



Equity in Action: **A YEAR OF ELEVATING JUSTICE IN EDUCATION**

**HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
2023–2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



EQUITY IN ACTION: A YEAR OF ELEVATING JUSTICE IN EDUCATION

My Dear Colleagues and Students,

As we reflect on our journey together, we are filled with pride in the strides we have made in fostering a community deeply rooted in justice, equity, and inclusion. We have remained committed to ensuring that every student receives the highest quality education grounded in the principles of equity that guide our work. The milestones we have achieved over the past year are a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated leaders, faculty, staff, and students.



Our FY 2023–2024 has been a period of remarkable growth and accomplishment, beginning with a significant increase in enrollment, which is a clear reflection of the trust our community places in Hostos and our mission to provide equitable access to higher education. This growth was no accident. It resulted from having an “all-hands-on-deck/manos a la obra” mindset that saw every division of our College working together to bring new young minds to their educational home.

Our commitment to equity extends far beyond enrollment. This year, we hosted a successful series of events for the Campus Climate Initiative, which includes community-building circles and events focused on diversity and inclusion. Our involvement with the CUNY Anti-Hate Initiative further exemplifies our dedication to confronting discrimination and promoting understanding. All of the events we held at our College celebrated the richness and diversity of experiences of the many communities that form our tenacious family. All events served as a poignant reminder of the importance of acceptance in the face of rising prejudice and anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination that we are witnessing in current times.

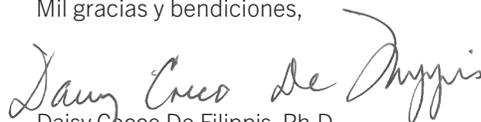
Just as we each play a vital role in fostering this supportive environment, Hostos continues to advance academically, with a balanced focus on intellectual growth and the practical skills necessary for today’s workforce. We have expanded our infrastructure for Liberal Arts degrees and online education offerings and have responded diligently to job market needs through Industry Summits.

MacKenzie Scott’s generous gift stands at the heart of our achievements and has empowered many initiatives, such as the Hostos Research Center (HRC), a vital hub for research training and development. The HRC has fostered a culture of research, mentorship, and professional growth, benefiting faculty, staff, and students.

At Hostos, we believe in opening doors and creating pathways for our students. Through initiatives like the “Building Transfer Pathways and Pipelines,” supported by a \$1 million grant from Congressman Ritchie Torres, we are ensuring that students from historically underserved backgrounds have the opportunity to transfer to prestigious institutions such as Columbia University, City College’s Grove School of Engineering, and Queens College. These initiatives are more than just educational programs — they are investments in our students’ futures and our communities.

As we reflect on our journey, championing social justice in the South Bronx shines through as a guiding light and an unyielding priority, and it is central to our mission at Hostos, as presented in “Hostos Elevating Justice: Our Strategic Plan 2023–2028.” I hope this Annual Report for FY 2023–24 reflects the story of our collective efforts a year into implementing various strategies to fulfill the goals set forth in our five-year plan.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,


Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President, Hostos Community College


José A. Sánchez-Kinghorn
Chair, Hostos Community College Foundation

Our Progress: ELEVATING JUSTICE IN ACTION

This report provides a dynamic account of how we are bringing “Hostos Elevating Justice: Our Strategic Plan 2023–2028” (SP) to life. Every achievement featured here responds to our dedication to progress and transformation. With each initiative, we’re aligning our actions to fulfill a vision rooted in equity, opportunity, and academic excellence.

From expanding online program offerings to developing innovative and sustainable student support systems, these accomplishments illustrate a cohesive and purposeful approach to reaching our set goals. This document is a roadmap to the present and future of Hostos, revealing the impact of a focused vision that drives every step we take. As you continue reading, we hope you feel inspired by our progress and join us in advancing this journey toward a more just and inclusive tomorrow.

To set the stage, we’ve included the executive summary of our SP. This summary captures the essence of our priorities and vision, providing a meaningful context as you navigate the details within.

HOSTOS PLAN FRAMEWORK 2023–2028: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategic plan was developed via a yearlong participatory process through which hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders participated.

SIX GOALS AND 21 STRATEGIES

The following are our defined areas of focus for the next five years.

GOAL 1: Equitable access to higher education at Hostos for our diverse student population

1. Implement a comprehensive and integrated First Year Experience (FYE) program for all Hostos students.
2. Offer an integrated and multi-phased student advisement model.
3. Effectively communicate student support resources to all students.
4. Strengthen students' ability to finance their higher education.

GOAL 2: Build a culture of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion at Hostos

1. Increase JDEI-related education opportunities for faculty and staff.
2. Institutionalize JDEI-related policies, processes, and structures.
3. Encourage faculty to establish a more culturally diverse, inclusive pedagogy and curriculum as a requirement for all programs while respecting academic freedom.
4. Institute JDEI-related climate assessment practices.
5. Strengthen inclusion, belonging, and equity of experiences for student constituencies experiencing inequitable outcomes.

GOAL 3: Promote English and Math learning

1. Facilitate successful student navigation through Gateway courses.
2. Build student desire to pursue further learning in English and Math.

GOAL 4: Academic programs that balance intellectual growth and workforce preparedness

1. Ensuring progression of intellectual growth in Gen. Ed. coursework.
2. Strengthen infrastructure of Liberal Arts degrees and options to make Liberal Arts a degree of choice.
3. Strengthen experiential learning and career preparation across majors.
4. Measure and develop foreign language and technological competencies across majors.
5. Develop the institutional infrastructure to deliver quality online academic programs.

GOAL 5: Increase student socioeconomic mobility

1. Increase career exploration and placement support for Hostos students.
2. Strengthen transfer to BAs and beyond.

GOAL 6: Champion social justice for the South Bronx

1. Strengthen systems for mission-based strategic collaboration across sectors.
2. Expand Hostos' arts and culture offerings for students and the broader community.
3. Strengthen K-12 partnerships to support career and admission pathways into Hostos.

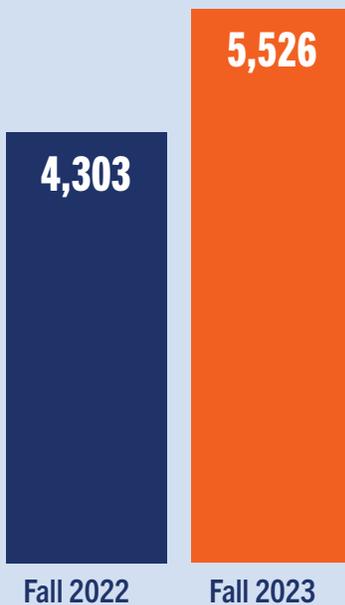
We Continue CHAMPIONING EQUITY



Mission-Driven Growth

During her tenure as Hostos President, Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis has focused on building a community centered on justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion to create positive change and ensure students receive an excellent education. This year's milestones show the dedication of the College's leaders, faculty, staff, and students, starting with notable enrollment growth — 5,526 students enrolled for Fall 2023, up from 4,303 in Fall 2022. This growth reflects the community's trust in Hostos and highlights our mission to provide fair access to higher education. By bringing more students into our programs and strengthening student services, we make a more significant impact, helping students stay on track, complete their studies, and advance in their careers and education. These efforts give each student a brighter future and contribute to a stronger, more resilient community.

Enrollment growth reflects community trust and commitment to equity



To achieve this growth, every department has united to drive enrollment and fulfill Goal 1 of our SP: **Equitable access to higher education for our diverse student population.** The opening of the Academic Advisement Center at 429 Grand Concourse is a key milestone. Bringing together the Student Success Coaching Unit (SSCU), ASAP, and the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC), the Center is instrumental in rolling out a comprehensive First-Year Experience (FYE) program, possible thanks to a Title V grant for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and a multi-phased advisement model. These initiatives ensure that all students are connected to the support, resources, and financial guidance they need to thrive at Hostos, delivering on our commitment to making education accessible and inclusive for all.

In Fall 2023, First-Year Experience events served 497 unique incoming and transfer students by hosting a series of activities and events to welcome, advise, and support new and transfer students as they begin their first semester at Hostos. Preliminary



data indicates that the FYE program has significantly enriched students' experiences, from orientation through the end of their first year, underscoring the impact of coordinated, integrated efforts and a strong sense of community.

100%
of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen
Participating in FYE
Retained in Fall 2023

Of the 291 students who attended at least one FYE event in Summer 2023, 291 enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester.

86%
of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen
Participating in FYE
Retained in Spring 2024

Of the 291 students who attended at least one FYE event, 249 enrolled in the Spring 2024 semester. Of First-time Full-time Freshmen who did not attend any FYE event, 66% registered in Spring 2024.

We Continue Opening Our Doors for Everyone

Such inclusivity, a cornerstone of Goal 2 — **Build a culture of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion at Hostos (JDEI)** — has been strengthened by efforts such as the Campus Climate Initiative, which features community-building circles and events focused on JDEI. Moreover, Hostos' involvement with the CUNY Anti-Hate Initiative further exemplifies its dedication to confronting discrimination and promoting understanding, as seen in initiatives like the "Jewish Identity/ Jewish Diversity" photo exhibit, which had an opening reception in March 2024. This exhibition featured the powerful work of international photographer Zion Ozeri, underscoring the importance of acceptance in the face of rising prejudice and antisemitism. The photo exhibit showcased the multifaceted Jewish experience across the globe, highlighting the richness and diversity of its people.



Hostos Community College kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a discussion about the rich heritage and contributions of Jewish people in the Dominican Republic led by Herbert Stern Díaz, a renowned Dominican ophthalmologist and historian.

We Continue CHAMPIONING EQUITY



As part of the multi-year CUNY Anti-Hate Initiative, the exhibition aimed to educate and engage the community, promoting the values of love and unity we proudly uphold.

After that impactful exhibition, Hostos continued promoting understanding and fighting prejudice by hosting a panel in early May on the troubling increase in anti-Asian hate. Led by the Asian American Federation, the panel discussed the effects of anti-Asian hostility and the need to break down harmful stereotypes like the model minority myth. This conversation helped shed light on the unique struggles faced by Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S. It encouraged everyone to work together in building connections and understanding across different marginalized communities.

These events, along with programming for Black Studies and Women's History Month, are vital to promoting equity and inclusion both on and off campus. Our 2024 Black History and Black Futures Month celebration elevated our commitment to justice and equity through a series of interactive and educational events inspired by the theme "African Americans and the Arts," set by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAALH). The month kicked off on February 6 with a presentation on hip-hop feminism by Dr. Anamaría Flores, exploring its cultural and academic significance. The celebration continued with Afro-Brazilian dance and capoeira workshops led by renowned instructors Janete Da Silva and Mestre Alegria Leandro Silva, fostering a communal and immersive experience for participants. The program concluded on February 26 with an African American Read-In featuring Bronx Poet Laureate and alumna Kay Bell '13 as the keynote speaker and showcasing the rich tradition of African American literature. Organized by faculty from the Black Studies Unit and the English Department, in collaboration with the Black Student Union and Student Government Association, the events empowered students with emancipatory knowledge. They celebrated the power of Black artistic expression to challenge systems of injustice.

We Learn Together

Inspired by Goal 4 — **Academic programs that balance intellectual growth and workforce preparedness** — Hostos is advancing its offerings to support educational and career success. The College has strengthened its Liberal Arts infrastructure and expanded online education options. Responding to job market demands, Hostos has introduced Industry Summits, giving students essential insights and connections for their careers. In November, Hostos held its third Industry Summit, centered on careers and curriculum in Business Management. The event brought together business faculty, industry leaders, and deans from Lehman and Baruch Colleges, offering Hostos students valuable guidance for navigating successful careers in business. Key discussions highlighted the importance of soft skills, continuous learning, and aligning education with industry needs, all to better equip students for the competitive job market. The summit also offered students direct networking opportunities with experts, further enriching their professional development.

Continuing the commitment to professional advancement, we recently hosted in May 2024 an industry summit focused on Radiologic Technology. This event brought together leaders from the field, faculty, and students to discuss careers, curriculum innovations, and opportunities in medical imaging. With over 1,500 program graduates — including 500 currently serving across New York City — Hostos remains integral to the city's healthcare workforce, achieving a 100% first-attempt pass rate on the licensure exam. Graduates also enter the field with solid credentials and an impressive starting salary of \$90,000. The summit highlighted the critical importance of aligning education with industry standards, ensuring Hostos graduates are ready to meet the evolving needs of healthcare.





Alongside our commitment to hands-on experience and career-ready education, we are equally dedicated to conducting impactful research that addresses real-world challenges — an effort in which our Hostos Research Center (HRC) plays a vital role. The HRC fosters research with direct applications, empowering faculty and students to contribute innovative solutions across disciplines, from STEM to Humanities, and support our community’s evolving needs. This center is crucial in advancing academic scholarship and enhancing the educational experience at Hostos. With a focus on advancing new faculty and staff-led research projects and creating meaningful student research internships, the HRC has already supported 38 faculty and staff members and over 30 students, demonstrating its crucial role in enhancing academic scholarship and providing hands-on career-building experiences. The HRC has emerged as a beacon of innovation and mentorship, supporting the community in their scholarly pursuits. The success of the HRC’s first Mini-Conference clearly indicates that the College is on the right path, with a bright future ahead for its academic community. The Mini-Conference was a milestone event that highlighted the transformative impact of the HRC since its establishment in 2022 as part of Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s Gift: President’s Initiatives. Hosted by Director of Research Programs Sofia Oviedo, the half-day conference showcased the work of **AD**vancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, scieNces, Technology and Engineering (ADELANTE) and Innovating, Developing and Executing Actions with Success (IDEAS) grantees through panel discussions and a keynote address by Dr. Anthony DePass, underscoring the HRC’s mission to foster a culture of research, mentorship, and professional development.

We Show the Value of Taking Care of Our Community

Championing social justice for the South Bronx has always been one of our top priorities. Initiatives such as the “Nourishing Conversations” series, which addresses issues like food insecurity in the Bronx while celebrating cultural foods, are central to engaging the community on critical social issues. We welcomed two remarkable chefs who shared their journeys and insights on combating food insecurity. In November 2023, Latina Chef Grace Ramírez started the series by engaging in a dialogue with Fabián Wander, Director of the Health and Wellness Center, about her activism and efforts to fight food insecurity in underserved NYC neighborhoods. Known for her work with World Central Kitchen and appearances on the Food Network, Chef Ramírez emphasized the importance of seeking help and offered career advice centered on networking and mentorship. She also treated attendees to a culinary ceviche demonstration, sharing tips to enhance flavor.



Following this, in April 2024, Carmen Báez, widely known in our borough as Chef Yala, captivated the Hostos community with her story of rising from humble beginnings in the Dominican Republic, to becoming an author, mentor, and the successful business owner of a hair salon before devoting herself to her restaurant, La Cocina de Yala.



We Continue CHAMPIONING EQUITY



Aligned with Goal 5 — Increasing student socioeconomic mobility

— Hostos has introduced initiatives aimed at easing financial burdens for students as they pursue higher education. Through initiatives like the “Building Transfer Pathways and Pipeline Initiative,” supported by \$1 million in Community Project Funding from Congressman Ritchie Torres, the College is creating opportunities for students to transfer to prestigious institutions. Congressman Torres’ funding will enable 16 exceptional students to transfer to prestigious baccalaureate and postgraduate programs at institutions such as Columbia University, City College’s Grove School of Engineering, and Queens College. During a ceremony in November 2023, Congressman Torres highlighted Hostos’ role as an epicenter of opportunity in the Bronx, emphasizing the importance of training public health scholars and expanding access to higher education to students who have worked hard for it.

The impact of this initiative was embodied by Hawa Antonet Abraham '23, a former Hostos student now enrolled at Columbia University, who shared her story of transformation from a refugee from Sierra Leone to an Ivy League scholar.

“Thanks to an opportunity like this, I was privileged enough not to have to decide between continuing my studies or halting my progress due to financial constraints. I am very honored to be a part of this wonderful cohort and cannot thank Congressman Torres nor President Cocco De Filippis enough for the opportunity they are giving me.”

—Hawa Antonet Abraham '23
Community Health

The event also featured remarks from leaders at Queens College and the City College Grove School of Engineering, who praised Hostos for its commitment to pioneering innovative transfer pathways and for being a breeding ground for the finest transfer students in New York.

Also in tune with ensuring socioeconomic mobility, programs like the Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus offer students valuable work experience, personalized mentoring, and professional development to enhance career readiness and future job retention. Through this program, students are paired with a faculty or staff mentor who helps them cultivate a professional mindset and habits suitable for an office environment, significantly improving their workforce preparation and job readiness. In addition to complementing existing work-study opportunities, 35 participants earn a competitive hourly wage of \$20/hour and work up to 10 hours per week under the guidance of a mentor who ensures they meet their academic goals.

We Help Our Own Remain Steadfast

In President Daisy Cocco De Filippis’ relentless pursuit to support student persistence, she recognizes students who are resilient and continue to excel despite any challenges. In March 2024, we hosted the President’s Recognition Tea in honor of Women’s History Month, celebrating 14 students’ resilience and academic achievements. At the event President Cocco De Filippis encouraged students to persist through adversity and self-doubt. The honored students were praised by faculty and staff for their tenacity and were each awarded a certificate, a \$500 stipend, and a book. Sponsored by Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s Gift: President’s Initiatives, this was the first of two events recognizing student perseverance this spring. The second event, the President’s Recognition Barbeque, took place in April, honoring seventeen students for their exceptional achievements. At this event, honorees received a certificate, a stipend, and a book as well. During the occasion, they all shared personal stories of triumph and gratitude for the support they received from the Hostos community.





PROUD OF THOSE WE HAVE SENT OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

We are as excited about the students we welcome as we are about the graduates we send out into the world. In May, we celebrated our 54th Commencement Ceremonies, recognizing our graduates' resilience, diversity, and excellence. The Class of 2024, around 800, hailing from 8 U.S. states and 28 countries, showcased the rich cultural mosaic that defines Hostos, with graduates ranging from 18 to 65 years old. The ceremonies featured inspiring speeches from Valedictorian Tiffany Wilson, NYC Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives and alumna Ana J. Almánzar '07, and other distinguished leaders who praised the graduates' determination and readiness to take on the world.

During the first ceremony, Ms. Carolyn McLaughlin — author, leader, and activist — received an Honorary Associate of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her advocacy and trailblazing social justice work in the South Bronx. McLaughlin has been a fierce advocate of our institution and serves on the Hostos Community College Foundation board. Nine exceptional individuals received Presidential Medals of Honor for their work on behalf of and at Hostos: Tiffany Wilson '24, Valedictorian; Ana J. Almanzar '07, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives; John Mogulescu, Founding Dean Emeritus of the CUNY School of Professional Studies; Nieves Angulo, Mathematics Professor; Charles Drago, Allied

Health Professor; Ángel Morales, Performing Arts Professor; Andrea Fabrizio, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Kenneth Acquah, Executive Director of Business & Finance Kenneth; and Sofia Oviedo, Research Programs Director. The celebration of nearly 800 graduates across a wide array of disciplines, from Liberal Arts to STEM and Allied Health, highlighted our commitment to empowering students to achieve their dreams, making the future not just possible but bright.

“As we venture into the world beyond these familiar walls, let us not forget the lessons learned and the values we hold dear. Let us take with us the spirit of inquiry, the thirst for knowledge, and the passion for excellence that have been the hallmarks here at Hostos. You got this. We did this.”

— Tiffany Wilson '24
Valedictorian

A Year of INTELLECTUAL GROWTH



“I encourage all students to share their unique challenges with us. There are so many resources available to our students that we just need all of them to know that we are here to help them with whatever is challenging at the moment. We want what’s best for our students and want to see them thrive.”

—Shiang-Kwei Wang, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President of
Academic Affairs

Hostos is on a trajectory of remarkable growth in physical space and student enrollment. For the third consecutive semester, Hostos has not only surpassed its enrollment targets but has also boasted one of the highest enrollment percentage increases across the CUNY system. With a 13% overall increase in enrollment compared to Spring 2023 and a 10% rise in Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs), Hostos is not just growing in numbers; it is flourishing.

This growth is further underscored by an 8% increase in degree-seeking students and continuing student enrollment over the previous Spring 2023, and an astounding 25% rise in new first-time, first-year students. These numbers, reported in February 2024, reflect our growing appeal and the unwavering trust that the community places in Hostos as a stepping stone to success.

Hostos surpasses enrollment goals for a third straight semester

Spring 2023 vs Spring 2024

13% Overall Enrollment Increase

10% FTEs Increase

8% Increase in Degree-Seeking & Continuing Students

25% Increase in New First-Year Students



Driving Hostos' Office of Academic Affairs' continued success is the ethos of innovation and evolution. First, creating an AI syllabus template, led by a dedicated Task Force and spearheaded by Academic Integrity Officer Professor Jacqueline DiSanto, marks a pivotal step in aligning educational practices with the evolving landscape of academic integrity. This initiative allows faculty to tailor AI usage in their classrooms, ensuring that teaching methodologies remain transparent and adaptable to diverse disciplines. This thoughtful approach is an example of acknowledging the value of innovation in the realm of AI in higher ed and preserving and respecting the rich traditions of educational methodologies and ethics already in place at Hostos.

Additionally, Hostos has launched a comprehensive five-year Academic Implementation Plan to support the strategic goals of both the College and the broader CUNY "Lifting New York" plan. Dr. Wang, in collaboration with her team, completed a detailed five-year implementation plan in alignment with our SP. It focuses on three main areas: developing the curriculum, encouraging innovation, and enhancing teaching quality. The plan includes vari-

ous specific activities and strategies to achieve these goals, for which the community will receive periodic updates upon completion of meticulous assessments to evaluate the impact of each strategy.

Hostos 5-Year Academic Implementation Plan

In alignment with Hostos & CUNY's Strategy Plans

Three Focus Areas

Developing the Curriculum

Program review

New course development

Encourage Innovation

Pedagogical innovation

Pilot initiatives

Enhance Teaching Quality

Professional development

Teaching evaluations

Assessment

Each strategy is assessed rigorously for impact and progress

Outcome

Provides a clear path for faculty and staff to drive long-term academic and community impact

The plan provides a clear roadmap for faculty and staff, guiding the institution toward sustained academic and community impact.

Beyond these initiatives, Hostos has continued to foster professional development for its faculty through its partnership with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). In 2023, we celebrated a significant milestone at our pinning ceremony for the inaugural cohort of faculty who completed the "Effective Online Teaching Practices" certification through the ACUE. This year-long program, expertly facilitated by English Professor Lou Bury, was made possible by the generous support of our Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institution grant from the U.S. Department of Education. President Cocco De Filippis, Provost Wang, Dean Andrea Fabrizio, and ACUE's Head of Sales, Chris Shenk, joined the faculty cohort to commemorate this achievement. With another cohort currently engaged in this professional development opportunity and an upcoming teacher education summit, Hostos remains committed to enhancing the instructional capabilities of its educators.

A Year of INTELLECTUAL GROWTH



Furthermore, the College has recognized the exceptional contributions of its faculty through newly instituted teaching awards. We are proud to have nearly three dozen active faculty members and more than a dozen retired professors who have devoted over 25 years of their careers to the College. In late May, we had the privilege of honoring some of these dedicated individuals at a special faculty recognition event.

The event also celebrated the first recipients of the Excellence in Teaching Award: Professor Clarence H. Robertson, Lecturer in the English Department, and Professor Srecko Mavrek, Adjunct Lecturer in the Education Department. This award honors exceptional faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding teaching, significantly impacting their students' learning and success.

As Provost Wang highlighted at the ceremony, our faculty members truly represent “the heart and soul of Hostos.” The event was a heartfelt celebration of the remarkable legacy they have built at the College.

The College has broadened its reach by creating fully online programs in Computer Science, Criminal Justice, and Public Administration, thanks to support from CUNY grants. This effort is part of our goal to offer academic programs that help students grow intellectually and prepare for their careers. Hostos is becoming a leader in accessible education, giving students from all backgrounds

the tools they need to succeed in a digital world.

To make these programs available to as many students as possible, we've worked to increase the visibility of our online offerings so that students can access higher education no matter their circumstances. With our new learning platform, Brightspace, course materials are available around the clock. Plus, every course in Hostos Online transfers seamlessly to all four-year CUNY colleges, and online students have full access to the same support services as those attending in person. Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Andrea Fabrizio, leads this initiative, working closely with departments like English, Education, and Health Education to build robust online degree options for our students.

In line with our strategy to achieve Goal 6 — **Strengthening K-12 partnerships to support career and college pathways** — the Office of School College Partnerships has secured a five-year, \$825,000 grant from the New York State Education Department to establish an Early College cohort. This initiative gives high school students a head start on college, helping them develop essential skills and a more straightforward path to future opportunities at Hostos and beyond.

In every endeavor, the faculty at Hostos continues to drive the institution forward with their commitment to innovation, teaching excellence, and community engagement.



FACULTY GRANTS

We are proud to report that our faculty continues to excel in securing grant funding, with seven active National Science Foundation (NSF) grants currently running. Additionally, our faculty has received further support from the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) of CUNY, reflecting our ongoing commitment to research and academic excellence. We look forward to the innovative research and scholarly achievements these grants will foster and continue to celebrate the dedication and talent of our faculty. Congratulations to all the awardees!



Sean Gerrity

“A Canada in the South: Maroons in American Literature (Index Creation)”



Christine Choi

“The Myth of the ‘Good Woman’: Forced Motherhood in Victorian Sensation Fiction”



Alison Lowenstein

“Scratch”



Emmanuel Velayos-Larrabure

“‘The Skin of a White Man for Parchment:’ Anti-Slavery, Violence, and the (Re)Writing of Rights in Post-Revolutionary Haiti”



Ann Genzale

“Re-Writing The Book of Myths: Embodied Narrative in Cheryl Strayed’s Wild”



Anna Manukyan

“Exploring Enhanced Gene Modulation: Computational Insights into Chirality-Enhanced PNA Analogs with Improved Cell Uptake”



Andy Connolly

“Realism, Postmodernism, and Trump Era Politics in Philip Roth’s ‘American Pastoral’”



Alexandra Milsom

“Colonial Myths and Romantic Poets in the Caribbean”



Tram Nguyen

“Metamodernist Women Writers: Ecological Mourning”



Simona Prives

“Solar Printing in the Digital Age”



Krystyna Michael

“The Urban Domestic: Homosocial Domesticity in the Literature and Culture of 19th and 20th Century New York City”

We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT



“The goal of this program is to strengthen the bridge between our Continuing Education arm and the degree program, and encourage and motivate students who perhaps might not consider enrolling in a degree program at Hostos. They can use this additional financial support towards tuition, books, childcare, or other needs to enable them to pursue a degree program.”

—Sofia Oviedo, Ph.D.
Research Programs Director

From Hostos to Everywhere

The paths to and from Hostos Community College are as varied as the students who find their way to this vibrant campus in the heart of the South Bronx. The College is a bridge to opportunity for our students, most of whom come from low-income and marginalized communities. Through support from numerous initiatives developed under President Cocco De Filippis’ leadership and guided by our SP, Hostos continues its legacy as a catalyst for success and vehicle for socioeconomic mobility.

As mentioned previously, since its inception, the Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s Gift: President’s Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth, and Stakeholders’ Engagement has been pivotal in shoring up old and paving new pathways into and out of the College, bridging the gap for those who have been historically underserved. One such program is Hostos’ Continuing Education and Workforce Development’s (CEWD) Ms. MacKenzie Scott Adult and Continuing Education (ACE)

Hostos as a Bridge to Opportunity

Marginalized Communities ➔ Degree Pathways & Career Mobility

ACE Scholarship Impact (Fall 2023–Spring 2024)

25 total ACE scholars

13 new cohort members

\$1,000 award each

12 renewal scholars

\$500 renewal each semester
(w/ GPA ≥ 3.0)

+ Tuition | Books | Childcare
Transportation | Application fees



Scholarship, which aids individuals who have completed a continuing education program and seek to enroll in a degree program. The scholarship awards recipients \$1,000, which can be used towards college application fees, books, tuition, transportation, childcare, and more, with an additional \$500 to ACE scholars for every semester in which they maintain enrollment and earn a 3.0 GPA or higher. A total of 25 students have been awarded ACE scholarships since its inception, with 13 new cohort members receiving \$1,000 scholarships and 12 students from previous cohorts receiving renewal scholarships in the Fall 2023–Spring 2024 semesters.

To further ease the financial burdens faced by many of our students on their road to graduation, the College also offers a Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus Program. This unique initiative, open to students regardless of immigration and financial aid status, implements a strategy outlined in SP Goal 5: Increase career exploration and placement support for Hostos students in an effort to increase their socioeconomic

mobility. This strategy builds upon Goal 4, Strategy 3, which focuses on integrating experiential learning and career development into the curriculum. The program provides valuable work experience, on-the-job mentoring, and professional development to promote career readiness and future job retention. Mentees are paid a competitive hourly rate of \$20 an hour and work a maximum of 10 hours a week with a supervisor/mentor, enabling them to balance their academic pursuits and part-time work while gaining real-world experience in academic and administrative departments as well as student support service offices.

The initiative, much like the others, is not just an investment in our students' futures, but also an investment in our communities' futures. "We want to see students of underrepresented communities in the South Bronx — who very often are immigrant students, are the first ones in their families to attend college, are low-income, have other financial needs and struggles that they are facing but want to better

themselves, want to access education, which is the mission of the College — really contribute to their communities," explained Oviedo. "We are building leaders throughout these various career tracks — leaders in public health, leaders in engineering, leaders in arts administration. This will help to improve our communities and inspire other students to pursue their education with this support."

Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus Program

Ease financial burdens
+ promote career development

What Students Gain
On-the-job experience
Mentorship from supervisors
Professional development workshops
Career readiness & job retention

CASE STUDIES

Marie Inamori '24

In the fall of 2023, international student Marie Inamori applied for a job as a graphic design assistant for the Hostos Research Center (HRC), but what she got was so much more. Marie was hired to work with Sofia Oviedo, Research Programs Director, as part of the College's Mentor-Mentee initiative, through which she received hands-on work experience, mentorship, and professional development skills.



From October 2023 to May 2024, Inamori designed communications materials for the HRC, such as flyers, booklets, and signage, collaborating at times with Brand, Creative Services and Communications Associate, José R. García, to learn and implement the College's branding and marketing guidelines. She also strengthened her professional communications and networking skills while preparing for and attending events held at the HRC, during which she would observe Oviedo welcoming guests and making connections. "Sofia is fantastic!" she said. "She always made sure everybody was okay. If somebody is alone, she'll make sure the person is okay and she always introduces people to each other, so I learned. She is very professional."

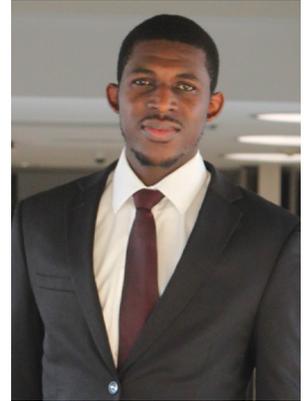
Oviedo enjoyed watching Inamori grow in her role. "While I mentored her here at the Hostos Research Center, I saw her blossom and be able to create so many wonderful communications materials for the [HRC]," shared Oviedo. "She's very creative and would bring and share her ideas for the different materials that we needed to create. It was very rewarding to be able to impart my guidance, my leadership, and my support."

As a mentor, Oviedo also advised Inamori on her career and post-graduate plans and nominated the talented designer and musician to be recognized during the President's Recognition Tea in honor of Women's History Month. "I was so honored, and I appreciate her," shared Inamori.

Inamori graduated from Hostos in May and works part-time at the Hostos Academic Learning Center.

Ansumana Jammeh '24

Born and raised in Gambia, Ansumana Jammeh moved to the U.S. in 2019 and spent the early days of the pandemic as an essential worker, caring for clients as a home care attendant. The experience opened his eyes to the stark inequalities in the United States healthcare system and cemented in him the desire to pursue an education and career in public health.



He applied for and was one of two students selected to round out the Building Transfer Pathways and Pipelines' 2023 Public Health cohort. The opportunity was a dream come true for Jammeh, who has his sights set on becoming a physician-scientist or an epidemiologist. "Since COVID, the field has become more important," he explained.

As Jammeh prepares for his next chapter, he is immensely grateful for the support that the program has afforded him, including the stipend. "I would have to otherwise work a full-time job to compensate for that...and it would take away from my academics," he shared.

The Hostos alumnus shared he is "honored" to have been selected for the program, and does not take the opportunity lightly. "As they say, to whom much is given, much is expected. The community has entrusted me to continue on my academic journey at Columbia and I'm committed to making the school proud and living up to the expectations of the program. We need to give back to the community and give back as epidemiologists, as scientists, as physicians."



CAIMANS PLAY TO WIN!

Hostos' 2023–2024 basketball season ended in historic fashion! Both our Caimans women's and men's basketball teams clinched the 2024 CUNY Athletic Conference Championships (CUNYAC), with the women's team snagging their 7th consecutive championship, and the men's team emerging victorious in double overtime, a first in CUNYAC history. The winning streak continued a month later when the men's team captured their first Region XV Championship since 2020.

The achievements of Hostos' basketball teams not only bring recognition and pride but also create opportunities to connect students with career resources, open the door to scholarship opportunities, and inspire new Caimans to join us by boosting enrollment and inspire all to further advance academically and professionally.



Then there was Jae'oni Davis '24 — a star on and off of the court. The talented guard was named 2024 CUNYAC Community College Student-Athlete of the Year and 2024 CUNYAC Tournament Most Outstanding Player, and the recognitions were well-deserved. During the 2023–24 season, Davis started 14 out of 25 basketball games, with an average of 9.7 points and 3.2 assists per game, totaling 243 points. A natural athlete, Davis played soccer and danced in her youth, but she credits basketball with bringing her many opportunities. “It changed my life,” she shared.

During her time at Hostos, Davis also excelled in the classroom. A Physical Education Science major, she boasted an impressive GPA of 3.55 and earned numerous accolades and awards, including a special recognition from Hostos President Daisy Cocco De Filippis at her 2024 Recognition Tea for Students' Resilience and the 2024 Fashion Scholarship Fund award.



We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Thinking Outside of the Classroom

Throughout the past year, students have seized several experiential learning opportunities (ELOs) to extend their learning beyond the classroom by using their knowledge to tackle real-world challenges, experiences, and projects. The actualization and application of one of the strategies outlined in Goal 4 of our SP, this hands-on approach not only reinforces their understanding of the material they are learning at Hostos but also prepares them for future pursuits in their field of study and careers.



In April, the Office of Academic Affairs, in collaboration with Ms. Mackenzie Scott's Gift: President's Initiatives and ASAP organized the second Hostos Student Symposium to showcase and celebrate student research and academic achievements across various disciplines. A total of 120 students, with the guidance of 50 faculty mentors, participated in the symposium. The event included a distinguished keynote address by children's book author NoNieqa Ramos and attracted over 300 students, faculty, and staff, who engaged in breakout sessions featuring creative work and research, as well as a STEM poster session. Notable presentations included "Pyrimethamine Shows Efficacy with Venetoclax in Hypomethylating Agent Resistant MDS and AML" by Christlynn Rodríguez, mentored by Professor Bianca Rivera-Peña, and "Identification of Herbaceous Aromatic Plants as Phytotherapy for ADHD" by Marilin Rodríguez and Jasmine Sánchez, under the mentorship of Professor Anna Ivanova; both won awards for Best Poster. Additionally, Sor Bello Meléndez, under the guidance of Professor Ana Ivanova and Professor Emilio Peña, delivered an outstanding winning oral presentation on "Phytoremediation of Water Pollution by Heavy Metals: The Effect of Herbaceous Aromatic Plants on the Concentration of Copper and Zinc in Water."





Hostos Community College is one of a few institutions that offer an associate degree program in game design. Recognizing the competitiveness of the field and the demand for professional experience, the program established Other Possible Games, a full-service game design studio. This studio class not only provides valuable hands-on experience for students but also allows them to be paid as interns for their work on projects. The program has received generous support from Microsoft and Take-Two Games. Moreover, through an innovative partnership, Ideas42 — a non-profit that uses insights from the behavioral sciences to address social problems — became the first external client for Other Possible Games, paving the way for the development of a game to challenge cultural perceptions of poverty.



¡Olé! In June, students Susan Hu, Altagracia De La Rosa, Neo Randall, and Manny Rivas attended a three-day conference in Salamanca, Spain, titled “Innovation and Technology for an Inclusive and Diverse Workforce.” Accompanied by Hostos Research Center (HRC) Co-Directors Dr. Yoel Rodríguez, Natural Sciences Professor, and Sofía Oviedo, Research Programs Director, they participated in the student track of the conference, which included tours and visits to Pontifical University and the University of Salamanca, and attended workshops focused on academic and professional development in an international context. They also toured cultural sites, including Scala Coeli (the Towers of Clerecía) and the Art Nouveau and Art Deco (Casa Lis) Museum of Salamanca. After the conference, the group’s adventure continued

in Madrid and Toledo. The experience was extended to students who served as research assistants on projects funded through the HRC’s ADELANTE grant, and who were nominated by their faculty mentors. During the HRC’s mini-conference in May, De La Rosa, Hu, and Rivas, reflected on how their ADELANTE research experiences helped broaden their horizons and open their eyes to new possibilities and skills, with Hu sharing that her research on Professor Vladimir Ovtcharenko’s taxonomical project with the American Museum of Natural History helped her uncover her interest in working with insects.

The Spanish word “Adelante” has several meanings including forward or ahead. At Hostos, it means **ADvancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, scieNces, Technology and Engineering (ADELANTE)**. This program grants research support and transformative interventions in all disciplines including the Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The initiative also employs students as research assistants to foster mentorship relationships and hand-on experiences.

We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Lasting Legacy of Giving

As our community continues to flourish, more individuals are making significant contributions to education by including generous bequests to Hostos Community College in their estate plans.

With a pledge from former Hostos professor Sue Dicker, the Hostos Community College Foundation officially launched the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Planned Giving Society in August 2023. While others have certainly included Hostos in their end-of-life planning, by informing the Foundation of her intentions, Dr. Dicker has the distinction of being a founding member of our honorary society. Her planned gift will support hardworking Hostos students balancing their education with other life responsibilities and helping them propel their academic careers.



“I’ve seen students who are struggling with balancing school, balancing their other responsibilities to their older relatives, to their children, and to work, as well,” she shared. “I’d like to help them with that.”

Professor Dicker went on to share that it is her intention for her planned gift to help students go onto four-year institutions to continue their studies in Liberal Arts. “Liberal Arts, particularly, make students better global citizens when they finish,” she explained.

At least **33%** of Hostos students are caretakers for children or older relatives.

&

At least **75%** of Hostos students work while enrolled in classes.

Similarly, late Professor Emeritus Gerald Meyer generously bequeathed a gift to Hostos. Professor Meyer served as a faculty member at Hostos from 1973 until 2002, and after a short break, he returned to teach part-time in his retirement. He created the Gerald Meyer Transfer Scholarship in 2016 to help graduating students afford everything from tuition at a four-year college to travel. After his passing in 2021, the Foundation learned that Hostos had been named in Professor Meyer’s will, and in June 2024, the College received \$50,000 to endow his original scholarship, and more funds are expected as the estate is resolved.



This gift enshrines the legacy of a stalwart champion of the College. As the Chair of the Save Hostos Committee, Professor Meyer was a leading organizer during the Save Hostos movement of the 1970s, and his passion for social justice and educational equity was only matched by his love of teaching.

In addition to his financial contributions, he helped establish the Gay and Lesbian Club and the Hostos Solidarity Coalition and, after retiring, he co-founded The Circle of 100 Scholarship and Emergency Fund. With this gift, he has ensured that his generosity toward Hostos students is truly endless. The Foundation is grateful to the late Professor Meyer and extends its gratitude to his partner, Luis Romero, and his children, Anna and Adam.

There are many ways to make a planned gift, and including charitable gifts in your estate or annuities can offer tax benefits to you or your loved ones. If you would like to learn more about including Hostos in your estate planning, contact Colette Atkins, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 718-518-4394.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LATE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



Elba Cabrera

In May 2024, Elba Cabrera, a cherished pillar of our extended community, passed away at the age of 90. Affectionately known as La Madrina de las Artes, Cabrera was a founding board member and iconic matriarch of Bronx artists.

“Elba poured her heart and soul into her work as an administrator, community organizer, and television and radio host,” President Cocco De Filippis shared, remembering Cabrera’s dedication to her community. “She served with distinction at — to name only a few — the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, the Association of Hispanic Arts, the Girl Scouts of the USA, and Hostos Community College, where she was a founding member of the Hostos Foundation Board.”

Reflecting on Cabrera’s legacy and lasting impact, Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor of the City University of New York and former president of Hostos Community College, said, “Elba opened the doors of opportunity to hundreds of artists, particularly Puerto Rican and Latino ones, through her institutional roles or through her personal networks.”

The Hostos Community College Foundation has established the Madrina De Las Artes Fund in honor of Cabrera’s dedication to the arts. The fund will provide operating support for the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture. The fund quickly raised more than \$17,000 to preserve the legacy of this beloved community leader.

We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Over \$1 Million from Corporate and Foundation Partners Helps Boost Student Success

One of Hostos' key strategies in supporting our diverse students' access to higher education is to strengthen students' ability to finance their education. In support of this goal, Hostos Community College's generous foundation partners have collectively pledged over \$1 million towards programs and scholarships. This funding is essential in enhancing our students' opportunities, ultimately boosting their chances of graduating successfully.

ReEngagement Program – Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)

The ReEngagement program helps students remove tuition holds that are preventing them from returning to Hostos. This initiative complements CUNY-wide efforts to bring back students who stopped out during the pandemic or due to financial limitations. Over its first year, 48 students were able to return to Hostos, 73% of whom are still enrolled or graduated. SNF also provides generous support for scholarships through the Annual Scholarship Benefit.

Transfer Peer Mentor Program – The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation

The Transfer Peer Mentor Program (TPMP) plays a crucial role in increasing career exploration and placement support for Hostos students by training recently graduated students who have successfully transferred to four-year colleges. These Peer Mentors guide their fellow Hostos graduates through the transfer process, helping them navigate how their majors and classes will transfer to different schools. By starting this mentorship as early as their first semester at Hostos, TPMP not only fosters a smoother transition to four-year institutions but also reinforces the goal of strengthening transfer opportunities to baccalaureate programs and beyond, ensuring students are better prepared for their academic and career paths.

Emergency Scholarships – The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and Gerstner Philanthropies

Hostos offers emergency scholarships for students who need support to overcome a financial setback. The Carroll and Milton Petrie Emergency Scholarship Program provides up to \$3,000 per year to help students stay on track. The Gerstner Helping Hands program at Hostos also provides up to \$3,000 for students nearing graduation as a one-time payment to offset an urgent need. Both of these funds support non-tuition needs, such as housing, child care, food, transportation, utilities, and medical bills, to name a few. Students who apply for grants are also screened for other social services, such as SNAP and WIC.

In FY 2023–2024

Petrie Emergency Student Grants
helped 129 students with an average award of \$500.
More than 800 students have received a
Petrie Emergency Grant since 2014.

&

Gerstner Helping Hands
at Hostos benefited 30 students with
an average award of \$1,600.
This program has provided grants to 84 students.

The Family Empowerment Program – Libra Philanthropies

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP) engages student-parents and expecting parents for resource sharing, fellowship, and celebrations. Thanks to Libra Philanthropies, the FEP has also been able to provide student-parents with financial support to cover child-related costs, like childcare, transportation, food, laundry, and more. The FEP also offers specialized workshops to help student-parents manage their money, develop strong relationships with their children, and manage their limited time between school, work, and family.





MICHAEL POTACK AND FAMILY ESTABLISH ONE OF THE LARGEST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN HOSTOS HISTORY

A longtime supporter and friend of the College, the Potack family established one of the largest endowed scholarship gifts in Hostos' history. In April 2024, the Randi Potack, Dorothy Hausberg and Judith Z. Potack Memorial Endowed Scholarship was finalized with a pledge of more than \$400,000 from the Potack family, including 2023 Gala Honoree Michael and his sons Robert, David, and Jonathan.

The fund will provide countless scholarships for students in Hostos' Registered Nursing (RN) program — year after year — in perpetuity. The Potacks' gift and pledge will also earn a 25% current use match provided by CUNY, made possible by a New York State earmark. The match will make it possible to disburse more than sixty \$2,000 scholarship awards for students pursuing an RN between now and June 30, 2025.

The scholarships honor the memory of three beloved women whose care and concern for others has had a profound and enduring impact not only on members of the Potack Family, but also the Bronx community.

The Foundation is grateful to the Potack family for their years of partnership and their continued investment in Hostos students and the improvement of healthcare through nursing. Mr. Potack has frequently expressed his admiration for Hostos students, acknowledging that this city and especially his family's business, Unitex Healthcare Laundry Services, have been made stronger through their hard work and determination.

We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Food Pantry at Hostos – The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and The New York Yankees Foundation

The Food Pantry at Hostos offers shelf-stable and fresh grocery items to alleviate food insecurity for students and their families. Students may visit up to twice a month. All students who visit the food pantry are screened for their eligibility for state and federal social services. The Food Pantry also coordinates the distribution of in-kind gifts, such as grocery vouchers.

The food pantry served an average of 2,252 students — including adults, children, and senior clients — over the course of FY 2023–2024, with visits to the pantry increasing from February to May, during which fresh produce is available and distributed every Wednesday.



New Scholarships Create More Opportunities for Hostos Students

Four scholarships were added or expanded in Fiscal Year 2024, creating opportunities for more students. The Anna Milagros Rivera Memorial Scholarship was created by the family of Ms. Rivera after she passed away in 2022. The scholarship became available starting in the Fall 2024 semester. The Professor Cynthia G. Jones Beloved Community Scholarship, created by long-time Hostos professor Cynthia Jones was awarded for the first time in the fall.

Several donors have expressed interest in supporting nursing and allied health students, for whom demanding coursework and costly licensure examinations can impede success. The Manuel Gonzalo Coblalles Scholarship Fund for Allied Health Students and the newly endowed The Randi Potack, Judith Z. Potack and Dorothy Hausberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship were available for the first time to help these students who are pursuing these in-demand careers.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS

THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HOSTOS STUDENTS, THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Anthony St. John Memorial Scholarship

Beth Abraham Nursing Scholarship

Beyond Borders

Bridge Tuition Support Assistance (BTSA) Fund

The Bronx Element Leadership and Social Justice Scholarship

Bronx Rising Initiative Scholarship

Carlos Gonzalez and Edward Gonzalez Jr. Allied Health Scholarship

Carmine Family Scholarship

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Emergency Fund

Cecil Pitman Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Centerlight Health Systems Nursing Scholarship

The Circle of 100 Emergency Fund

The Cocco De Filippis Family Scholarship Endowment

Dolores M. Fernandez Scholarship

The Dr. Nasry Michelen Memorial Endowment Scholarship

The Dylan Isaac Ravenfox Memorial Scholarship

The Feiner Family Scholarship and Special Needs Fund

The Frances M. Webb Endowed Scholarship for Student-Parents

The Gerald Meyer Community Service Transfer Scholarship

The Honorable Hector L. Diaz Scholarship

The Hostos Community College Foundation Scholarship

Howard Bayne Scholarship

The John Anthony Chardavoyne Scholarship Endowment

The Josephine Aguado Scholarship

The Joseph Alicea Veterans Fund

The Madruga Family Scholarship

The Manuel Gonzalo Coballes Scholarship Fund for Allied Health Students

The Mildred Hernton Endowed Award In Biology

Natural Sciences Award

The Open Borders Scholarship

The Paula L. Zajan Early Childhood Education Scholarship

The Pedro Perez-Cabezas Memorial Scholarship

The Professor Cynthia G. Jones Beloved Community Scholarship

The Professor Isabel Li Endowed Memorial Scholarship

The Professor Magda Vasillov Scholarship

Ramon J Jimenez Memorial Scholarship of Social Policy and Practice

The Randi Potack, Judith Z. Potack, and Dorothy Hausberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship

The Richard A. Propper Memorial Scholarship

Sammy Seals Scholarship

Shirley Hinds Scholarship

The Wallace Edgecombe Scholarship

We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Hostos 2024 Annual Scholarship Benefit

Our Benefit was held on May 9 and raised nearly \$400,000 to strengthen the College's emergency scholarship funds. As one of Hostos' premier fundraising events, the evening was a powerful reminder of the community's shared commitment to student success and educational equity. The event celebrated generosity, unity, and the essential role each donor plays in shaping the future of Hostos.





We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

17th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Classic

On September 21, the Foundation hosted its 17th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Classic. More than 140 local leaders came together for a day of golf, networking, and philanthropy, raising over \$120,000 in support of student scholarships. The event reflected the enduring power of community and collaboration to drive opportunity forward.





We Support EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Hostos Alumni Give Back to Hostos and the Community

Our alumni show that the Caiman spirit lives on long after graduation. Throughout the year, Hostos graduates volunteered their time and expertise through financial wellness seminars, industry summits, a First-Time Homebuyers Conference, and the newly established Alumni Advisory Council. The Office of Alumni Relations collaborated across divisions to co-host several events, including the first-ever Student Leadership Academy Reunion, mixers, and a Memorial Day veterans remembrance ceremony, to name a few. Alumni also gave back to the community by mentoring local high school students through a new partnership with iMentor.

The Office of Alumni Relations also highlights exceptional alumni through the monthly Alumni Spotlight series. This year we have featured enterprising alums making waves in healthcare, hospitality, education, and the arts. Additionally, Alumni Relations has continued to raise funds for the Alumni Fund for Student Transfer Scholarships, which officially hit the threshold to be awarded starting in the Fall 2024 semester.



HOSTOS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SERIES



Dr. Fenix Arias
Class of 1995

Dr. Fénix Arias, an alumna of Hostos Community College, reflects on her remarkable journey with deep gratitude and nostalgia. Born in Salcedo, Dominican Republic, Arias arrived in the United States as a teenager, settling in the Bronx. Despite the challenges of adjusting to a new country and language, her indomitable spirit and determination paved the way for an inspiring story of resilience and triumph.

Leonard Cardinale
Class of 1973

Leonard Cardinale's dedication to Hostos Community College, dating back to his graduation in 1973, underscores a remarkable journey of commitment and impact. After serving in the military, Leonard enrolled in the radiologic technology program at Hostos, thus embarking on a lifelong healthcare career that would include administration and teaching. His journey came full circle when he returned to the College as the clinical internship coordinator for the radiologic technology program, where he now plays a pivotal role in shaping the futures of emerging radiologic technologists with his extensive knowledge and guidance.



Dr. Paule Valery Joseph
Class of 2005

Alumna Dr. Paule Valery Joseph's dedication to caring for others is evident not only in her professional actions but also in her personal life. During a late January conversation, she multitasked by caring for a family member, showcasing her unwavering commitment to well-being and healing. Her journey to Hostos Community College was a natural extension of her desire to blend her caregiving role and skills with academic ambitions and research interests.



Read the full story and explore more inspiring alumni journeys on the Hostos Alumni Spotlight Series webpage: www.hostosalumni.com/alumni-spotlight.

We Empower COMMUNITY, INSPIRE CHANGE



“At Hostos, the arts are accessible to all. We keep events affordable, timely, and open our doors to the broader community. We will continue to create spaces where students, educators, and neighbors can engage, learn, and feel inspired.”

— **Felix Arocho**
Director of the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

The Hostos Center for Arts & Culture (HCAC) is BACK!

Since its establishment in 1982, HCAC has served as a vital component of Hostos Community College, recognized nationally for its Latin and African-based programming. This year, guided by SP Goal 6, Strategy 2 — expand arts and culture offerings for students and the broader community — HCAC has reinforced its legacy as a key platform for performing and visual arts, embracing diverse cultural heritages through a wide range of activities including original plays, concerts, cultural festivals, and art exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos. The spotlight on HCAC was further highlighted in February 2024 when the program *Diálogo Abierto* aired a segment featuring influential figures such as President Cocco De Filippis and Director Félix M. Arocho, emphasizing the Center’s role as a cultural and community staple in the South Bronx.

Theater

During the 2023–2024 season, the Hostos Center hosted actor and playwright Eric Avilés as its Artist in Residence, thanks to a grant from Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY). During his residency, Avilés premiered a new, original play titled “Of Love and Resistance,” and hosted playwriting workshops for the community.

The Hostos Repertory Company performed a staged reading of the original play, “Homeward,” by Anna-Nanine Pond.

Ángel Vázquez returned for his second show at the Center with “The Other Side Story,” a musical comedy tale of a Puerto Rican newcomer navigating New York’s streets and uncovering the enduring legacies of Puerto Rican pioneers in the U.S. since 1862.

Cultural Arts

The Neo Afro Diasporic Festival presented performative and educational events, including lectures, dance workshops, and concerts. A collective of women from



Puerto Rico, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Africa taught their respective cultural dances and shared a final performance, which took audiences on a journey to Africa.

The Center celebrated Puerto Rican Heritage Month with a spectacular 14th Annual South Bronx Folk Festival with a finale performance by Danza Fiesta: Baile y Teatro Puertorriqueño and special guests. Danza Fiesta celebrates Puerto Rican culture with colorful and engaging traditional dances from the island of Puerto Rico!

Music

In November, the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture (HCAC), with Joe Conzo, Sr., presented a night of Latin music brilliance — “Mambo Diablo: Honoring Tito Puente.” The former members of the Tito Puente Orchestra united with the world-renowned Mambo Legends Orchestra led by John “Dandy” Rodríguez, and musically directed by José Madera, alongside Mitch Frohman — each of whom boasts over 25 years of collaboration with

Puente. Heartfelt tributes from Puente’s sons, Ronnie Puente and Tito Puente Jr., and performances by special guest artists enriched the evening.

Tito Puente had a deep connection to Hostos. He performed at the Center many times, and Hostos Community College maintains an archive of Puente memorabilia with posters, musical instruments, awards, photographs, and recordings. The College also offers a continuing education course in Latin Jazz for participants from all over the world.

Throughout the year, other Latin Jazz greats, including Annette Aguilar and the StringBeans, Angel Papote Alvarado y Grupo Esencia, and Papo Vázquez brought their stylings to the stage. In March, The Center celebrated 170 years of Merengue with an evening hosted by Vizcaino, featuring Aramis Camilo, Ninoshka, Richie Cepeda, Charlie Rodríguez, and Chiqui Taveras.

On June 29, The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble performed “Release Your Song”

— a celebration of 45 years of musical excellence. This evening of spirituals, gospels, and anthems from the African American Religious Experience also honored the living legacies of Dr. Gregory Hopkins and Maestro Joseph Joubert, the 2024 recipients of The Bettye F. Forbes Musical Legacy Award.



The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture received its largest grant to date—\$150,000 over two years—from the Howard Gilman Foundation, the largest private funder of the arts in NYC.

We Empower COMMUNITY, INSPIRE CHANGE

Dance

For the second year in a row, the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company brought its spectacular, genre-bending dance stylings to the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture's main theater — first with the Lunar New Year Celebration in February and again in May to commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company bridges the richness of Asian artistic heritage and the dynamism of American dance, celebrating the Asian American perspective that is shaped by both cultures and recognizing Asian American contribution to the diversity of ideas in our society.



A Palo Seco Flamenco Company brought its captivating fusion of traditional and contemporary flamenco to the Hostos Center. Founded in 2010 by artistic director Rebeca Tomas, the NYC-based company is known for its raw, emotional performances. The show features acclaimed repertoire and a preview of "Fieras," a powerful new work portraying the resilience of abuse survivors.



Art Exhibitions

Though large-scale sculptures and prints, “Camino a Mictlán Día de los Muertos Art Installation & Ofrenda” featured the vibrant colors that fill the streets each October across Mexico, including skull-painted faces, and ceremonial “ofrenda” altars filled with flowers, candles, and photographs of deceased loved ones.



Johan Kugelberg and Joe Conzo, Jr. curated “Born in the Bronx! The Beginning of Global Hip Hop Culture,” a stunning collection of photos and memorabilia that illustrated how African American and Latino youths in the South Bronx transformed poetry, music, and fashion into a powerful expression of life and struggle.



We Empower COMMUNITY, INSPIRE CHANGE

We Continue Building Lasting Community Relations

Ana García Reyes, Dean of Community Relations, is a key figure in fostering the College's connections with individuals, public and private organizations, businesses and beyond. Last fall, she and Idelsa Mendez, Development Officer, organized Hostos' 9th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Distinguished Latina Leaders and Student Scholars Awards Ceremony, paying tribute to accomplished Latina leaders from diverse sectors, including government, business, community leadership, and education, and recognized exceptional student scholars by awarding them scholarships.



The event shone a light on the 2023 honorees: Elizabeth de León Bhargava, Assistant Secretary for Administration at the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development; Elizabeth Figueroa, Associate Vice President for Community Relations at the New York Botanical Garden; Verónica Ramírez, Executive Director of Casa Puebla in New York and New Jersey; and Eunice Santiago, President and CEO of the New York League of Puerto Rican Women. Additionally, notable figures such as Karines Reyes, District 87 New York State Assemblymember; Fidel Malena, the Bronx Regional Representative for the New York State Executive Chamber; Gladys Bruno, who serves as the Jobs Committee Coordinator at 1199SEIU; and Jasmin Sánchez, Hostos Student Government Association Senator were in attendance.



Scholarships were also presented to five exceptional Hostos students in the Allied Health program: Tashalee Pratt, Brenny Feliz, Yuka Terada, Janeuris Rivera, and Samiya Rifat. The awards, funded by 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, aim to support students' academic pursuits.



The work of the Office of Community Relations continued into the summer of 2024 and spanned borders. In June, Dean García Reyes led the Summer Professional Development and Study Abroad Program to the Dominican Republic. The three-week international teacher training initiative features workshops, seminars, and field research in NYC and multiple locations on the island.

Designed by Dean García Reyes over three decades ago, the initiative helps teachers from New York City and the Dominican Republic understand the island’s educational system, immigrant experiences in the city, and socioeconomic, socio-historical, and socio-political cultural challenges to academic and career success for diverse youth. The program is hosted by Hostos and facilitated by CUNY faculty and staff, Department of Education administrators, world-renowned Dominican scholars of Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, and Instituto Superior de Formación Docente Salome Ureña.

Dean García Reyes and her team’s dedication to spotlighting accomplished leaders, fostering professional relationships and providing opportunities for student scholars continues to make a meaningful impact both locally and internationally. Their work continues to inspire and uplift our extended Hostos community, creating a lasting legacy of empowerment and support for future generations.

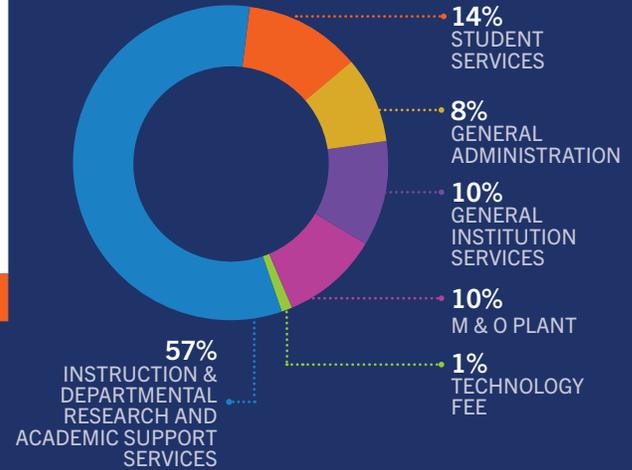


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, FISCAL YEAR 2023–2024

EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PURPOSE

Instruction & Departmental Research and Academic Support Services	57,381,838	57%
Student Services	14,354,199	14%
General Administration	8,212,482	8%
General Institution Services	10,305,452	10%
M & O Plant	9,779,030	10%
Technology Fee	812,596	1%
Total Allocation	\$100,845,596	100%

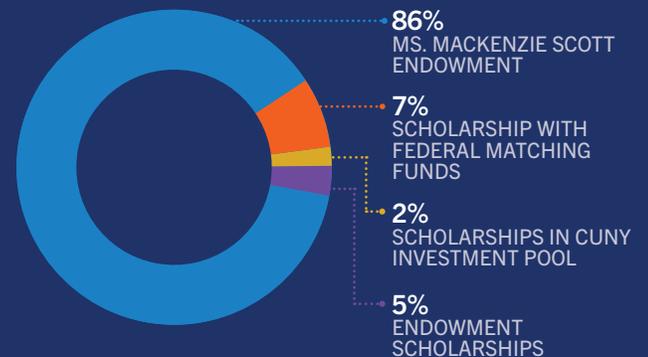
EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PURPOSE



COMPONENTS OF ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

Ms. MacKenzie Scott Endowment	13,487,492	86%
Scholarship with Federal Matching Funds	1,098,567	7%
Scholarships in CUNY Investment Pool	360,034	2%
Endowment Scholarships	833,220	5%
Total Endowment	\$15,779,313	100%

COMPONENTS OF ENDOWMENT SUPPORT



GRANTS FY2023–2024

Hostos faculty and staff demonstrate dedication and expertise, consistently achieving significant milestones in securing grants from an array of sources, including government agencies, foundations, and corporations. Their exceptional efforts have not only sustained but further elevated the institution’s commitment to cutting-edge research and innovation. As we delve into the 2023–2024 fiscal year, the remarkable achievements continue to unfold, with a spectrum of active and new grants being skillfully administered through the CUNY Research Foundation and other organizations. This steadfast pursuit of funding not only underscores the faculty and staff’s relentless pursuit of knowledge but also fortifies Hostos as a hub of intellectual exploration and academic excellence. These grants show the institution’s capacity to drive impactful research initiatives, fostering an environment where groundbreaking ideas flourish and contribute to the advancement of knowledge across various disciplines.

Project Title	Funding Agency	Current FY
Hostos Engineering Academic Talent Scholarship (HEAT)	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$286,480.00
Hostos Oasis for Parent's Education (HOPE)	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$416,424.38
Increasing the Access and Success of Scholars in Mathematics and Computer Science at a Hispanic Serving Institution	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$300,216.00
Strengthening Physics Achievements	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$74,667.00
HSI Implementation and Evaluation Project	NSF/ Education & Human Resources	\$50,000.00
Collaborative Research: HSI-HUBS: Intersectionality as Inquiry and Praxis: Race, Class, Gender and Ethnicity for Students Success in STEM	NSF/ Education & Human Resources	\$72,000.00
Hostos Technical Education in Cybersecurity (H-TEC) Program	NSF/ Education & Human Resources	\$236,744.00
Community Health Worker Training Program	DHHS/Health Resources and Services Administration	\$1,000,000.00
Parents and Children Together at Hostos (PACT at Hostos)	U.S. Department of Education	\$267,061.00
Comunidad y Igualdad: An Integrated First - Year Experience and Beyond (Title V)	U.S. Department of Education	\$574,260.00
Building Transfer Pathways and Pipeline: A Partnership between Hostos CC, Columbia University, City College and Queens College	U.S. Department of Education	\$376,632.00
HCC: Strengthening Community College Training	DOL/Employment and Training Administration	\$175,000.00
	Subtotal Federal Grants	\$3,829,484.38

These figures represent funds made available during FY 2023–2024 only. Please note that some grants extend over several years, and the total amounts awarded are not reflected here.

GRANTS FY2023–2024

Project Title	Funding Agency	Current FY
Library	NYS ED/Office of Cultural Education	\$7,788.14
Liberty Partnerships Program	NYS Department of Education	\$522,864.00
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II & Welfare Education Program Funding	NYS Department of Education	\$398,040.00
Vocational Educational Program (PERKINS)	NYS Department of Education	\$1,737,098.00
Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)	NYS Department of Education	\$450,000.00
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program CSTEP	NYS Department of Education	\$284,187.00
NYC/HRA/CUNY/EDGE Program/Hostos	NYC Human Resources Administration	\$671,749.00
Workforce Investment Act	NYS Education Department	\$176,203.00
CUNY Career Launch - Hostos C.C. Explorer	DYCD/Dept. of Youth and Community	\$9,057.00
Patient Care Technician Training Program	DYCD/NYC Dept. of Youth and Community	\$117,865.25
NYC Pathway to Industrial & Construction	NYCDSS/NYC Dept. of Social Services	\$80,000.00
CUNY Fatherhood Academy	NYC Center for Economic Opportunity	\$388,340.72
	Subtotal NY State/City Projects	\$4,843,192.11
Creative Writing “Chasing Trane”	PSC-CUNY	\$3,499.47
The Myth of the Good Woman: Forced Motherhood in the mid-Victorian Period	PSC-CUNY	\$3,499.48
Manipulating Memory in Miltons’ Paradise Lost	PSC-CUNY	\$3,499.48
The Urban Domestic Homosocial Domesticity in the Literature and Culture of 19th and 20th Century New York City	PSC-CUNY	\$3,499.48
The Way Things Go	PSC-CUNY	\$5,500.00
Investigation of the Influence of Chirality on Stability and Binding Affinity of PNA/ DNA and PNA/RNA	PSC-CUNY	\$5,988.00
Seizing the Language of Rights: Race and Citizenship in Jacinto Ventura de Molina	PSC-CUNY	\$6,000.00
Assessing the impact of Local Politics on Civic Engagement	PSC-CUNY	\$6,000.00
I-to-I Self Portrait and Identity Libuese Jarcovjakova and Marie Tomanova	PSC-CUNY	\$5,985.00
The Maghrib of the Interwar Home Theater: Pathé-Baby Films of North Africa	PSC-CUNY	\$5,627.31
A Canada in the South: Maroons in America	PSC-CUNY	\$3,499.48
A Revision of Ground Spiders Subfamilies	PSC-CUNY	\$12,000.00
	Internal (CUNY Projects)	\$64,597.70

GRANTS FY2023–2024

Project Title	Funding Agency	Current FY
Injury Science and Prevention	EDINST/Columbia University	\$81,000.00
Bronx Einstein Training	Albert Einstein College of Medicine (NIH)	\$33,362.00
Center for Botanicals & Chronic Diseases	Rutgers University	\$23,025.00
Community Health Worker Training Program	Montefiore Medical Center	\$155,750.00
Cyber Skills for all	Association of Community Colleges	\$10,000.00
College Completion Innovation Fund Grant	The Jefferey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation	\$20,668.12
NYC Accelerated Workforce Recovery HUB	NYC Community Trust AKA Community Funds, Inc.	\$219,800.00
Google Career Certificates	NPORG/Jobs for Future, Inc	\$15,492.00
College Innovation Fund Grant	PFOUND/Booth Ferris Foundation	\$13,409.21
Graduate NYC - College Completion Innovation Fund Grant	PFOUND/Gray Foundation	\$76,566.20
College Completion Innovation Fund Grant	PFOUND/Lucius N. Littauer Foundation	\$56,930.42
Start Adult Learner Project	PFOUND/Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation	\$45,093.00
CUNY ASAP: Equity in Education	Morgan Stanley Foundation	\$18,138.00
Computational Thinking for Educators	PUBFND/Robin Hood Foundation	\$34,538.52
	Subtotal Private Grants	\$803,772.47
	Total FY 2023–2024	\$9,541,046.66

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SUPPORT STUDENT PERSISTENCE AT HOSTOS

The Hostos Community College Foundation invites its family and friends to join us in empowering even more of our talented and dedicated students to earn their degrees. The Foundation houses 35 internal scholarship funds, with more being added each year. Additionally, it raises funds for four emergency scholarship funds which can process awards within one week to help students facing an urgent financial burden. In 2023, the Scholarship Office received nearly 750 applications for our 157 available scholarship awards, and more than \$500,000 was requested in eligible, non-tuition, emergency scholarships, with less than \$200,000 available to meet that need.

The Foundation also solicits funds for various programs within the College, including support for student parents, nutrition assistance, tutoring and mentoring, and experiential learning, to name a few. If you are interested in programmatic needs at the College, we would love to help you find an initiative that aligns with your giving priorities. Contact Vice President of Institutional Advancement Colette Atkins at 718-518-4407 to find out more.

Your generosity will help students overcome financial challenges that impede their otherwise relentless pursuit of higher education and inspire them to achieve their personal and professional dreams.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

MAKE A ONE-TIME OR RECURRING GIFT:

You may set up a pledge or recurring gift to provide consistent support—month after month or year after year—on our website. Visit www.GivetoHostos.com or scan the QR code below.

MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP GIFT:

Although nearly all Hostos students receive some form of financial aid, the maximum awards they may receive from state and federal sources is less than \$10,000—the real cost of attending college far exceeds this amount.

2023–2024 Total Cost of Attending College for Students Living Away from Home

Without childcare: \$30,453
With childcare: \$36,573

2023–2024 Total Cost of Attending College for Students Living With Parent(s)

Without childcare: \$17,902
With childcare: \$24,022

For students in our allied health programs the cost can be up to \$6,000 higher.

Your gift of any size can support an existing scholarship.

A gift of \$5,000 or more can be used to create a named scholarship with unique criteria to be used within 1-3 years or continued through additional donations.

A gift of \$50,000 or more can be used to create an endowed scholarship that will provide support year after year – for posterity.

Ask about the possibility of a matching gift from CUNY. For more information, contact Idelsa Mendez at 718-518-4341.

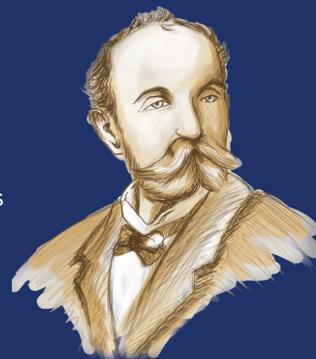
WHAT TO GIVE

In addition to cash and checks, the Hostos Community College Foundation is able to accept marketable securities and gifts from IRAs and Donor Advised Funds.

We can even help you establish a charitable gift annuity that pays you fixed payment for life (or a period of years) and ultimately benefits Hostos students.

THE EUGENIO MARÍA DE HOSTOS SOCIETY

To honor donors who intend to make a planned gift to Hostos, we have established the Eugenio María de Hostos Society. This includes individuals who have named Hostos as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary in their will, trust, retirement fund, brokerage account, or life insurance policy.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about charitable giving, please visit GivetoHostos.com, contact Idelsa Mendez at imendez@hostos.cuny.edu, or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



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