IT’S BEEN A BIG YEAR!

As we begin a new year, we celebrate the year we left behind! September 2018—August 2019 was a big year of growth, not only for us as an organization, but in the lives of many of our participants as well. In the pages that follow, you will read about some exciting trips we took locally and across state lines. We will tell you about the significant growth that is happening in our A House on Beekman community life, including the re-launch of our Babies to Three program, and the very exciting graduations we celebrated this past spring! You will also read about our ever-expanding desire to provide high-quality and well-rounded artistic opportunities that are also culturally responsive, and we will show you how we are staying healthy at AHOB! Last, we will dive into the numbers so you can get a sense of how we are growing and how your donations fund our programs.

We know we could not accomplish any of this without faithful supporters like you. Thank you for standing with us!

MISSION: A House on Beekman’s aim is to create a seamless series of programs from birth to career that empowers the next generation of the South Bronx to live out their full potential.

VISION: Joining God in the renewal of the South Bronx.

FIVE STRATEGIC ANCHORS: The five things that we are our guiding lights and that we are deeply committed to as an organization. We are: 1) purposefully local, 2) rooted in relationship, 3) committed with birth to career support, 4) concerned with the long term flourishing of families, and 5) dedicated to providing comprehensive care.
dREAMBRONX TAKES TEXAS

“I’m glad that we got the chance to go on this college tour and take a closer look at college life.”

Steven, Eighth Grade Student

For months leading up to Spring Break, our dreamBronx middle school students were diligently working to raise money for a special trip. Then in April 2019, they boarded a plane (some for the very first time!) and visited another state—Texas! The primary purpose of this trip was to see different colleges and spark their imaginations for what a college experience could look like. The trip was meticulously planned around visiting Texas Christian University, the University of Houston, and Texas Southern University. At each spot, they had the chance to experience a day in the life of a college student. And, visiting Texas was much more than just a college tour! Students went to the original Six Flags, spent a day on a ranch in Central Texas, visited the state capital, and traveled the Texas Mission Trail. In their downtime, they immersed themselves in Texas culture, like sampling crawfish for the first time! This trip was nothing short of amazing!
“I’m glad that I was able to organize summer trips for our families to bond and for the babies to be hands-on with everything we learned.”

Juzenia, Babies to Three Director

Summer 2019 marked the very first year of Babies to Three Summer Camp! Juzenia Tirado-Carrion, our Babies to Three Director, made sure our little participants experienced art, nature, and physical activity all summer long. They went on field trips twice a week, but the most prominent trips were to the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium. Leading up to each of these trips, Juzenia coordinated sensory play activities corresponding with each trip—such as ocean water and fish experiments. Studies show that sensory play activities build nerve connections in the brain pathways, strengthen social interaction, and supports language development. This masterful sequence, pairing sensory play activities with real-life experiences, made for a meaningful and fun summer for baby and parent alike!
PHENOMENAL WOMAN

“I’m a woman. Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman. That’s me.”

Maya Angelou

In February of last year, the Beekman Stars celebrated Black History Month differently. In an effort to honor African American women who paved the way for many, a few of our female students worked on a unique project where they transformed into the woman of their choice. Each girl chose a person whom they wanted to research and then dressed up as that woman to walk the “superwoman runway.” On the runway, our girls stood proud as they recited facts about the influential female figure they were representing. It was amazing to watch our 2nd and 3rd-grade girls channel their creativity and take on the role of women they wanted to show appreciation for. This Phenomenal Woman runway was a showcase to remember!

Symphoni as Katherine Johnson
“I would like to be a teacher when I grow up; that’s what made me choose Katherine Johnson.”

Katherine Johnson is an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights.

Harmony as Julie Dash
“I chose Julie Dash because she was responsible and brave & made sure she became a filmmaker.”

Julie Dash is an American film director, writer, and producer. Her 1991 feature Daughters of the Dust became the first full-length film directed by an African-American woman to obtain a general theatrical release in the United States.

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Sky as Ella Fitzgerald
“I liked that Ella was a singer and dancer. I want to be a cheerleader when I grow up, so I liked that she did something similar to what I want to be.”

Ella Fitzgerald was an American Jazz artist and performer, discovered at the Apollo Theater in 1934. In 1958, Fitzgerald made history as the first African American woman to win a Grammy Award.

Jayleen as Raven Wilkinson
“Raven Wilkinson was a ballet dancer. I really liked her white uniform she would wear and wanted to dress just like her.”

Raven Wilkinson was an American dancer, credited as the first African-American woman to dance for a major classical ballet company.

Skyla as Maya Angelou
“I chose Maya Angelou because she was an activist and stood up for women’s rights.”

Maya Angelou was an American poet, singer, memoirist, and civil rights activist with a career spanning over fifty years.

Sky as Ella Fitzgerald
“I liked that Ella was a singer and dancer. I want to be a cheerleader when I grow up, so I liked that she did something similar to what I want to be.”

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Kaliyah as Gwen Ifill
“Once I did my research, I learned that Ms. Ifill was a television newscaster, and I would like to be on TV one day.”

Gwen Ifill was an American journalist, television newscaster, and author. In 1999, she became the first woman of African descent to host a nationally televised U.S. public affairs program with Washington Week in Review.
“I love art because of A House On Beekman.”
Kaliyah, Elementary School Student

In May 2019, our elementary after school students took on the big apple and headed to lower Manhattan for an awesome historical field trip. The students got the chance to explore the National Museum of American Indians. Many students learned new, exciting facts about the Taíno culture, who were an indigenous people group from the Caribbean occupying the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico in the late 15th century at the time of European contact. Some students had the opportunity to reflect on artifacts they have been learning about in their school history courses. Our staff was pleasantly surprised by how much each student willingly shared interest in the exhibitions—whether it was an artistic piece, clothing, or a poem written by indigenous Americans. We still hear students talk about how meaningful this trip was!
This past spring we celebrated our largest class of participants graduating from four-year-old PreK into kindergarten, followed by a step-up ceremony for our PreK three-year-old students. We are beyond proud of the growth of our preschool. The Department of Education has been slowly rolling their 3K preschool program, which provides free full-day preschool for three-year-olds. A House on Beekman Preschool was lucky to be one of these schools! We were able to offer our neighbors three homeroom classrooms and increase the number of students we serve daily, providing opportunities to learn social and self-regulation skills, explore new interests and, of course, learn new academic skills.
A huge glow moment in dreamBronx this year was celebrating our first class of 8th graders graduating from middle school to high school. In New York City, applying for high school is a similar process to applying for college; it’s not as simple as attending the local public school in your neighborhood. Instead, students participate in the “high school selection process,” which starts with attending high school fairs to become familiar with various high schools across the district. From there, they chose their top twelve schools of choice and attended open houses at those schools. Then, they choose which schools they want to apply to, fill out those applications, and wait to hear if they are accepted. It’s an extremely intense process for an eighth-grader to endure. We are thrilled to report that every eighth-grade student in dreamBronx was accepted to schools in their top 5 rankings. Those schools are: Essex Street Academy, Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science, Young Women’s Leadership School of the Bronx, St. Raymond High School for Boys and High School for Careers in Sports. We are so proud of our new ninth graders!

“I was shocked yet very excited to find out that I got accepted by my top five high schools of choice.”

Jamiya, Ninth Grade Student

Pictured above is four of our six graduated eighth graders. From left to right: Milka, Jayanna, Tatiana, and Jamiya.
BUILDING ON THE BASICS

“Being in Babies to Three has given me an opportunity to spend time with my child and has given me ideas that I can do at home, as well as helped me learn structure and routine.”

Wenden, Babies to Three Mom

In the 2018—2019 school year, we welcomed Juzenia to our staff as the Babies to Three program director. She’s had one full year of programming under her belt, and we are so thankful for her leadership. We asked Juzenia a few questions so you could get to know her more:

1) What drew you to A House on Beekman? Why did you want to work for Babies to Three? “A House on Beekman has earned a great reputation because of the work they have accomplished within the South Bronx. I wanted to join AHOB because I believe in the mission of a seamless series of programs; a mission that empowers the future of the South Bronx to reach their full potential. As a new mom and educator, I understand the importance of this stage of development and look forward to the challenge of implementing our core beliefs.”

2) What is your greatest hope for the caregivers and babies who come to Babies to Three? “My greatest hope is to provide my parents with a safe haven of continuous resources and support that will promote good habits and success. I am convinced that an environment that they are comfortable sharing their challenges and successes will ultimately lead to empowered families looking to influence their community.”
Babies to Three’s new home!

Moms and babies engaging together during play time.

BUILDING ON THE BASICS

In 2011, we launched Babies to Three with four pregnant moms from our neighborhood. Our mission has always been to grow with our families from birth through career, which is why this is the program that started it all, and the foundation of our seamless series of programs.

As those babies continued to grow, and as we grew as an organization, we continued to add program after program. While reflecting on our overall growth, we realized that it was time for us to re-visit our Babies to Three foundation. We know that the most important years in a child’s development are from 0-3, so building into this program had to be a priority. Additionally, in the span of seven years, Babies to Three grew from four participants to over one hundred. Our neighbors were seeing the value of this program and finding the support and community they needed to thrive.

So in Fall 2018, we re-launched Babies to Three. First, we hired a full-time Program Director, Juzenia Tirado-Carrion. Then, we found a space. After several years of hopping around from location to location or meeting during off-hours of our other programs, Babies to Three finally found a place to call home, which happens to be right around the corner from our Preschool! With these pieces in place, we can welcome more participants. We’re also able to offer more robust programming as we grew from just four hours of programming a week to thirty-five hours! Not only that, but we are now more poised to seamlessly transition students in our seamless series of programs!
Our dreamers have taken on the role of being a “gardener” with making sure our indoor garden tower grows efficiently and healthy. A generous donor gifted us with this garden tower, and our middle school students have learned so much about growing their own food and healthy habits because of it. Throughout this year, they’ve grown a variety of fresh herbs and vegetables such as parsley, thyme, cauliflower, arugula. The first go-around with the tower didn’t quite work as planned. The seedlings developed a fungus and ruined all of our growth. But with some research and some new seeds, and a renewed spirit to begin again, our dreamers restarted. And the second time was met with great success! And it doesn’t stop there! During their STEAM cooking club (STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), they’ve made various delicious dishes utilizing these fresh herbs and vegetables that they have grown. It’s our own A House on Beekman version of farm to table!
GOOD NUTRITION IS OUR MISSION

“The best part of teaching nutrition was having the students learn you can eat all parts of a plant—roots, seeds, leaves, and stems.”

Anabel, Early Childhood Operations Associate & STEAM Specialist

Hands-on, sensory-based education on nutrition and activities changes the way children think about food and health. With this in mind, we made a considerable effort to study “nutrition” for a whole month with our preschool participants. Students got the chance to try new foods or foods they may have been hesitant to try in the past in a new way. Our STEAM specialist for Early Childhood, Anabel Diaz, took these lessons to a whole new level as she not only built lessons with nutrition in mind but also engaged student’s five senses. For one activity, Anabel gave each child thin pretzels and a handful of grapes, celery, and carrots and had them organize these items into the shape of a tree, flower, or plant. After the desired shape was achieved, the students were asked questions about the activity: if they were familiar with these foods, tried any of them before, if they were willing to try, or if they had a favorite. With this hands-on activity, Anabel built a connection with the students, which has made them willing to try new foods. These preschool students will be quite the foodies by the time they reach our middle school program and are growing their own food in the garden tower!
INCOME

TOTAL: $1,532,862

- Foundations 15% $222,647
- Events 25% $388,678
- Churches 2% $36,397
- General Contributions 27% $406,940
- Government 29% $451,763
- Other 2% $26,438

EXPENSE

TOTAL: $1,390,807

- Preschool 43% $592,168
- Babies to Three 8% $116,968
- Middle School Afterschool 13% $180,821
- Elementary Afterschool 18% $253,286
- Summer Camp 6% $79,699
- Fundraising 1% $14,043
- General 9% $123,012
- Other 2% $30,811
INCOME GROWTH

HOW WE GREW

We prioritize not only growing our funding but also considering how we can continually diversify our funding sources. We are thrilled to report this year that we were able to increase revenue in nearly all of our categories, and additionally, that we were able to grow significantly in three distinct and diverse ways!

INDIVIDUALS: This past year, one of our main focuses was growing our category of donors who give monthly. In the Fall, we had two specific fundraisers with this goal in mind: our Fall Fundraiser at the Strand Bookstore in Lower Manhattan and Giving Tuesday. We’re grateful to report that both events were very successful, and our monthly donations increased from 717 to 938!

GOVERNMENT: As our classroom size grew, so did our government funding from the Department of Education. We grew from 15 students in 1 full-time class to 40 students in 3 full-time classes. We are grateful that A House on Beekman is a recipient of Pre-K for All funding!

EVENTS: Our annual Spring Benefit team, led by Jenni Bounds, brought this event to the next level in 2019. We were at a beautiful, new-to-us Upper East Side venue that enabled us to grow our attendance from 170 guests to 220. And not only that but the night of we saw nearly double the number and amount of gifts given that we have seen in years past.

TOTAL INCOME LAST YEAR: $940,505
TOTAL INCOME THIS YEAR: $1,532,862