ELLIS
engage • educate • empower

ELLIS ANNUAL REPORT

BRIGHT MINDS, BRIGHT FUTURES

FY19

EDUCATION. EQUITY. COMMUNITY.

CEO Lauren Cook with her daughter, Ellis preschooler, Austin.

Photo Credit: Patrick O'Connor Photography

DEAR ELLIS FRIENDS AND FAMILIES,

When you visit an Ellis classroom you will immediately notice smiles and friendships. When you look closer, you will see moments of profound growth and development. In early education classrooms, we witness first words, first steps, and milestones like learning the alphabet and tying shoes. In the school age program, students master a new math concept, read their first book with chapters, or take their first trip to the Museum of Science. Collectively, these moments lay the foundation for a future where each child excels in their home, the classroom, and ultimately the workplace.

The first five years are the most critical in the development of a child's brain. From birth to age three, children grow and learn at the most intense rate; these are the years when children are learning how to learn. Unfortunately, these are also the years when the achievement gap begins. In the US, those most likely to begin kindergarten at an academic disadvantage are minority children from low-income households. The impact is profound. Research shows students who begin school behind their peers have a tendency to remain behind throughout their academic careers.

At Ellis, we offer top quality programming that brings together children from diverse socioeconomic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. In today's economy, the vast majority of families require dual incomes to cover living expenses. During the 8+ hours a day when a parent is at work, Ellis plays the critical role of nurturing and educating Boston's next generation of neighbors, leaders, creators, and innovators.

Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman calls investing in high-quality early education "America's best economic stimulus package." Heckman and other leading economists estimate a 10-16% rate of return on investing in high-quality early education, a rate that outpaces the average long-term returns of the stock market.

When you invest in Ellis, you join us in building bright futures for over 300 children every year. Thank you for your belief in their potential.

In Service,

Lauren Cook

Lauren Cook
CEO

Coleen Downs Dinneen

Coleen Downs Dinneen
Board Chair

NURTURING CHILDREN, SUPPORTING PARENTS

Ellis's mission is to strengthen Boston's urban working families with high-quality education and care for children. Founded in 1885, the goal of our programs is to engage, educate, and empower.

The partnership between parents and teachers is critical for the success of the whole family. When this bond is strong and teachers understand the unique needs of each family, children receive the highest quality care with consistency between home and the classroom. At Ellis, our goal is to support each parent and caregiver through the joys and challenges of parenting and to build a community in which families rely on and learn from one another.

Ellis's social worker is an invaluable resource to both our families and our teachers. She spends time in our classrooms getting to know the wonderful children we serve. She partners with teachers and families to help children develop their capacity to understand, express, and manage emotions, and to develop meaningful relationships with others. Additionally, she identifies resources and makes referrals that can further support children's development, such as play therapy or early intervention.

FROM OUR FAMILIES

"I first came to Ellis when my daughter Mahkyla was six weeks old. Today she is 13 years old and my youngest three children are at Ellis, including my toddler Elijah. One thing that stands out to me is the longevity of the staff. Maria, Brenda, Aiyauna, Shamika, and Shirley cared for Mahkyla and they are still with Ellis all these years later. As a parent, seeing so many familiar faces gives me the comfort and assurance I need to know my children are well-cared for. And the staff always go the extra mile.

Right now Elijah is struggling with eating. It is very hard to get him to try new foods. His teachers are working with him every day to discover what he likes and they work with me to reinforce these foods at home. The teachers have also launched a new curriculum, which has MyEl, my 4 year old, excited to learn her numbers, letters, and small words. When she comes home she likes to do homework with her big brother while I cook dinner. We get to enjoy family time and I know she is learning everything she needs to get ready for kindergarten."

-Katrina Hardy, mother of Elijah and MyEl (early education), Elmer (school age program), and Mahkyla (Ellis graduate)

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

Ellis represents what Boston should be and can be: a place where social barriers are broken down and children and families from diverse socioeconomic, racial, and cultural backgrounds form a community of support and friendship. 65% of Ellis's slots are prioritized for families facing economic hardship who receive government subsidies for childcare. Our remaining families have the means to pay privately, creating a truly economically integrated program.

Diversity in all forms isn't merely an attribute of Ellis, it's one of our top strengths. Every year our preschool classrooms read *The Colors of Us* which serves as the basis of a self-portrait activity. Through discussion and artwork, they learn to celebrate the unique beauty of every person and every color – caramel, mocha, cream, toffee, and so many more. Ellis children learn from a young age to be reflective and respectful, qualities that prepare them to be compassionate and empathetic citizens in increasingly multi-cultural communities.

Creative and unique self-portraits on display outside of the Bruins classroom.

FROM OUR FAMILIES

"My husband and I were raised in a racially and socio-economically diverse community, and I didn't realize how unique that was until arriving at college. Having a diverse peer group played a large part in shaping my values, and I want my children to have the same experience. Ellis is so special to our family because it is a place where we can be part of a community that reflects the diversity of our city, and where every child receives the same excellent education and nurturing care, regardless of their family's resources."

- Kristen Vicino, Board of Trustees member and mother of Amelia (Ellis graduate) and Grayson (toddler)

FROM OUR FAMILIES

"Dropping off a five month old is never easy. You hand your baby to a teacher and you have to be confident that he will be loved and cared for in order to walk out the door and be on top of your game at work. Ellis's teachers gave me that comfort every single day. As a parent of color, it was also important to me to find a place where my children would feel welcome, connect with a diverse group of teachers, and have the opportunity to form friendships with kids from different backgrounds. There is a reason that Ellis has such a long waitlist. The combination of quality, diversity, and community is hard to find."

- Chris Shumate, Board of Trustees member and father of Jack and Ethan, (former early childhood participants), and Isla

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Ellis is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, putting Ellis in the top 5% of providers in the country. In FY19, Ellis served 348 children ages 2 months to 12 years old through our early education and school age programs. 65% received tuition assistance through government subsidies and philanthropy. Ellis employs over 54 full-time staff, including 30 full-time teachers, 6 full-time assistant teachers, 6 youth development workers, and a social worker.

Ellis owns and operates two historic buildings in the South End. Our 66 Berkeley Street location was purchased in 1924 and fully renovated in 2017. Our 58 Berkeley Street location was acquired in 2009 and opened in 2012 as a state-of-the-art Early Education Center. In addition, Ellis built and manages the Ellis Children's Park at the end of Chandler Street, which is open to the community.

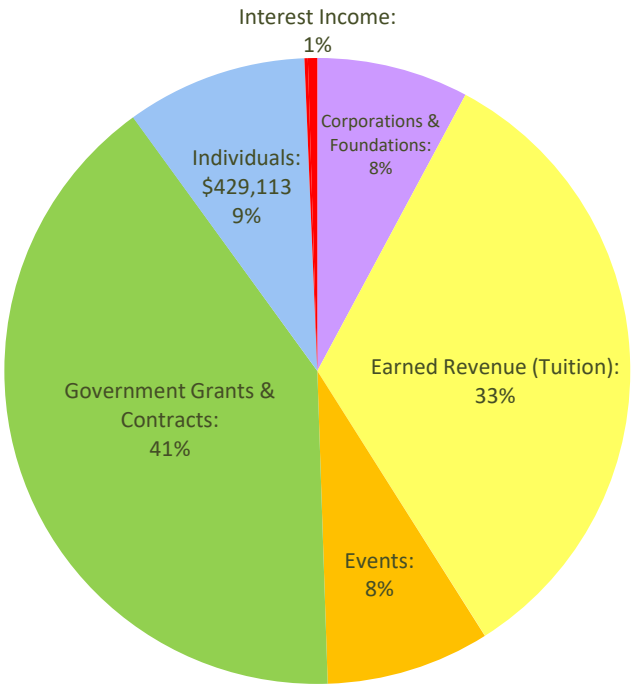
Balance Sheet June 30, 2019

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$776,817
Accounts and pledges receivable	$298,042
Prepaid expenses	$6,764
Property and equipment - net	$10,490,670
TOTAL ASSETS	$11,572,293

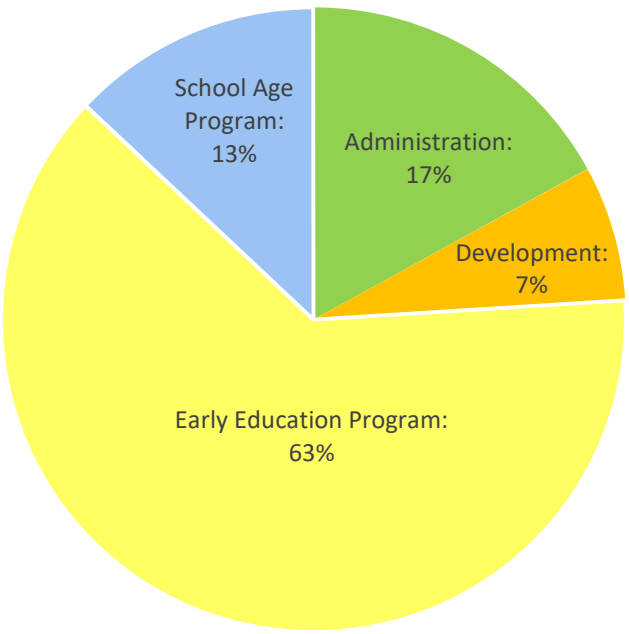
LIABILITIES	
Notes payable, current portion	$49,826
Accounts payable	$164,008
Accrued expenses	$152,220
Deposits	$32,172
Long Term Debt	$4,182,374
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$4,580,600

NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	$6,737,768
With donor restrictions	$253,924
TOTAL NET ASSETS	$6,991,692

FY19 Revenue: $4,575,204



FY19 Expenses: $4,525,192



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Public Funding

ABCD/Child Care Choices of Boston
Boston Public Schools
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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Although space constraints prevent us from listing gifts under $1,000, we are thankful for every dollar donated. We do our best to maintain accurate records. If you notice an error, please contact Nikki Stewart, Chief Advancement Officer, nstewart@ellismemorial.org.

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as of June 30, 2019

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Gine Gomes, Bus Monitor
Tammy Hillery, HR & Compliance Manager, 20+ years
Maurice Hallett, Operations Manager, 15+ years
Tom Monks, Director of Finance, 15+ years
Rebecca Mullaley, Development Coordinator
Tamairi Rivera, Billing and Enrollment Coordinator
Bryan Spence, Chief Development Officer

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Brenda Barreto, Preschool Site Director, 15+ years
Kelia Reece, School Age Site Director, 5+ years
Meisha Reece, Director of School Age Programming, 15+ years
Tiffany Sheets, Assistant Director, 10+ years
Sonia Solas, 66 Berkeley Site Director
Maria Teixeira, Director of Early Education, 15+ years
Aiyauna Terry, Infant and Toddler Site Director, 10+ years

EDUCATORS

Alexis Armstrong
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Jeannie Chalek, 5+ years
Rosa Cruz, 5+ years
Jennifer Daniels
Sugenis Diaz, 15+ years
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Clifford Kwong, Ellis Alum
Kasslyn Landry
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Leyla Pizarro
Rayshawn Reece
Ajka Sakanovic
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Lisa St. Hill, 10+ years
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