

Jinny Chalmers Fund for Education Justice

Building a Community of Changemakers

December 2023

In our third year, the Jinny Chalmers Fund has become deeper, broader and more devoted than ever to sustaining an action-oriented memorial to Jinny's vision for excellent, inclusive education and racial justice.

Generous donors continue to make possible our grant awards, this year to 17 projects, up from 12 last year. Read about our grantees' critical work in this report. We're so proud of their achievements!

With your continued help...

Keep the Jinny Chalmers Fund strong as we assist projects that carry on her legacy.



Visit <https://www.jinnychalmers.org/donate> to make a tax-deductible donation.



Trinity Boston Connects

Grantees Realizing the Vision!

826 Boston

The Roxbury based 826 Boston is an after-school program focused on helping students become more confident writers, share their stories and excel in school. Funding from JCFEJ supported the program and the publication of its student-created chapbook, *This Bad Boy is a Time Machine*, released with a book party in June.

Learn more about 826 Boston at <https://826boston.org/>



Aminga

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Creating opportunities for youth from Cape Verde is the focus of Aminga, a first-time JCFEJ grantee. Aminga's inclusive summer programming blends academics and sports, geared to assist a range of participants. Developing an educational exchange network between teachers from Cape Verde to Senegal to Brazil to the U.S. is another aim of Aminga, which operates from a decolonial framework: local experts take the lead with the support of volunteers from countries across the world.

Learn more about Aminga at <https://aminga.org/>

Apprentice Learning

Apprentice Learning (AL) provides real-world work experiences for Boston middle-grade youth. In partnership with schools and employers, AL centers career exploration to teach skills, ignite purpose and nurture dreams for students of color, while promoting examination of diversity and equity issues at the workplace. A JCFEJ grant supports AL's expansion to serve students at more schools, offer 8th graders stipends and pay for curriculum translation.

Learn more about Apprentice Learning at <https://apprenticelearning.org/>

Inspirational JCFEJ Grantees Build on Jinny's Legacy

Asian Texans for Justice

ATJ emerged in response to the resurgence of anti-Asian violence during the pandemic. Despite Texas being home to the third largest population of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S, Asian American studies has been absent from the K-12 curriculum. ATJ partners with the Ethnic Studies Network of Texas, a grassroots coalition of scholars and teachers that has brought African American Studies and Mexican American Studies to Texas high schools. Funding from JCFEJ is helping ATJ develop curricula and train Ethnic Studies teachers to include Asian American studies in their courses.

Learn more about Asian Texans for Justice at <https://www.asiantexansforjustice.org/>

City School

The JCFEJ continues its support for The City School's Pathways to Change program. This year, youth leaders trained and practiced around popular education and facilitation, then designed a youth-led workshop series on mental health for Boston's BIPOC youth. They created and co-facilitated three workshops: Mental Health and Racism, Classism and Ableism; Mental Health in Boston Public Schools; and Abolition and Mental Health. This series educated an intergenerational group of youth and community members, with 30 to 40 participants at each session.

Learn more about The City School-Pathways to Change at <https://www.thecityschool.org/pathways-to-change>

Fenway High School

JCFEJ provided support to enhance the learning experience for students with autism at Fenway by making smart boards available in two designated classrooms. The smart boards help create more inclusive and interactive learning opportunities for all students.

Learn more about Fenway High School at <http://www.fenwayhs.org/>



Hurricane Island



Jean Charles Academy

First Teacher

In 2022–2023, First Teacher collaborated with staff at an alternative Boston high school to provide workshops for parents who are teenagers, with support from JCFEJ. The conversation-based sessions promote the idea that parents are a child's first and most important brain builder, advocate and teacher. What started as a pilot program is now a full-blown partnership and offers students the opportunity to meet school requirements by reflecting on their learning in these workshops.

Learn more about First Teacher at <https://www.firstteacherboston.org/>

Hurricane Island

During the summer of 2023 the JCFEJ helped bring 13 Boston area students to Hurricane Island in Maine, an experiential science and outdoor learning program focused on inspiring students to imagine a more sustainable future for themselves and their communities. The students defined their own scientific inquiry, formed a hypothesis, collected data about their questions, interpreted their data and presented their results at the end of the program. Along the way students went lobstering, rowed in a replica of a Maine rescue boat, went rock climbing and swam in chilly ocean waters off Hurricane's docks.

Learn more about Hurricane Island at <https://www.hurricaneisland.net/>

Indigenous Cultures Institute

The Indigenous Cultural Institute sponsors the Tanko Institute, a teacher education program based in indigenous approaches to teaching and learning, aimed at designing what education should look like for Indigenous youth and future generations. A JCFEJ grant will support the apprenticeships of new facilitators to strengthen their understanding of indigenous-based pedagogies and build a network of educators.

Learn more about the Tanko Institute at <https://indigenouscultures.org/xinachtli/>

Jean Charles Academy

The Jean Charles Academy is an independent school in Lynn, Massachusetts that centers the experiences and assets of Black and Latinx students and families. The academy uses a STEM-focused dual language model that is centered around a hydroponic center and a new makerspace. JCFEJ funding supported Christian and Angel Paulino's enrollment in second grade and Kindergarten, respectively. The JCFEJ's support since the academy's founding "provided the needed funding and encouraged other funders to support us," said Executive Director Nakia Navarro.

Learn more about the Jean Charles Academy at <https://www.jeancharlesacademy.org/>

Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association

With support from JCFEJ, MAAEA organized a student-led "Truth from Youth" conference, which brought together Asian American students and allies to inform and empower them. The students shared their own stories and examined data from Boston Public School (BPS) Climate Surveys, which document the experiences of Asian youth in the school system. Following the conference and its significant media coverage, these youth leaders shared their presentation with BPS teachers, central office leadership and social workers across the district. In 2023–2024, MAAEA intends to expand on this work by building a stable support system for long-term Asian American youth development in Greater Boston.

Visit the MAAEA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/32356980448/>

Mass. Advocates for Children

Massachusetts Advocates for Children used JCFEJ funding to expand its work on racial trauma in its Racial Equity and Access Program, focused on Boston Public Schools and throughout the organization. Funding supported development of an internal library for staff to use in advocacy, as well as an educational resource for BPS students to identify and understand racial



St. Stephen's Youth Program

trauma. This work was informed by interviews with BPS students about their experiences with racial trauma and was done in consultation with academic researchers. Because of JCFEJ's support, MAC was able to prioritize both internal and external support on an issue that is increasingly emerging as essential to its advocacy in Boston and beyond.

Learn more about MAC-REAP at <https://www.massadvocates.org/reap>

Boston Public Schools Office of Equity

Last year the JCFEJ provided support to pay a stipend for an MSW intern to focus on issues relevant to LGBTQ+ students in the BPS system. These included creating resources for graduating students including a database of scholarships for LGBTQ+ students and a guide for school counselors. This position is part of the BPS budget for 2023–2024. This year's JCFEJ grant will support the expansion of the 24/7 Respect Curriculum to elementary school students.

Created by Boston teachers and students, the curriculum was originally aimed to educate BPS middle and high school students about their rights and responsibilities in preventing and addressing bias-based conduct and sexual misconduct. The goal is to proactively give young people the information and skills they need to be upstanders, or better yet, allies and co-conspirators across race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other differences.

Learn about the Office of Equity at <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/equity>



Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association

St. Stephen's Youth Program

The SSYP received JCFEJ funding for its Family Organizing Program, which supports BPS parents and caregivers to develop their leadership skills and advocate for education justice at the school, district and state level. The grant enabled St. Stephen's to support an Action Committee of dedicated family leaders to build strategic campaigns around Native Language Instruction and Housing as a Condition of Learning.

Learn more about SSYP-PMP at <https://www.ssyphoston.org/parent-mentor-program>

Trauma Learning and Policy Initiative

The Trauma Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI) working group is engaged in a multi-year effort to create a resource that will support students, families and educators in transforming their school cultures to be anti-racist and trauma-sensitive. With JCFEJ support, TLPI conducted interviews with education leaders who have expertise in anti-racist education, held focus groups with secondary students to understand what they need and how they want to participate in assessing their schools and met with two dozen family engagement leaders to gather best practices for effectively engaging family voices.

Learn more about TLPI at <https://traumasensitiveschools.org/>

Trinity Boston Connects

Funding from the JCFEJ supported Trinity Boston Connects' Sole Train program, which focuses on community building and mentoring among youth of color, using running as a vehicle.



Stipends are provided to high school Sole Train alums as they assist with program administration, mentorship and motivation to their younger peers, and take part in monthly leadership training to build job readiness skills.

Learn more about TBC Sole Train at <https://trinityconnects.org/sole-train/>

Young People's Project

Funds from JCFEJ supported the Young People's Project to start an "Exploring STEM Literacy" elective at Fenway High School, located in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston. The course fuses math and computer science and is part of YPP's work to advance racial equity in public education. The course is being taught by Sharif Abdullahi, who was previously a student in this same YPP course at another Boston high school. The Fenway students who took this class also designed and led a workshop for 25 of their peers, passing on the knowledge they learned.

Learn more about TYPP at <https://www.typp.org/>



About Jinny Chalmers

Jinny Chalmers championed racial justice and excellent, inclusive education for students of all abilities. This became the mission of Boston's Young Achievers Science and Math K-8 Pilot School, where Jinny served 20 years as principal. Her collaborative leadership philosophy centered families as equal partners with teachers in the education of their children. Jinny was a true changemaker, beloved by her school community.

Tragically, on November 17, 2020, Jinny died in an accident as she rode her bicycle. She was 70 years old. Jinny left behind a loving family, legions of friends and a large community of colleagues, students and families that will always grieve the loss of her visionary leadership, her energetic, problem-solving spirit and her generous heart.

Be part of the Chalmers Fund!

With your support our resources can continue to fund worthy projects. The Jinny Chalmers Fund for Education Justice accepts tax-deductible contributions through its affiliation with the Cambridge Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

To learn more and donate online:
<https://www.jinnychalmers.org/donate>

To mail a check, please write "Jinny Chalmers Fund" in the memo and send to:
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