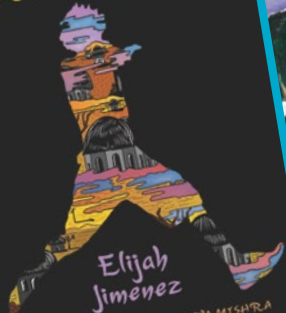




WORDS TOOK SHAPE

Chapter 510 &
the Dept of Make Believe
2018-2019 Annual Report

THE GUARDIAN



Elijah Jimenez

ILLUSTRATED BY SHUCHEDA MISHRA

POWER MALFUNCTION



MAURICE MONG

ILLUSTRATED BY
HANNA ROE

SONAR

Nassor At-Thinnin Gant



Illustrated by
Alan Clark



PAST IS PRESENT Vol. II

A COLLECTION OF
ORIGIN & MIGRATION
STORIES BY OAKLAND YOUTH

Written by students from
MetWest High School
Illustrated by Angel Aguilar & Nicole Seyer



Hate
by Elula Okereke



Illustrated by
Kamabishi Demwase

La luz hizo ciega a la tormenta LIGHT MADE THE STORM BLIND

Poems to Save the World
by Acora Wood and Elementary
poemas para salvar el mundo
por la Escuela Primaria Acora Woodland

Translated and
Illustrated by Anishil Prasad

The Imagination Book

Aida Ndoye
Illustrated by Jessica Jones

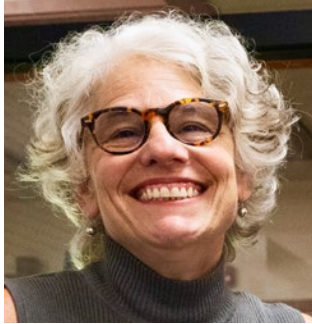


THIS WORLD IS GOING TO CHANGE



Aniya Butler
ILLUSTRATED BY DAWLING-JAKE ORI-ESELEN

DEAR MAKE BELIEVERS,



2018-19 was the year of the Oakland teacher.

Chapter 510 was honored to host a solidarity school for Hoover Elementary students during the seven-day strike last February. Our staff and volunteers rallied with churches, libraries, and recreation centers to

provide a rich learning environment for students whose families chose not to cross picket lines. Chapter 510 stands with the teachers and parents who made hard decisions. Our solidarity school will forever remain one of our most important accomplishments for the families who live in our neighborhood.

As you'll read in this annual report, Chapter 510 is growing and powerfully taking shape. Last year we increased our programs and youth served by 67%. We are responding to the needs of Oakland children whose voices demand to be heard. More field trips, workshops, and published books built our students' confidence and improved writing skills, particularly for children of color.

Words take shape when our talented teaching artists and dedicated volunteers inspire reluctant writers. These same students proudly go back to school carrying their published stories. Teachers tell us that after experiencing Chapter 510 programming, their students become more independent and confident learners. Parents share that their kids want more: they're ready to write a sequel or read their books aloud for new audiences. Teen voices boom and break through barriers as they write the entire next chapter of their lives.

Chapter 510 has become a place that Oakland youth want to return to. We appreciate that you're with us in body and in spirit because we need your commitment to Oakland and its future. Most importantly, we need you to be present with us, sitting in our writing space, and contributing to its magic. Come visit us soon.

Thank you so much for all you do.

With gratitude,
Janet Heller
Executive Director

LIGHT MADE THE STORM BLIND

The Light

The problem: One day a giant storm made it cold for the Light (who is next to the sun).

Her name is Light.
She lives
In the solar system.

The
Storm
Made
It
Cold.

Light used the most
Power she had.
Light made
The storm blind.





La Luz

*El problema: Un día una tormenta gigante
enfrió la Luz (que está al lado del sol).*

*Su nombre es Luz.
Ella vive
En el sistema solar.*

*La
Tormenta
La
Hizo
Fría.*

*La luz usaba el mayor
Poder que tenía.
La luz hizo
Ciega a la tormenta.*

*—by Pedro & Joa,
Acorn Woodland
Elementary School*

CHAPTER 510 PROGRAMMING 2018–2019

In-School Epic Poetry Project: *Light Made the Storm Blind*

In the fall of 2018, 15 Chapter 510 volunteers and staff descended upon Acorn Elementary School for three hours of our annual creative Epic Poetry Relay, where mixed-age groups of students wrote the first part of a poem that was “relayed” to another group for completion. Teaching artist Xochitl Frausto developed a curriculum based on the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and students wrote poetry in the voice of a natural element, addressing an environmental challenge that the element faces today. More than 100 poems and their Spanish translations were compiled in a perfect-bound book that we gave every student (346 books to be exact!) entitled *Light Made the Storm Blind*.

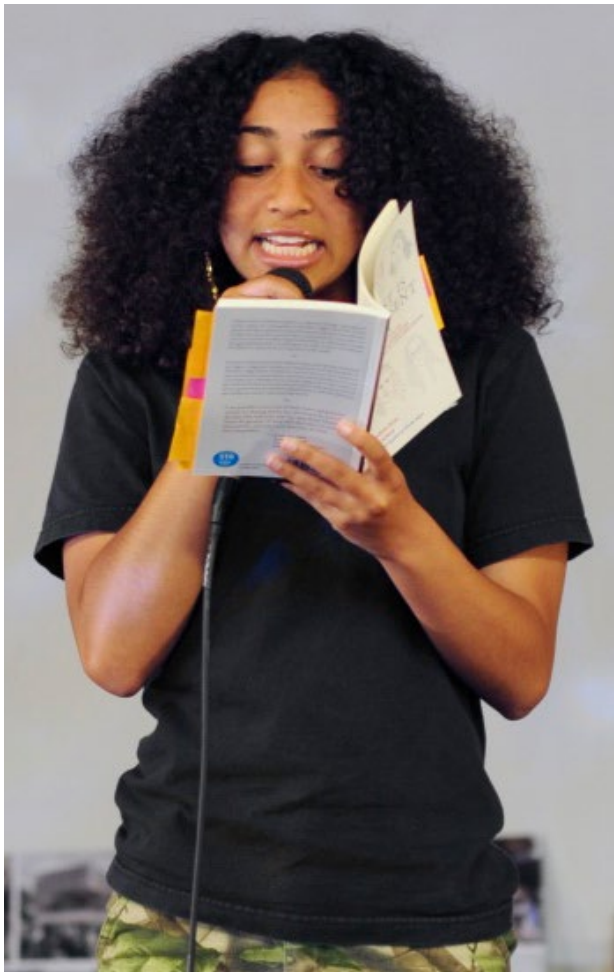
MetWest Mentoring & College Personal Statement Support

For the sixth consecutive year, Chapter 510 tutors worked in service to students at MetWest High School, where 26 volunteers provided college essay support to 12th-graders, mentorship to 10th-graders participating in *Past Is Present, Vol. II*, and in-class tutoring for both grades, working with students one-on-one, or one-on-some for several hours every day. Led by Chapter 510 staff, volunteers supported students with homework assignments, writing projects, critical analysis, and reading comprehension.

Volunteers also helped graduating seniors plan, draft, and finalize college application essays during the first semester, and supported seniors with academic writing and their senior thesis projects in the second half of the year. 95% of MetWest graduating seniors were admitted into college.

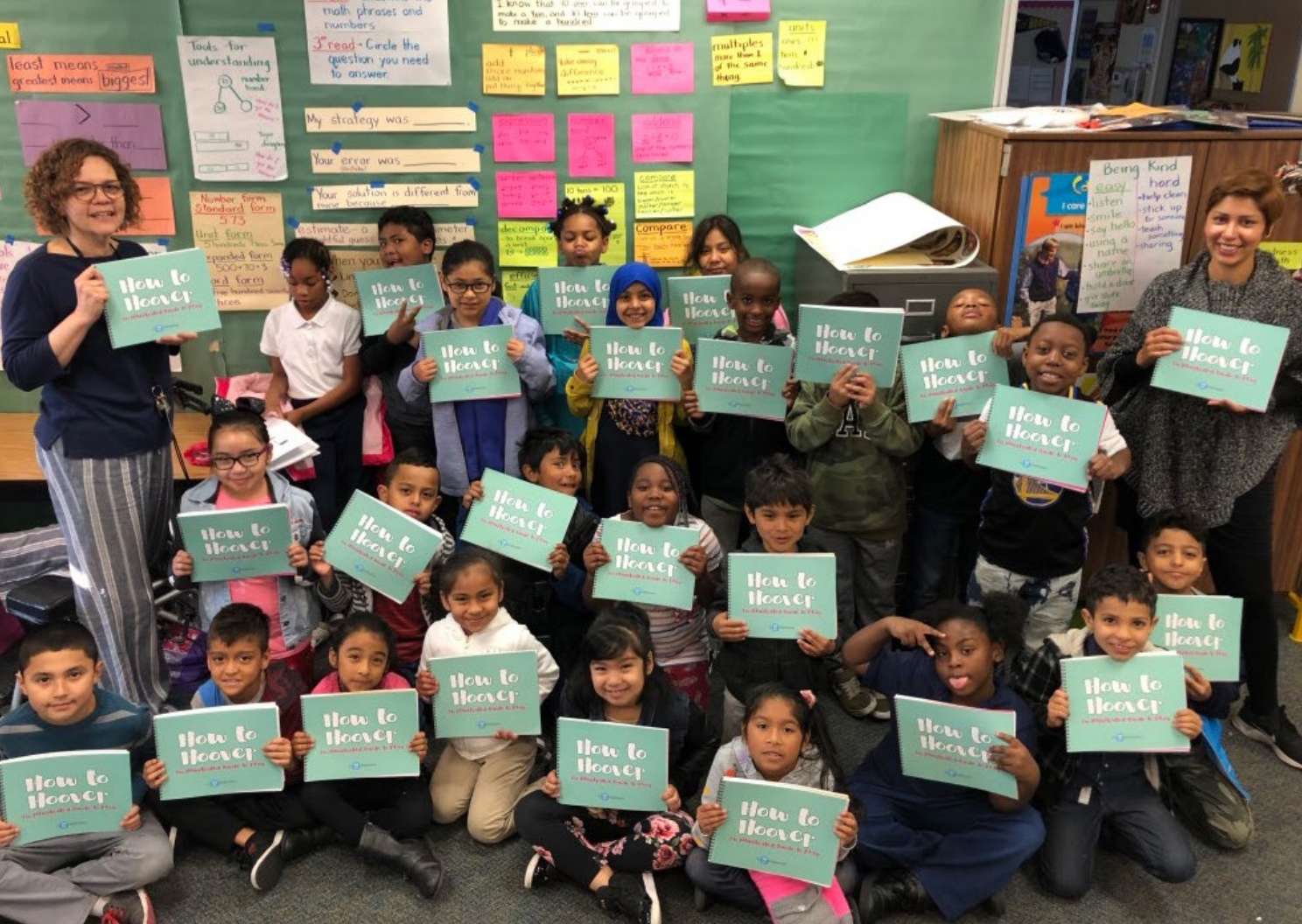
*Thank you for bringing Chapter 510 to MetWest.
You transformed our year. Truly.*

—Shannon Carey, 9th grade veteran teacher, MetWest



In-School Book Project: *Past is Present Vol. II*

During the spring of 2019, MetWest 10th graders worked with writing mentors over the course of ten weeks to develop their families' oral histories for the second volume of *Past Is Present*. This collection of heritage stories of migration and resistance preserves interviews that students conducted with family members, transcribing and developing their histories and stories for broader distribution in the community. This project provides deep intergenerational learning and connection for all who are involved.



In-School Book Project: *How to Hoover*

Chapter 510 worked with 2nd grade students at Hoover Elementary School to develop a student-written, expository comic book using elements of technical writing. A classroom of eager writers worked with teaching artist Shuchi Mishra and volunteer tutors to conceptualize, draft, draw, and edit their informational comic book—a “how to” on topics ranging from soccer to slime. Students learned all about what goes into publishing a book while experiencing the magical transformation of turning from writer to author.

Storytelling Field Trips

As an easy introduction to making writing fun, our storytelling field trips are a big hit with educators and students alike. Over the course of 20 field trips, we gave 554 students from seven schools a high-intensity morning of creative storytelling. Students were given on-the-spot lessons in character, plot, conflict, and resolution, and together wrote three-quarters of a story as a class before finishing up their conclusions independently. All 554 writers took home original chapbooks to read together with family and friends. Our field trips provide immersive learning in the elements of storytelling and offer elementary-age students a point of entry into finding joy in writing.

It was a huge opportunity to have Hoover students write and publish a book this year. They need to see themselves as creative and capable. Chapter 510 provided that experience and we are so grateful to them for helping learning come alive!

—Gabi LaPointe (Hoover Elementary 2nd Grade STEAM Teacher)

Beauty in Difference: Black Joy

In 2018/2019, Chapter 510's annual Beauty in Difference poetry workshop held space for young African American men. Participants spent ten Saturday afternoons over the winter working with poet Daniel Summerhill, learning to use poetry to express their experiences as young black men in Oakland. Daniel helped them see that poetry doesn't belong just to dead, white men, and with influences of Joshua Bennett's "Hip Hop," and Steven Willis' "How the Hood Loves You Back," to guide them, each student—from skateboarding to gaming to fine arts and screenplay—contributed their idea of the Black joy narrative.

The boys wrote with skill and humor about the violence they see and experience, the pleasure of being young, and the challenge of walking through the world as Black men. The result of this work is a celebration of their poetry in a collection published by our partner Nomadic Press entitled *Black Joy: An Anthology of Black Boy Poems*. The book was released at a First Friday event to a packed house and wide acclaim from our community of families, educators, poets, and friends.





Children's Book Writing Camp: Food & Story

Teaching artist Tiffany Golden led our second annual week-long Spring Break Camp for elementary-aged children. This year's focus was on developing narrative stories based on family recipes. This intensive camp paired students with writing mentors and professional illustrators and resulted in a collection of seven single-author, professionally bound and illustrated books for children, written by children.

Chapter Book Workshop

For the first year, Chapter 510 held a ten-week Saturday workshop for experienced writers. Also led by Tiffany Golden, this workshop focused on developing stories into longer chapter books, and paired students with writers and authors to support the development of their work over the course of several months. Like the children's book camp, this workshop also resulted in a collection of seven single-author, professionally bound and illustrated chapter books, written by children for children.

Students and their families celebrated the single-author publications at our Children's Book Fair in June, where the new authors read their work aloud to a supportive and proud audience.

Solidarity School

In February of 2019, Oakland public school teachers went on strike for seven school days, during which time Chapter 510 played host to a solidarity school for Hoover Elementary students whose parents chose not to cross the picket lines. For seven days, we led up to 46 K–5 students in art, math,

dance, and writing activities. Volunteers answered our call for support and showed up to give our students yoga classes, choir performances, weaving and ceramic lessons, and a lot of love.





WORDS TOOK SHAPE!

2018-2019 Publications

Anthologies

Light Made the Storm Blind

How To Hoover

Black Joy: An Anthology of Black Boy Poems

Past is Present Vol. II

Single-Author Chapter Books:

Hate by Ebube Okereke

Power Malfunction by Maurice Mong

This World Is Going to Change by Aniya Butler

Sonar by Nassor At-Thinnin Gant

The Imagination Book by Aida Ndiaye

How I Got Accused of Murder by Jaden Colbert

The Guardian by Elijah Jimenez

Single-Author Picture Books:

OMG, A Vampire Tale! by Renee Castillo

Atlantic Kingdom by Samantha Karina Garcia-Peña

The Adventures of Golly and the Mysterious Planet

by Milana Milner

Sarah & the Food Fight by Zoey Riggins

Smuge and the Good but Bad Idea by Olivia Tiffin

Evil Burrito and the FBI by Aida Ndiaye

Moon and the Dessert Island by Aiyanna Whitehead

BY THE NUMBERS

All together, Chapter 510:

- Inspired **1,208** students to write
- Published **18** new books containing countless stories
- Hosted **13** student readings
- Mentored over **100** high school students
- Helped **95%** of MetWest seniors get admitted to college
- Partnered with **7** OUSD schools
- Increased programming by **67%**

CIRQUE DE CHÊNES

—by Samuel Getachew

some days i don't recognize my city anymore
the new dressed-up oakland i can't afford
some days i become a circus attraction in my
own home
become the diversity factor of a room and everything
my oakland is or used to be becomes display case
and i become relic
an artifact worth framing but not saving and some
days i have to force myself to break the glass they
trapped us in

exhibit A:

i enter a coffee shop i grew up going to and a chorus
of pale mouths gape
so i laugh
all my teeth sharp and showing, whiter than their
audience
and this performance becomes defiance,

and defiance becomes first Fridays



becomes dancing through the gunshots, becomes a
performance despite, becomes protest,
and protest becomes the cookout and the music and
the laughter and the laughter and the laughter,

the smell of frying fish drifts out from somewhere
nearby and i convince myself that last night's food
trucks are lingering here instead
the scent of defiance and korean fusion tacos and
weed and gasoline and sweat and permanence

exhibit B:

the music at first fridays ends sooner now
an 8 o'clock noise ordinance choking the soul out of
telegraph nights
a new art gallery sits on the corner
a new cafe weaseled itself across from the
beauty supply
west oakland morphing into a hipster's dream

exhibit C:

today i watch as an old black man gets out of his car
and bursts into song
half the block stares

startled by such a bold show of presence
captivated by this spectacle
trapeze artist missed the net
lion escaped
this was not supposed to happen.

and with 13 pairs of eyes on him
he sings a fight song for our city
syncopates his footsteps with the heartbeat of these
streets and i seem to be the only one who can
hear them both
and in this moment
my oakland is revived
rises up from the grave around me
becomes alive again in an earth-shaking chorus of
WE

ARE

STILL

HERE.

Published by Nomadic Press, 2019

Black Joy: Black Boy Poems

THE BUREAUCRATIC

Income

CONTRIBUTED

Individuals	\$246,940
Foundations	\$168,015
Government	\$82,038
Corporate	\$9,505
Contributed Income	\$506,498

EARNED

Space Rental	\$10,200
Retail Sales	\$3,702
Earned Income	\$13,902

Total Income	\$520,400
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Expenses

Personnel	\$352,199
Professional Fees & Teaching Artists	\$58,909
Occupancy	\$41,593
Programmatic Supplies & Publishing	\$21,725
General & Admin	\$46,525

Total Expenses	\$520,951
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Chapter 510 could not exist without the support of our generous donors, volunteers, teaching artists, board and staff. Thank you for continuing to make believe with us as we help our students learn to write with confidence and joy!

CHAPTER 510'S 2018–2019 MAKE BELIEVERS

Staff

Ana Acosta, *Program Intern*
Eneceia Lang, *MetWest Intern*
Han Choi, *High School
Program Coordinator,
AmeriCorps BAYAC*
Jahan Khalighi, *Volunteer
& Community
Engagement Manager*
Janet Heller, *Founder &
Executive Director*
Jessica Blair, *Development
Director*
Marge Chardiet,
Publications Manager
Maya Padilla, *Development
& Communications VISTA*
Nikkie Sayre, *Elementary
Program Coordinator,
AmeriCorps BAYAC*
Rae'Chel Stanley,
Programs Intern
Tavia Stewart, *Founder & COO*

Board of Directors

Adrienne Timmons
Alicia Crawford, *Chair*
Joe Wetzel
Leila Motley
Mariah Landers
Maurice Emsellem
Melissa Clarke
Wendy Donner, *Treasurer*
Zach Cohen

Teaching Artists

Anna Kingsley
Daniel Summerhill
Manar Harb
Perla Yasmeen Meléndez
Tiffany Golden
Xochitl Frausto

Editorial Mentors & Artists

Adam Segal
Adonal Foyle
Alan Clark
Allah El Henson
Ana Acosta
Anayo Awuzie
Andrea Cortes-Juarbe
Angel Aguilar
Angela Dalton
Arthur Johnstone
Betsy Streeter
Boots Riley
Breena Nuñez
Cassie Perham
Dawline-Jane Oni-Eseleh
Dera Williams
Doug Keller
Fred D'Orazio
Han Choi
Ito Udofia
Isha Tobis-Clarke
Jahan Khalighi
James Golden
Janet Heller
Janine Macbeth
Jennifer Daly
Jenny Jin
Jessica Jones
Jonah Taranta-Slack
Kanya Abe

Kate Schatz
Kathleen Tan
Kona Lai
Leila Mottley
Lenore Weiss
Margie Chardiet
Marie Monrad
Maya Padilla
Melissa Reyes
Melton Cartes
Nan Eastep
Nat Swope
Nicole Sayre
Nijla Mu'min
Patricia Zaballos
Rae'Chel Stanley
RISE A Cappella
Robert Liu-Trujillo
Samin Nosrat
Samuel Getachew
Shuchi Mishra
Simone Zapata
Tanya Henderson
Tara Hottman
Tavia Stewart
Thaddeus Howze
Tongo Eisen-Martin
Wendy MacNaughton
William Lazarus

Partners

826 National
Acorn Woodland Elementary
BAYAC AmeriCorps Program
CCA's Center for Public
Art & Life
Gensler
Green Copy
Hoover Elementary
MetWest High School
Miriam Abrams and
Associates
Nomadic Press
Oakland Literacy Coalition
Oakland Public Library
Oakland School for the Arts
Parcel Projects
Philanthropic Ventures
Foundation
Pickypockets Press
RISE VISTA Program
University of California
Berkeley, BUILD
Youth Opportunity
Scholarships

A MEMO FROM THE BUREAU OF EPIC GRATITUDE

Chapter 510's 2018-2019 fiscal year saw us make tremendous growth toward our long-term goal of helping every young person in Oakland write with confidence and joy. None of these gains would have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our financial supporters. What follows is a list of donors who gave a combined total of \$250 or more last year. We thank and appreciate every financial supporter who gave meaningful gifts to support this important work.



Your investment in our students is changing the shape of their lives, and our world. As we've witnessed with young people across the globe in the last few years—from Parkland students pressing for gun reform to youth advocating for climate solutions—when children and teens are able to confidently express themselves, they transform us all for the better.

DONORS

Individuals

(>\$250 and up)

Alana Aquilino
Alexis Madrigal and Sarah Rich
Alicia Crawford
Alison Seevak
Alvaro Villanueva
Amanda Feinstein and Paul Leonard
Andrew Gass
Anna Nordberg
Brett Weinstein
David and Patia Dial
Doniece Sandoval
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Frances Hellman
and Warren Breslau
Fred and Evan D'Orazio
Gordon Baranco
James and Karen Wagstaffe
Janet Heller
Janine Kovac
Jennifer Grancio-Wechser
Jennifer Traub and Paul Epstein
Jessica and Peter Blair
Joan Sautter
Jodi Nishimura
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Melissa and Scott Clarke
Patti Birbiglia
and Juan Molina Maravilla
Peter Grube
Rebecca Skloot
Robert Sims
Samin Nosrat
Sophie Fanelli
Stan and Maria Jones
Sue Levin
Wendy and Andy Donner
Wendy MacNaughton
William and Paula Powar

Foundations & Corporations

Abundance Foundation
All Stars Helping Kids
Anonymous
Archie-Brown Springboard Awards
Barrios Trust
Beneficial State Bank
Bill Graham Memorial Foundation
California Bank of Commerce
EJF Philanthropies
Fleishhacker Foundation
Hawkins Project
Hellman Foundation
Kapor Center for Social Impact
Munger Tolles Olson
Nicholson Family Foundation
OBAR Community Foundation
Panta Rhea Foundation
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation
Quest Foundation
The Awesome Foundation
Union Bank

Government

California Humanities
Oakland Youth Advisory Commission
Oakland Fund for Children & Youth

Monthly Sustainers

Alana Aquilino
Gordon Baranco
Jessica and Peter Blair
Katherine Falk
Kate Hoyle
Rita Hurault
Kristen and Ted Talley

In-kind Supporters

Brandon Vance
Homeroom
Warren Breslau

“

Chapter 510 helps you learn about the magic of books.”

—2019 Spring Break Children’s Book Camp young author

MISSION & VISION

Chapter 510 is a made-in-Oakland youth writing & publishing center. Our teaching artists and volunteers work side-by-side with educators to provide a safe space and supportive community for young people ages 6-18 to bravely write.

Our vision is that every young person in Oakland learns to write with confidence and joy.

Chapter 510 is proud to be a part of the 826 National Chapter Development Process.

Chapter510.org
2301 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

