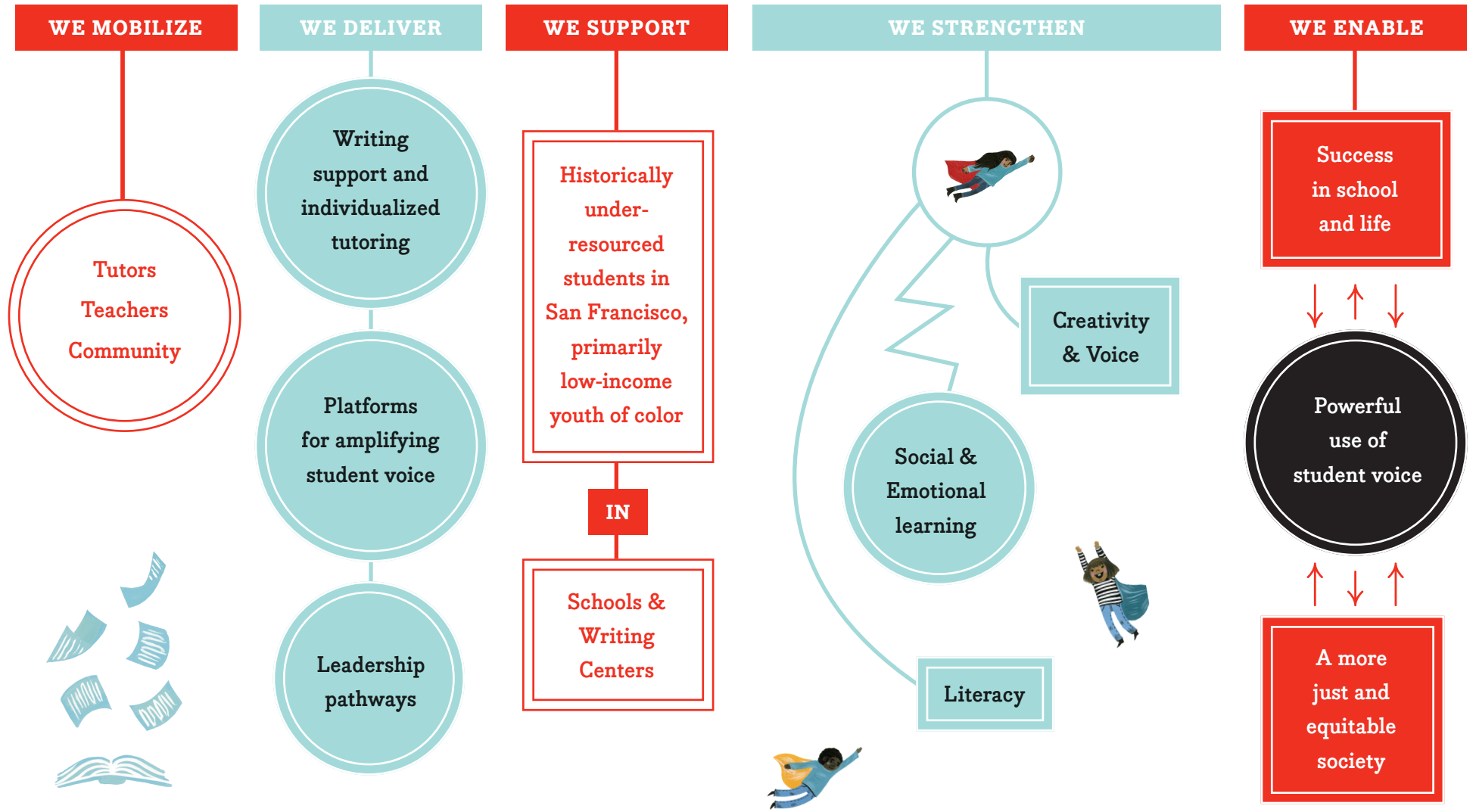


THEORY OF CHANGE



PILLARS OF PROGRAM DESIGN

- ★ Provide individualized attention to our students
- ★ Adapt our programs to the needs of the communities we serve
- ★ Implement culturally relevant writing and publishing projects
- ★ Cultivate wonder through our spaces, publications, and programs

WHY WRITING?

Writing is agency and power. It's a tool for telling your story, processing experiences, building community, and bringing imagination to life. But many students lack confidence and skills when it comes to writing, for a host of reasons—the challenge of learning English as a second language, financial and housing instability, and a lack of one-on-one attention during the school day, to name only a few. In a world that has historically devalued the voices and stories of young people of color, writing empowers them to express themselves, succeed in school and career, and engage in our national dialogue. Writing skills are essential to building a just, equitable, and democratic society.

THE TUTORING VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

1

All students have the capacity and desire to learn.

We set and maintain high expectations for growth.

2

Every student deserves respect.

We honor their assets, backgrounds, interests, and life experiences.

3

Everyone learns differently.

We adapt our approach to meet each student's unique needs.

4

Tutoring (like writing) is a practice.

We commit to reflection and continuous improvement.



WE MOBILIZE

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Trained volunteers coach students to develop their writing skills and provide individualized support across our programs. Volunteers are trained to respond to students' unique needs, engage with students in a supportive and culturally conscious way, and to honor their diverse backgrounds and experiences.

WE DELIVER

WRITING SUPPORT & INDIVIDUALIZED TUTORING

Field Trips. Classes from public schools visit our writing centers for a morning of high-energy writing, performing, and storytelling. Our field trips produce bound, illustrated books and professional-quality podcasts, infusing creativity, collaboration, and the arts into the school day.

In-School Projects. We bring volunteers into public schools to support teachers and coach students one-on-one as they tackle writing projects, including newspapers, research papers, oral histories, and more. We have permanent spaces—called Writers' Rooms—at Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8, Everett Middle School, and Mission High School.

Out-of-School Programs. During the school year, our centers are packed with students who come in after school, for writing support and one-on-one tutoring in all subject areas. Students continue to learn and write with us during our summer programs. We also work with students' caregivers to support them in being part of their children's academic and personal development.

Workshops. 826 Valencia offers workshops designed to foster creativity and strengthen writing skills in a wide variety of areas, from playwriting to personal essays to starting a 'zine. All workshops, from the playful to the practical, are project-based and taught by staff and skilled volunteers.

TEACHERS

In addition to providing its own writing supports to students, 826 Valencia is committed to building the capacity of teachers to provide effective and inspirational writing instruction and support. We align our curriculum to the standards and goals of our partner teachers and their schools.

PLATFORMS FOR AMPLIFYING STUDENT VOICE

826 Valencia provides multiple platforms for publishing and amplifying the student voices:

- We honor and amplify our students' voices by professionally publishing their writing and giving it an audience. Whether the end product is a performance, a podcast, a magazine, or a beautiful book, this encourages students to work hard and feel proud of an authentic end product, and gives them a unique sense of ownership over the writing process.
- We work with creative volunteers to design and produce student publications, organizational events, and communications collateral that amplify our students' voices and inspire engagement from our stakeholders.
- Our stores are inclusive, surprising, imaginative, and engaging spaces that feature students' writing. The stores provide a whimsical portal that encourages and empowers our students to be creative in our learning spaces.

COMMUNITY

826 Valencia is part of an ecosystem of support that helps students succeed. We deliver programs in partnership with other organizations, schools, and families. We engage the whole community in this work, leveraging resources through volunteerism, philanthropy, collaboration, and amplifying students' voices for all to hear.

LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS

826 Valencia provides several leadership pathways for middle school and high school students who wish to gain experience and skills so they are well-prepared for post-secondary success. These pathways, which are offered to students in different combinations, include:

- Opportunities to develop their writing across disciplines
- Funding in the form of stipends and scholarships
- Workshops and In-Schools programs that support students with Personal Statements for college applications
- Youth leader roles where they serve as trained tutors for program participants, public speakers, and stewards of the organization
- Paid internships for alumni



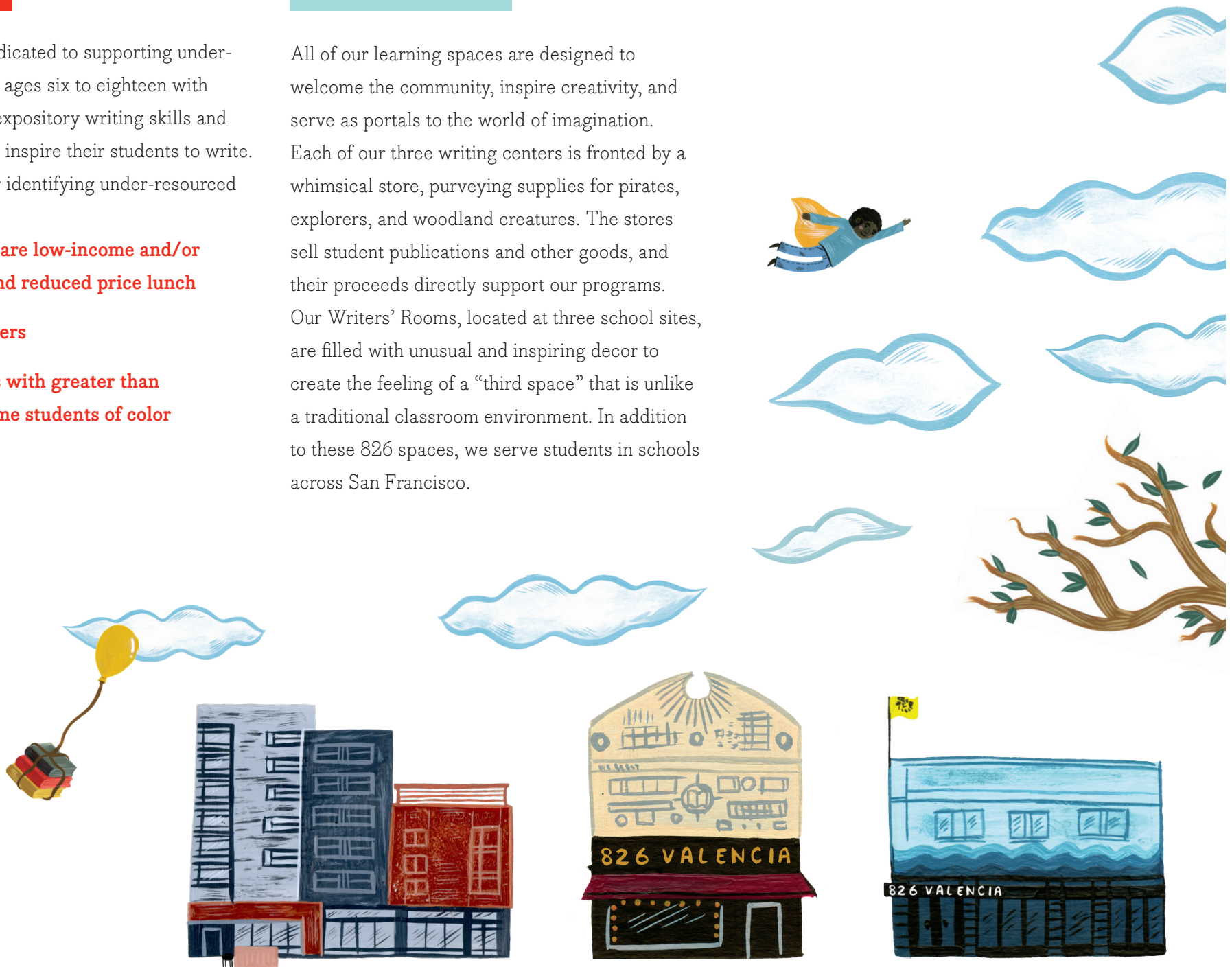
WE SUPPORT

826 Valencia is dedicated to supporting under-resourced students ages six to eighteen with their creative and expository writing skills and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Current metrics for identifying under-resourced students include:

- **Students who are low-income and/or receive free and reduced price lunch**
- **English Learners**
- **Public schools with greater than 65% low-income students of color**

IN UNIQUE SPACES

All of our learning spaces are designed to welcome the community, inspire creativity, and serve as portals to the world of imagination. Each of our three writing centers is fronted by a whimsical store, purveying supplies for pirates, explorers, and woodland creatures. The stores sell student publications and other goods, and their proceeds directly support our programs. Our Writers' Rooms, located at three school sites, are filled with unusual and inspiring decor to create the feeling of a "third space" that is unlike a traditional classroom environment. In addition to these 826 spaces, we serve students in schools across San Francisco.



WE STRENGTHEN

Creativity & Voice

- Student writing is purposeful, specific, original, and imaginative
- Student writing demonstrates critical thinking about complex issues
- Students write clearly and in their own voice across genres and platforms, for diverse audiences
- Student voices are amplified through writing, speaking, podcasting, and publishing for broad audiences

Literacy

- Students demonstrate increased reading fluency and comprehension
- Students demonstrate improved writing skills
- English Language Learners develop English language skills

Social & Emotional learning

- Students feel proud of their writing
- Students feel confident
- Students use writing as a tool independently and purposefully
- Students use writing to process their experiences, thoughts, and feelings
- Students feel connected to friends, adults, and community institutions



WE ENABLE

Success in school and life

Strong writing skills help students graduate high school and advance to college and/or career.

Powerful use of student voice

Students use writing skills to speak up about their experiences and views on the world around them.

A more just society

Students foster empathy through sharing stories, and create pathways to power by advocating for themselves and their communities.