in the sixth grade, I got straight A’s for the first time and I’ve been doing very well ever since.”

Moving forward, the #BosTeenArts coalition, which includes HSTF and many other partners, will work to ensure that BPS’s arts policy is implemented and that all BPS high school students have access to arts. Follow us on Instagram @HydeSquareTF for updates!

Esta primavera, los jóvenes del Comité de Hyde Square unieron fuerzas con otras organizaciones artísticas de Boston y amplificaron sus voces para apoyar más artes en las escuelas secundarias públicas de Boston. Influenciados por las artes que reciben a través de la escuela y HSTF, nuestros adolescentes se reunieron y compartieron sus testimonios de reflexión en la audiencia de presupuesto de BPS el 20 de marzo.

En el futuro, la coalición #BosTeenArts trabajará para garantizar que se implemente la política de arte de BPS y que todos los estudiantes de secundaria de BPS tengan acceso a las artes. ¡Síguenos en Instagram @HydeSquareTF para recibir actualizaciones!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
**THE HSTF EXPERIENCE**

**MEET JAKAYLA, XAVIER & KEERA—THREE JÓVENES EN ACCIÓN TEENS**

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**JAKAYLA**

Dance Team
Age: 13 | Joined: 2018

**What surprised you about joining HSTF?**

How different it was. It includes a lot of different people from different cultures. It’s very mixed. This is really good because other programs have kids from only one neighborhood or background. Here at HSTF youth are from all over Boston and come from different backgrounds.

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**XAVIER**

Theatre Team
Age: 16 | Joined: 2016

**What surprised you about joining HSTF?**

How different it was. It includes a lot of different people from different cultures. It’s very mixed. This is really good because other programs have kids from only one neighborhood or background. Here at HSTF youth are from all over Boston and come from different backgrounds.

**Where do you see yourself after finishing school?**

Helping the community, advocating for youth, going to college, and also still continuing my passion for dance.

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**KEERA**

Music Team
Age: 18 | Joined: 2016

**What surprised you about joining HSTF?**

How different it was. It includes a lot of different people from different cultures. It’s very mixed. This is really good because other programs have kids from only one neighborhood or background. Here at HSTF youth are from all over Boston and come from different backgrounds.

**Where do you see yourself after finishing school?**

Helping the community, advocating for youth, going to college, and also still continuing my passion for dance.

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**What is one thing that you think EVERYONE needs to know about HSTF?**

HSTF is a no-judge zone. No matter where you’re from, we won’t judge you.

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**Describe HSTF in three words.**

Best place ever. | El mejor lugar sobre todos.
**HSTF YOUTH BRING DOWN THE HOUSE WITH QUESEYOCUANTO!**

*QueSeYoCuanto | Chapter Four: Scrub* Amidst a black-out, Helen (an Afro-Dominican maid played by Nivea) and Gabriela (a White Dominican nanny played by Alejandra) discuss colorism as they bicker about the parenting style of their employer, Mrs. Guzman.

Written by Paloma Valenzeula, *QueSeYoCuanto* premiered on April 25th and explored seven different stories of what happens in the Dominican Republic when the lights go out.

"WE MADE IT THROUGH FOUR SHOWS AND MEMORIZED ALL OUR LINES! I INITIALLY THOUGHT I COULDN'T DO IT BUT BECAME POSITIVE AND WE DID IT. AND WE [ESPECIALLY] PULLED OUT ALL OUR ENERGY FOR THE LAST SHOW!"

- ELLA, HSTF YOUTH

**SAVE THE DATE: ¡VIVA EL LATIN QUARTER! SUMMER SERIES**

July 17–August 14 | Wednesday evenings at 6PM

Our ¡Viva el Latin Quarter! summer series is approaching! Starting in July, we will host FREE, family-friendly events on Wednesday evenings on the Blessed Sacrament Church plaza.

A partir de julio, organizaremos una variedad de eventos GRATUITOS para familias en la plaza de la iglesia Blessed Sacrament. Los miércoles por la tarde (6PM).

**STAFF + BOARD SPOTLIGHTS!**

Congratulations to HSTF Board Member Lorna Rivera for being appointed to the Boston School Committee!

This October, we were able to hire a new grant writer, William Sondey! Thank you for all that you do for HSTF, Will!

**KEEP UP WITH HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE**

Our Music Team—Musicians in Community (MIC)—are currently recording new episodes for their online YouTube series titled *¡La Mesa!* Stay tuned for updates about that and many other #HSTF events.

Visit HydeSquare.org and follow us on social media for updates on our event calendar!
Words from HSTF Alumnus Nick Barbosa

HSTF taught me how to succeed. I became involved in mentoring at HSTF, dedicating two hours a week to career development and planning for college. Through this, I was able to learn about the college process and was even provided with my own mentor. I wholeheartedly believe that without this support, I would not be where I am today. Now that I’m in college, HSTF has continued to show their support for me. Once we graduate from high school, we transition into HSTF’s College Success program which pairs us with a college coach and provides support. When Lisa became my formal coach, I couldn’t have been more excited. Every so often—and always with perfect timing—she checks up on me and even forwards me relevant scholarship opportunities.

Nick has been part of Hyde Square Task Force since the summer after his first year of high school. Now, Nick is finishing a strong first year at Bentley University. A donation to Hyde Square Task Force is an investment in youth like Nick. Make a donation today.

To donate, visit: HydeSquare.org/make-a-donation.