

The mission of BLO's Community Engagement department is to provide equitable access to quality arts experiences in the field of opera to its community. BLO accomplishes this goal by offering programs, events, and initiatives designed to appeal to multiple levels of opera and arts knowledge, to stimulate a variety of learning and engagement styles, and to connect with a broad range of ages, cultural heritages and identities, and socio-economic statuses. Our core value is that opera is for everyone.

BRINGING OPERA TO SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS THROUGHOUT GREATER BOSTON: 2016/17

"I'M LEARNING THAT I CAN BE MUCH MORE THAN I THINK I CAN BE."

- BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 4TH GRADE STUDENT

YOUTH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Create Your Own Opera Partnership: Thirteen original classroom operas were created this year in nine schools across the greater Boston area. BLO's flagship school partnership program, centered in the national arts-integrated curriculum *Music! Words! Opera!*, guides teachers and students through the process of writing, composing, and performing original works.

Educator Professional Development: BLO provides professional development for teachers, providing lesson plans that teach the arts and core subjects including reading, writing, and math. This includes our annual summer week-long intensive, as well as three Saturday sessions throughout the Season.

Customized School Partnerships: BLO completed its second year partnering with Boston Arts Academy Vocal Music Department, with workshops taught by BLO Teaching Artists, as well as opportunities to observe BLO's professional rehearsal process. BLO also had the unique opportunity to introduce opera to Boston high school students by bringing the principal artists in BLO's production of *Carmen* to a Boston Public High School. For over 200 students in attendance, this was their first experience of opera.

Artist Classroom Visits: Students ages 2-18 were introduced to opera by BLO artists who presented an experiential, abridged version of *Hansel and Gretel*.

Boston Public Library: BLO partnered with the children's department to bring our abridged *Hansel and Gretel* to six library branch locations during the February school vacation week, providing free programming to diverse Boston neighborhoods.

VOICES Boston: BLO launched a partnership with the children's choir VOICES Boston, co-producing a sold-out weekend workshop focused on audition technique for middle school singers. **CONT'D PAGE 19**



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EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

- **43** hours of free Professional Development Instruction for Classroom Teachers was provided by BLO
- **16** professional artists were employed by BLO's Education Department over the course of the school year
- **386** students participated in creating and performing an original opera, ages 6-18
- **1,394** students, teachers, and parents in the greater Boston area attended a Classroom Opera in their community
- BLO served students in **9** different school districts across Greater Boston as well as **10** neighborhoods within the city of Boston

Above: BLO teaching artist Patricia Au (bottom left) works with students at Joseph Lee K-8 School in Dorchester on their classroom opera. | Right, from top: BLO Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artists Felicia Gavilanes & Vincent Turregano perform in the MFA European Galleries; A Brighter Boston student lighting intern speaks during the Q&A portion of BLO's *Carmen* School Performance; Students at Joseph Lee K-8 school perform their original classroom opera; Antonia Tamer performs at a BPL event; BLO Resident Teaching Artist Brendan Buckley leads an Artist Classroom Visit for young students.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION AT BLO: 2016/17 IMPACT

8,650



Community members, students and educators served through community engagement and education programs during the Season.



PAUL MAROTTA, PERFECT BOKEH PHOTOGRAPHY



School and community partner organizations

38

170



Hours of direct service to students by BLO Teaching Artists



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Programs and events that were offered free of charge to participants

90%

1,220



Students introduced to opera through an Artist Classroom Visit—ages 2-18!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS: 2016/17

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Somerville Theatre
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Boston Athenæum
Boston Public Library
Dudley Branch of the
Boston Public Library
Codman Square Branch of the
Boston Public Library
Egleston Square Branch of the
Boston Public Library
West End Branch of the
Boston Public Library
Faneuil Branch of the
Boston Public Library
Adams Street Branch of the
Boston Public Library
Boston Center for Adult Education
Beacon Hill Seminars
Boston By Foot
Boston Public Market
Boston Symphony Orchestra

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Boston Public Schools Visual &
Performing Arts Office
The English High School
Charlestown High School
Joseph Lee K-8 School
Jackson/Mann K-8 School
Winship Elementary School
Cambridge-Ellis School
Cambridgeport School
Saltonstall School
Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School
St Brendan School
Randolph High School
Match Community Day Charter
Public School
Miles River Middle School
Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
Boston Arts Academy
Brighter Boston
VOICES Boston

2017 VENUES

Boston Opera House
Emerson/Paramount Theatre
Emerson/Cutler Majestic Theatre
John Hancock Hall at the
Back Bay Events Center



BLO

COMMUNITY & ADULT PROGRAMS

Signature Series: BLO's popular and thought-provoking Signature Series explored the intersection of visual arts, film, drama, literature, and opera through partnership events with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Somerville Theatre, and the Boston Athenæum.

Boston Public Library: BLO held four "Opera Nights at the BPL," a cornerstone of its community programming that focuses on the operatic form and works in our Season. BLO also joined the BPL's popular Concerts in the Courtyard summer series, and created a concert of arias and songs which toured three branch locations, inspired by the BPL's exhibition "Shakespeare Unauthorized."

Adult & Community Programming: Education and events for lifelong learners included partnerships with the Boston Center for Adult Education (*Carmen*), Boston By Foot (Boston's opera history), and Beacon Hill Seminars (*The Marriage of Figaro*). BLO also worked with partner organizations to create unique and inviting programs to celebrate Boston ArtWeek in the fall and spring, including tours of the Boston Opera House and a children's performance at Boston Public Market.

Boston Opera Alliance: BLO was a lead partner in the formation of the Boston Opera Alliance, a community consortium of opera producers in the greater Boston area. Launched during "40 Days of Opera," the Boston Opera Alliance oversees the curation of a new website and resource for the Boston opera-going community, BostonOperaCalendar.org.

Coda Magazine and Dramaturgy: The Community Engagement department takes the lead in researching, developing, writing, and engaging freelance experts on a range of operatic topics for articles in print and online, including the BLO Blog, "In the Wings," Student Study Guides, and our twice-yearly magazine, *Coda*.

Pre-Performance Talks & Talkbacks: Pre-Performance Talks were held one hour before each performance for *Carmen*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*, while Talkbacks were offered immediately following Opera Annex: *Greek* performances.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- **838** attendees at Signature Series events at three partnering cultural institutions
- **42.5** hours of adult educational programming delivered
- **1,695** ticketholders engaged in Pre-Performance and Talkback discussions
- **18,200** words of engaging operatic content in the 2016/17 issues of *Coda* magazine



Students pose for selfies with cast members after the *Carmen* School Performance.

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Guest speakers Joseph Auner and Tod Machover discuss Stravinsky and *The Rake's Progress* at a BPL event.



BLO partnership educators and Resident Teaching Artist Heather Gallagher participate in a Professional Development Workshop at BLO on how to compose music with students.



Guest lecturer Laurence Senelick speaks at a Boston Athenæum Signature Series event.

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