



# NEWSLETTER



## ADVOCATING FOR MORE ARTS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

**This spring**, Hyde Square Task Force youth joined forces with other arts organizations across Boston and amplified their voices in support of more arts in Boston Public high schools. Influenced by the arts they receive through school and HSTF, our teens came together and shared thought-provoking testimonies at the BPS budget hearing on March 20th.

“When I first entered middle school my stress levels in school got worse” explained HSTF youth, Adalia. “[It wasn’t] until my mom put me in a dance program [that things improved]. I loved it.

“ **I LOVED BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS MYSELF AND RELEASE ALL OF THAT STRESS FROM SCHOOL.** ”

**- ADALIA, HSTF YOUTH**

Over time I became more relaxed and less stressed. I was able to understand what I was learning in the classroom and was able to take a test with an open mind, which helped me to get a better score. That year,

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 artes de BPS y que todos los estudiantes de secundaria de BPS tengan acceso a las artes. ¡Síguenos en Instagram [@HydeSquareTF](#) para recibir actualizaciones!

# THE HSTF EXPERIENCE

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



**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.

### 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.

### Describe HSTF in three words. | Describe HSTF en tres palabras (en ingles).

Best place ever. | El mejor lugar sobre todos.



**XAVIER**

Theatre Team

Age: 16 | Joined: 2016

### How has HSTF changed your definition of success?

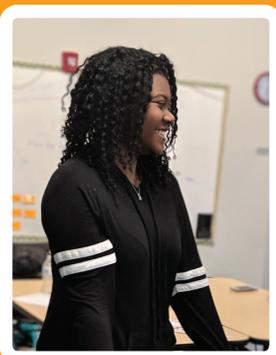
It kind of changed my definition of success because I always thought with these people who are actors, that success was given to them. As I got into HSTF, the more I've done the work, the more I see that **you have to work for success and success is progress**. It's not just something being handed to you.

### 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.

### Describe HSTF in three words. | Describe HSTF en tres palabras (en ingles).

Community, extraordinary, and career-starting.  
Comunidad, extraordinario, e inicio de carrera.



**KEERA**

Music Team

Age: 18 | Joined: 2016

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

That it's FUN! You're able to be outside of an academic environment and learn music, and then with the mentoring you get **career help and help with college and tutoring**. Overall you get to meet people you probably wouldn't get to meet otherwise and who have the same interests as you.

### As a 12th grader, how has the college process been?

At first it was very challenging because people would tell me that junior year is a lot harder than senior year. When you add the whole college process to your school work in senior year, it is a lot. But at HSTF they helped me with my supplements and even my college essay.

### Describe HSTF in three words. | Describe HSTF en tres palabras (en ingles).

A welcoming community. | Una comunidad amable.

# HSTF YOUTH BRING DOWN THE HOUSE WITH QUESEYOCUANTO!



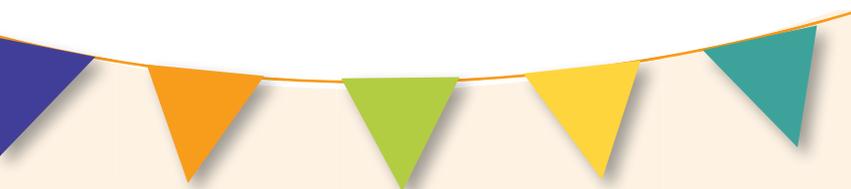
Photo credit: Mark Saperstein

**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](http://HydeSquare.org) and follow us on social media for updates on our event calendar!



**@HYDESQUARETF**



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## 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](https://HydeSquare.org/make-a-donation).