



20 ANNUAL 24 REPORT



One Student's Path



Shanelle Villegas reflects on the importance of investing in arts education.

Theatre made me feel alive. It was a place where I could put all my deep thoughts, my beliefs, my identities, where I could be all of myself all at once.

The arts make you a better, more well-rounded human.

I hope it continues for another 15 years, and more stories like mine will come.

Arts instruction is a critical part of a well-rounded education, and research shows that increased access to arts education impacts student and parent engagement and strengthens school climate. In 2008, the opportunity to attend arts classes during the school day was not guaranteed for all Boston Public Schools (BPS) students – 1 out of 3 preK-8 students lacked access to arts education in their school.

To address this glaring inequity and expand access to high-quality arts instruction for all students, EdVestors partnered with the district to launch BPS Arts Expansion, raising private dollars and activating and coordinating key stakeholders to dramatically change how arts education is delivered in Boston.

Fifteen years later, 98% of BPS preK-8 students receive at least weekly arts instruction; there are 146 additional full-time arts teachers working in the district, and BPS has more than doubled its investment in the arts from \$15M to \$36M.

Shanelle Villegas' journey is but one example of the importance of investing in arts education for all students.

Shanelle discovered her passion for the arts in 2009 as a 7th grader at the Edison School in Brighton. The Edison invested in arts education early on in BPS Arts Expansion, hiring arts teachers and, with grant funds from EdVestors, partnering with community-based teaching artists. Cast as the Boatswain in a production of *The Tempest* directed by theatre teacher Ms. Culver, Shanelle was instantly captivated.

Theatre became a place that channeled her boundless energy, emotions, and ideas while boosting her confidence in her identity – both on stage and in the classroom. Once struggling in math, the creative problem-solving she was encouraged to practice at Boston Arts Academy helped Shanelle approach challenging academic subjects with a renewed sense of possibility.

After graduating from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, she made her mark in Boston's theatre community, performing in numerous productions, serving as a playwright-in-residence at the Boston Center for the Arts, and teaching theatre to multilingual students. For the past two years, she's worked as a program assistant with EdVestors' Bloomberg Arts Internship program, mentoring high school students working at arts and creative organizations across Boston.

In the fall of 2024, Shanelle heads to London as a Fulbright Scholar, where she'll write a memoir play about intergenerational trauma in association with Talawa Theatre Company.

The arts are essential to a well-rounded, high-quality education for all and, for some like Shanelle, lead to a lifelong passion, personal growth, and professional success.

Message from our CEO & Board Chair

Reflecting on the past year at EdVestors, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the progress made in our mission to advance equitable education so that every Boston student has what they need to develop their full academic, career, and life potential.

Four strategic goals guide our efforts:

System Level Impact – Our work has system-level impacts on the Boston Public Schools and the broader education system that affect Boston students.

Amplify Influence – We leverage the knowledge, relationships, and trust we have built in the Boston education landscape to advance equity and impact at a system level.

Explicit About Equity – Equity is explicitly at the core of our decision-making and actions in pursuit of every young person in Boston having access to a meaningful education.

Aligned Capacity – Our finances, human resources, systems, and structures are aligned to drive performance and the outcomes necessary to achieve our goals and deliver on our mission.

Our work is made possible with the support of our generous donors and partners. As we look ahead, we remain focused on our mission, knowing there is more work to do.

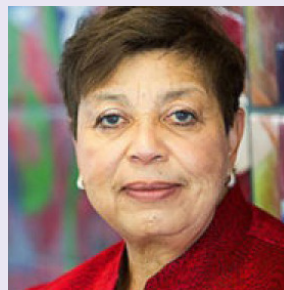
In the following pages, you'll find a snapshot of our accomplishments this year and stories of impact that we hope fill you with the same optimism that drives us at EdVestors.

Thank you for your continued partnership in this critical endeavor. Together, we can ensure that every student in Boston has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marinell'.

Marinell Rousmaniere
President & CEO, EdVestors



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myran Parker-Brass'.

Myran Parker-Brass
Board Chair, EdVestors

EdVestors At A Glance

EdVestors' mission is to advance equitable, meaningful education that prepares every Boston student to activate their power and shape their future. EdVestors is uniquely positioned in Boston's education landscape. We serve as:

- A **Connector**, partnering with the district, schools, community-based organizations, higher education, and philanthropy to advance efforts in issue areas that are a priority for schools and students.
- A **Catalyst** for systems change in Boston, creating pathways from classroom to career, ensuring access to arts education, improving math teaching and learning, and seeding racial equity efforts in schools.
- A **Champion** that shines a light on the teachers, leaders, and schools who create and continuously improve learning environments where all students thrive.

Since 2002, EdVestors has raised and invested over \$52 million in school improvement efforts. We drive toward our mission by activating people and resources, learning and iterating in context, and influencing system change. We believe that continuously attending to all three drivers ensures our activities will create an impact.

2024 AT A GLANCE

\$1.94M

Distributed to schools and partners

84

The number of grants awarded

16,800

The number of students reached through our programs

63

The number of schools reached through our programs



BY THE NUMBERS

98%

Students in PreK-8 received weekly arts (compared to 67% in 2009)

\$36M

Budgeted by BPS for arts education (up from \$15M in 2009)

100%

Mathematics cohort participants who agreed that their work has led or will lead to classroom- and school-level improvements in mathematics teaching and learning

3,200

BPS students enrolled in pathways programs, an increase of 44% since the 2019-2020 school year

100%

Racial Equity cohort participants who indicated the support from EdVestors helped to strengthen family and student engagement within their schools



Our Work



Boston Public Schools Arts Expansion

Expands access to and ensures equitable, quality arts instruction for all students in BPS. Our collaborative work with the district and partners has resulted in nearly 17,000 additional students now receiving arts education compared with 2009. Boston has emerged as a national leader in expanding and deepening access to arts education.



Mathematics

Ensures students receive a meaningful, affirming, and relevant math education that prepares them for postsecondary opportunities and success. We partner with teachers, school leaders, district administrators, and external collaborators to help improve mathematics educational experiences and outcomes for BPS students.



Career Pathways

Increases the number of Boston students who progress through career pathways that are engaging and relevant, address community needs, and prepare young people for postsecondary and career success. We partner with local stakeholders across sectors to prepare Boston students for their futures.



Racial Equity

Builds the capacity of BPS to understand, implement, and shape conditions that disrupt and dismantle racial inequities. We partner with schools, community organizations, BPS central office, and Boston University to advance this vital work.



School on the Move Prize

Spotlights the schools, leaders, and teachers who create and continuously improve learning environments where all students thrive. We spotlight the most notable school-wide improvement efforts across BPS and document their practices for others to learn from.

System Level Impact

Our work has system-level impacts on the Boston Public Schools and the broader education system that affect Boston students.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Elevated** career-connected learning and career pathways as critical strategies for high school improvement, engagement, and equity in Boston. Career pathways are now a key pillar of BPS' high school improvement strategy.
- **Collaborated** with the BPS math department to support the implementation of their vision for equitable mathematics instruction through high-quality, standards-aligned mathematics curriculum using High-Quality Instructional Materials.
- **Committed** to paying Bloomberg Arts Internship participants a living wage, a practice adopted across the arts sector and beyond.
- **Guided** schools to advance racial equity in their communities and partnered with BPS to update policies and practices promoting racial equity. Informed by EdVestors' Racial Equity work, BPS is now measuring "sense of belonging" across all schools.
- **Protected** the BPS budget investment in the arts during a challenging budget year. BPS held steady both staff and investment at \$36M, more than twice the amount in 2009.

EdVestors helped facilitate a deeper relationship between Bunker Hill Community College and UMass Boston. We've improved the transfer process for students by better understanding the major barriers and co-designing strategies to address them.

Liya Escalera, Vice Provost of Academic Support Services and Undergraduate Studies (former), UMass Boston



Math Interventions

EdVestors hosted a “Mapping out Math Interventions” convening for teachers, intervention specialists, instructional coaches, consultants, researchers, and tutoring program leaders to map the landscape of math interventions across BPS and strategize how best to align efforts. The convening highlighted curriculum considerations for further exploration and the need to define interventions and differentiate them from other student supports. In school year 24-25, BPS has established working groups to address the challenges identified during the convening.



East Boston Music Collective

A program of BPS Arts Expansion, the East Boston Music Collective is focused on increasing quality, sequential music education across the district, starting in East Boston’s 11 BPS schools. With a three-year, \$1.65 million grant from an anonymous donor, EdVestors is strengthening music education in East Boston with community partnerships to support in-school music teachers, guest artists in schools, free private music lessons, band performance opportunities, professional development for music educators, and newly purchased musical instruments and equipment.

System Level Impact

New Skills Boston

New Skills Boston is a cross-sector partnership making quality career pathways accessible to more Black and Latinx students, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities in Boston. Our work improves systems and eliminates structural barriers, supporting engaging, relevant, and equitable career pathways that prepare young people for their futures.



The Challenge

Black and Latinx students, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities face systemic inequities through their education and into the labor market. Data shows that the pandemic has exacerbated racial disparities in postsecondary enrollment and completion, with just 50% of BPS graduates enrolling in postsecondary in 2021-2022, a ten-year low. Even for these populations of young people who complete postsecondary education, there are still significant disparities in employment and earning outcomes.

Our Work

New Skills Boston improves systems and removes barriers through equity-focused, cross-sector efforts that value and build on students' cultural wealth and assets. We:



Lead cross-sector partners to solve persistent challenges like data sharing and disjointed transitions and build cohesive systems that sustain and scale quality student pathways.



Develop high-quality pathways that make learning engaging, meaningful, and relevant and increase the likelihood of postsecondary enrollment and completion.



Align advising approaches for students to inform decision-making, provide a clear roadmap, and offer support to seamlessly transition to and complete a postsecondary credential.



Connect education and industry to boost student participation in high-quality work-based learning, helping them explore careers and gain vital skills.

BY THE NUMBERS

23,000

BPS students in 6th-12th grade have access to college and career planning resources and support

91%

Seniors enrolled in pathways graduated from high school in the 2022-2023 school year, exceeding the district average, up 17% compared to non-pathways students

44%

BPS graduates participated in internships in the 2022-2023 school year, up 16% compared to the 2019-2020 school year

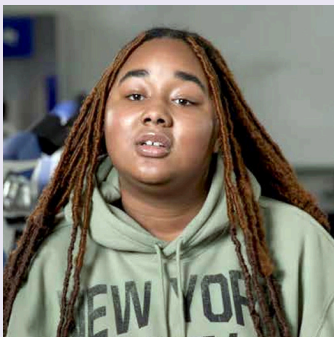
400

Student support professionals reached through two citywide Seamless Advising Summits in 2023 and 2024



Seamless Advising Summit

We co-hosted the 2nd annual Seamless Advising Summit in March 2024, bringing together over 250 BPS, Bunker Hill Community College, and UMass Boston student support professionals to build a shared understanding of college & career resources, best practices, and advising approaches. The Summit represents New Skills Boston's collective commitment to creating a seamless advising experience for Boston students that is student-centered, equity-minded, and integrates academic and career guidance. The Summit featured a keynote, student panel, resource fair, and 20 workshops on topics ranging from applying principles of cultural wealth to support students, to advising in the middle grades, to leveraging state data systems.



The biotechnology pathway is eye-opening. It lets you see what's out there. You don't have to stay in the pathway if you don't want to. It's like a second biology class but more in-depth and hands-on. It provides internships, and they take us on field trips. My favorite part is absolutely the lab work. You can get it wrong and still keep going at it. The lab is where it's at.

Niahemiah, 11th grade at Dr. Albert D. Holland High School of Technology

Amplify Influence

We leverage our role as a trusted and respected strategic leader to drive opportunities for equity and impact at a system level.



2023 School on the Move Prize Winner

Through the School on the Move Prize, we seek to shine a light on the teachers, leaders, and schools that create and continuously improve learning environments where all students thrive. By sharing the stories of how schools improve, we hope to help more schools make significant progress for their students. The 2023 School on the Move Prize winner was East Boston High School.

Schools on the Move

Each year, a portion of the Prize award is dedicated to producing, researching, and disseminating finalist best practices for school improvement. Our most recent report on the 2023 Prize finalists, Boston Green Academy, East Boston High School, and Fenway High School, "[Schools on the Move: A Look at High School Transformation in Action](#)," spotlights the power of a shared school vision, aligned best practices that drive tangible change, and recommendations for supporting improvement efforts in other schools, neighborhoods, and systems. This report was created in partnership with The Learning Accelerator, a national nonprofit that works across the education sector to help practitioners, leaders, and policy-makers learn faster from success and innovation and apply that knowledge to improve how we educate students.

OUR STRATEGIES

- We **spotlight positive examples** with potential for replication and system impact.
- We **use evidence** to advance conversations and highlight challenges and opportunities.
- We **coordinate partnerships** and coalitions to drive system-level impacts by identifying shared priorities and opportunities with the District and other key stakeholders.

I am happy that our dedication to our students did not go unnoticed, and I understand that the journey is not over. We will continue to work hard to nurture, educate, and inspire every student who walks through the doors as we are committed to making East Boston High School the best school in the state.

Phillip Brangiforte, Head of School, East Boston High School, 2023 School on the Move winner



Celebrating 15 Years of BPS Arts Expansion

In 2009, EdVestors launched BPS Arts Expansion, bringing together local foundations, the district, arts organizations, higher education institutions, and city government to create a coherent, sustainable approach to quality arts education for all BPS students. Public funding for the arts in BPS has more than doubled, increasing from \$15 million in 2009 to \$36 million in 2024. Our collaborative work to expand access to arts education has resulted in nearly 17,000 additional students now receiving arts education compared with 2009, and the number of BPS arts teachers nearly doubling. We are incredibly grateful to our partners who have worked alongside us over the past 15 years to make Boston a national leader in arts education.

EdVestors In the News

The New York Times

[How to Reduce Student Absenteeism](#)

April 13, 2024
by Marinell Rousmaniere

The root causes of chronic absenteeism in American public schools are as varied as the solutions needed to combat it. One often overlooked and underfunded strategy with the potential to re-engage students in learning is arts education.

CommonWealth BEACON

[Lessons from Boston's most improved high schools](#)

January 8, 2024
by Marinell Rousmaniere

Academic rigor, college and career pathways, and partnerships are key.

The Boston Globe

[BPS remains committed to arts, music education](#)

April 3, 2024
by Marinell Rousmaniere

Boston has become a national leader in providing arts education to its public school students.

ed post

[When We Say Math Is For Everyone, Let's Make Sure We Mean It](#)

July 5, 2024
by Heather Johnson

Providing today's students with the mathematics skills they need to succeed in the future is as essential and urgent as ever.

[A Profile of Racial Equity at Boston Public Schools](#)

October 19, 2023
by Alia Verner

In Boston's current education system, students of color are disproportionately impacted by gaps in opportunity and outcomes.

Explicit about Equity

Equity is explicitly at the core of our decision-making, actions, and engagements to ensure every young person in Boston has access to a meaningful education.

Spotlight on BATA

A root cause analysis at Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA) found that students were comfortable giving feedback on general school improvement and culture but hesitant to discuss teaching methods or provide input on academic improvements. BATA created accessible and comfortable environments to gather feedback and change ideas via student-led focus groups in their home languages and discussions with families at neighborhood meetings. The feedback from students and families drove BATA to significantly increase opportunities for student leadership and decision-making, fostering a stronger sense of community, agency, and belonging for students. BATA continues to collect feedback from students and families to assess implementation and make refinements, ensuring a more inclusive and responsive educational environment.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Interrogated school policies and practices** through authentic community engagement with our Racial Equity cohort schools.
- **Centered equity** in re-designing requests for proposals for our Mathematics and Career Pathways grants.
- **Created a Data Equity Statement** outlining EdVestors' philosophy on collecting, analyzing, using and sharing data aligned with our mission and values.
- **Invested arts funding** in schools and partnerships focused on family engagement, culturally responsive instruction, and racial equity.
- **Revamped EdVestors staff annual review process** to provide a structured, holistic opportunity for feedback and conversation about contributions, successes, areas of improvement, and professional growth and development.

The process of collecting 'street data' and engaging in focus groups with students led to increases in student belonging. The process became an outcome within itself.

Ben Helfat, Head of School at Boston Adult Technical Academy



Data Equity Statement

EdVestors is committed to advancing equitable, meaningful education for every Boston student, using data thoughtfully to highlight opportunities, assess progress, and drive conversations. Recognizing the inherent biases in data processes, we strive to incorporate diverse perspectives to ensure our approach aligns with our values, particularly our commitment to equity. This living document will guide our ongoing efforts in data collection, analysis, and sharing, acknowledging that we work within systems of oppression. We commit to consistently assess how we adhere to these principles, knowing we will make mistakes and can always learn and improve. [You can read the full Data Equity Statement here.](#)

[The Racial Equity work with EdVestors] has allowed me to expand my thinking and deepen partnerships that would not have been possible without [EdVestors] support. The grace [EdVestors] has given me allows me to do this work with fidelity and explore various new pathways that will advance systemic change.

Jakira Rogers, Program Director, Racial Equity and Access Program (REAP) Massachusetts Advocates for Children

I'm proud of the partnerships and authentic collaboration that EdVestors has helped us produce over the past two years through the Racial Equity work.

Gavin Smith, Head of School, Boston Latin Academy

DATA EQUITY APPROACH



Data Collection

- Handle Data with Care
- Think Beyond Traditional Measures
- Use Equitable Data Collection Methods and Emphasize Accessibility



Data Analysis

- Focus on Strengths Instead of Solely Weaknesses
- Analyze with Transparency



Data Use

- Use Data for Continuous Improvement
- Use Data to Advance Equity



Data Sharing

- Share Data in Alignment with an Established Purpose/Goal
- Consider Power Imbalances Between Those Who Provide Data and Those Who Receive Results

Prioritize and Center Those Most Impacted by Systemic Inequities



Aligned Capacity

Our finances, human resources, systems, and structures are aligned to drive performance and the outcomes necessary to achieve our goals and deliver on our mission.

Staff

- Justine Beaton**, Vice President, Chief of Staff
- Anna Cayco**, Manager, Strategic Communications
- Cathy Choi**, Coordinator, Career Pathways
- Anjali Deshpande, PhD**, Director, Mathematics
- Jeremy Gooden**, Manager, Internship & Program
- Julia Herlein**, Manager, Finance & Operations
- Alexia Hernandez**, Coordinator, Development & Events
- Kate Keller**, Director, Research, Data, & Evaluation
- Lorena Lopera**, Vice President, External Relations & Advancement
- Francisco Marriott**, Vice President, Finance & Operations
- Ruth Mercado-Zizzo**, Vice President, Programs & Equity
- LaVonia Montoute'**, Senior Director, Career Pathways
- Nikki Olusanya**, Director, BPS Arts Expansion
- Marinell Rousmaniere**, President & CEO
- Alia Verner**, Director, Equitable Improvement
- Sarah Vickery**, Director, Development

Board

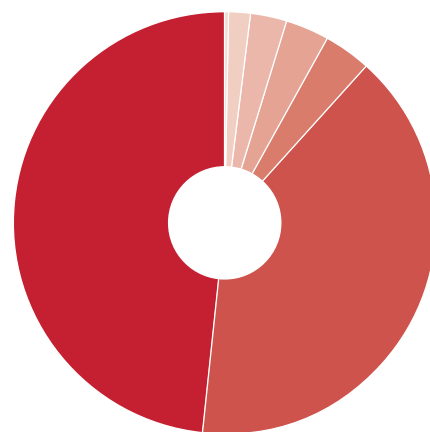
- Myran Parker-Brass**, MPBrass Consultants, LLC, Board Chair
- Jean Phillip Brignol**, Federal Reserve Bank
- Brandon Cardet-Hernandez**, Mrs. Wordsmith
- Abra Francois**, Tufts University
- Katherine Gross**, The Charlotte Foundation
- Jennifer Larson Joyce**, Fiduciary Trust
- Melodie Knowlton**, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
- Matthew Lesniak**, Wayfair
- Christine Letts**, Harvard Kennedy School (retired)
- Faith Parker**, The Parker Family Foundation
- David Simon**, Simon Brothers Family Foundation
- Robert Zaccardi**, BNY Mellon

FY24 Expenses: \$6,042,000



- \$254K Racial Equity
- \$1.8M Career Pathways
- \$333K Mathematics
- \$2.1M BPS Arts Expansion
- \$673K School on the Move & Cross-Program Investments
- \$835K General Administration

FY24 Revenue: \$6,042,000



- \$19K In-Kind Support
- \$218K Individuals
- \$107K Public Funding
- \$2.4M Corporations
- \$170K Operating Reserve
- \$2.9M Foundations
- \$197K Interest Income

Our Supporters

The following individuals, foundations, and companies have provided critical annual funding and/or in-kind support to EdVestors in our 2024 fiscal year. We are grateful for their generosity and partnership in advancing equitable, meaningful education for every Boston student.

\$100,000+

Anonymous Foundation
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation
Barr Foundation
Baupost Group, LLC
Bloomberg Philanthropies
The Boston Foundation
The Charlotte Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
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Parker Family Foundation
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State Street Foundation

\$25,000–\$99,999

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Llewellyn Foundation
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National Endowment for the Arts
Plymouth Rock Assurance Foundation
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Simon Brothers Family Foundation
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The Vertex Foundation

\$10,000–\$24,999

AK Family Charitable Fund
Auriga Charitable Foundation
Bauer Family
Eastern Bank Foundation
Fidelity Investments
Fiduciary Trust Company
Frieze Family Foundation
Christine and David Letts
National Grid
Harvey and Shirley Stein Fund
TD Charitable Foundation
Trefler Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

BerryDunn
Constance Counts
Michael Douvadjian and Lynne Brainerd
Sandra P. Gordon
Insource Services
Jean Hammond
JLL
Jesse Johnson
Matthew Lesniak
Stan Schlozman
Drs. Susan and Peter Workum
WS Development

\$1,000–\$4,999

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Jean-Phillip Brignol
Hardin and Gail Coleman
James Davie
First Eagle Investments Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Sarah Hancock
Glenn Heinmiller
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Lisa and Roger Krakoff
Loomis Sayles
Katherine and Jim McHugh
Faith and Glenn Parker
Myran Parker-Brass
Justin Reich and Elsa Olivetti
Rowe Family Charitable Trust
Michael and Jill Stansky Family Foundation
Wiegand Memorial Foundation, Inc
Joe Wright
Luke Wright
Rob Zaccardi

\$500–\$999

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King Mountain Foundation
Richard and Dorothy Koerner
Carol Johnson and Willie Dean
David Lapin
Alan and Helene Michel
Rich and Sandi Giving Fund
David Sandberg and Dina Mardell
Jean Scarrow
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We also thank our many supporters who sustain us through their generous gifts under \$500.

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Support EdVestors' mission is to advance equitable, meaningful education that prepares every Boston student to activate their power and shape their future.





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