer support in your classroom! Berkeley Schools Volunteers usually gets a big rush of college student volunteers each January-February.

[Learn more about Berkeley Schools Volunteers' Classroom Volunteers HERE](#)

[Request a Classroom Volunteer HERE](#)

Questions? Email Jissel Poblete: jisselpoblete@berkeley.net

Schools Fund Calendar

We look forward to connecting with you soon!

- **Mon Jan 16** - [LEADING for Equity](#) Grants Open for 2023-24
- **Wed Feb 1** - 4-5pm - [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Wed Feb 15** - [LEARNING for Equity](#) Grants Open for 2023-24
- **Wed Feb 15** - 4-5pm - [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Tues Feb 21** - 7-8pm - Schools Fund Virtual Open House - [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Mon Feb 27** - 4-5pm - [Grants Office Hours](#)

- **Wed Mar 8** - 4-5pm - [Grants Office Hours](#)
- **Thurs Mar 16** - [LEADING for Equity](#) Grants DEADLINE
- **Mon Apr 10** - [LEARNING for Equity](#) Grants DEADLINE

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