

CLUB NEWS

Winter 2017 | Volume 27

WEST END HOUSE

FROM THE ARTS ROOM TO CENTER STAGE: YOUNG ARTISTS ADVANCING BEYOND WEST END HOUSE

Long-time West End House members are now making waves in arts communities throughout Boston and the world. These young artists are supported by our Visual and Performing Arts program, which provides high-impact arts instruction in music, visual arts, dance, theatre, and media arts to over 400 youth weekly. Here are some incredible successes our youth have achieved this year:

Carolina, age 15, performed as part of Boston Arts Academy's Spirituals Ensemble at Mayor Marty Walsh's State of the City in January. Last October, Carolina competed on *La Banda*, a Latin American singing show created by Simon Cowell and produced by Ricky Martin, progressing to the semi-finals.

Our senior band, *The West*, won a national competition to perform at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 110th National Conference

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WEST END HOUSE PILOTS CHARLES AND FRAN RODGERS FELLOWSHIP

Six highly motivated West End House alumni were selected as the inaugural class of Charles and Fran Rodgers Fellows following a rigorous interview process. This pilot leadership program for West End House alumni creates a peer support network during their freshman year of college, with the goals of inspiring academic success and leading service projects to benefit the community.

Fellows participate in year-long leadership workshops under the mentorship of West End House College Success Coaches Morgan

Bondy and Portsha Franklin. As a key element of this initiative, Rodgers Fellows travel to each other's college campuses on a rotating schedule, empowering each Fellow to host a leadership session on their campus. To date, Fellows have visited Fisher College, Lesley University, and Massachusetts Bay Community College for sessions on personal development, self-advocacy, and social justice. Future visits include UMass Amherst, University of New Hampshire, and Bunker Hill Community College.

Since 2015, West End House has developed and scaled up a rigorous College Success program that provides coaching to over 200 college students in partnership with Success Boston, a city-wide initiative to increase college graduation rates of Boston Public School alumni. Within our program, Rodgers Fellows play a key role in mentoring middle and high school youth, and will ultimately support their college-aged peers in achieving their goals.

Thank you to Charles and Fran Rodgers for supporting this fellowship opportunity. To learn how to set up a similar legacy fellowship or scholarship for West End House alumni, please contact Rudy Ash at rudy.ash@westendhouse.org or at 617-682-1009.



(Left to right) Rodgers Fellows: Medhi, Ade, College Success Coach Morgan Bondy, Nunshel, Claire, José, and College Success Coach Portsha Franklin

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ANIM AWEH & BIE AWEH



Anim Aweh and Bie Aweh first walked through the big red doors of West End House at age 7 as residents of nearby Fidelis Way. The twins instantly fell in love with staff and the wide variety of programs offered.

Through West End House, Anim and Bie built a foundation for college and career success. At age 14, they became Peer Leaders, an employment initiative that allowed them to gain confidence by leading programs and resolving conflicts, all the while contributing back to their family.

Following their Peer Leader experience, the sisters applied and

were accepted to the Brian J. Honan Fellowship. “As a Honan Fellow, I met with then-Senator John Kerry. We had an in-depth discussion about economic inequality in Boston,” said Anim. “I left the meeting feeling empowered to create positive change in my community.”

After the Honan Fellowship, Anim and Bie were elected to leadership positions in Keystone Club, a long-standing, national teen leadership program. “The Honan Fellowship and Keystone Club enabled me to understand myself as a leader,” said Bie. “These programs prepared me for highly prestigious opportunities across Boston and ultimately across the country.”

With the support of West End House staff, the sisters applied to and enrolled in college – Anim at UMass Amherst and Bie at the University of New Hampshire. Anim earned her Master’s in Social Work while Bie went on to earn her dual Master’s in Public Policy and Master’s in Education.

Today, Anim is an associate clinical social worker in Oakland, CA, providing pain management and holistic care to patients with chronic conditions. Anim works closely with patients undergoing dialysis.

Bie began her career in higher education as Director of the

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2017, West End House continues to set the bar high for ourselves, our youth, and our community. From performing at regional and national venues to excelling in college, our youth are learning to lead and to plan for their futures. Our alumni are transforming their communities through the skills and passions they discovered and honed as club members—Anim Aweh and Bie Aweh are proof that when we expect more from our young people, our young people expect more from themselves. In the coming months, you’ll see plans for our *Expect More Campaign*—including the expansion and renovation of our facility and the growth of our exceptionally talented staff—which will position us to have an even greater impact on the city of Boston.

Thank you for *Expecting More* with us.



With best wishes,

Andrea Howard, Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE ARTS ROOM TO CENTER STAGE: YOUNG ARTISTS ADVANCING BEYOND WEST END HOUSE

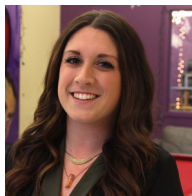
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in New Orleans last summer, receiving a standing ovation for their original song, “Tell Me.” The group also performed at the Northeast Regional Conference in New Hampshire this fall.

Kalista, age 17, had her painting selected for the Museum of Fine Arts’ exhibition, *HOMiE: In Our Eyes*, which ran from July 2016 to January 2017. This was the MFA’s first exhibition of juried artworks by teens, in honor of the 10th anniversary of their Teen Arts Council. Kalista’s piece *Modern Magritte* paid homage to surrealism artist René Magritte’s *The Son of Man* (1964) with a personal twist, illustrating the impact of environmental pollution on Kalista’s community.

West End House is proud to support young people as they advance in the arts and are positioned for success in high school, college, and beyond. To see clips of our artists’ award-winning performances and other recent appearances, please email arts@westendhouse.org.

NEW FACES AT WEST END HOUSE



CAREER DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST

Casey Ferrari

Casey holds a Bachelor's in Legal Studies from UMass Amherst. Prior to joining West End House, she worked with the North Shore Youth Career Center of Lynn as a Youth Case Manager. Since arriving at West End House, she has helped our teens to develop their resumes and cover letters, expanded our Youth Workforce program, and hosted mock interviews and a career fair. One of her proudest moments was when 15-year-old Lesley landed an internship with Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George. "Lesley told me she aced the interview because of my guidance and what she learned during our mock career fair," Casey said.

SECONDARY EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jonathan Noel



Jon earned his Bachelor's in Human Services from Northeastern University and has mentored youth for nine years. He comes to West End House after teaching 10th grade Math for a year at the Academy of the Pacific Rim. "I do this work because I love this city and the people in it. I could have easily gone down the same path as a lot of my friends, but I had some people look out for me. So now it is my turn to look out," said Jon. As the Secondary Education Coordinator, Jon provides homework help, teaches a weekly college club, and facilitates leadership activities for teens at the West End House.



DIRECTOR OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Nadine Martinez

Nadine holds a Bachelor's in Dance from the University of North Texas and a Master's in European Dance-Theatre from Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. A lifelong educator, Nadine has taught at Boston Public Schools, Bronx Charter School for the Arts, Sociedad Latina, and the YMCA. Her modern dance choreography has been featured in New York, Boston, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and London. "I grew up in Puerto Rico where music, dance, and art were a part of my daily life but the fine arts were inaccessible," said Nadine. "As an adult, I want to make the fine arts accessible to all."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ANIM AWEH & BIE AWEH

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African American Theme Program at UC Berkeley. She is now a Career Developer at Dev Bootcamp, a tech startup that addresses the skills gap in the technology sector by providing education and career services to populations that would otherwise not have access to these skills.

"Anim and Bie constantly inspire the entire West End House community to learn more, grow more, and take more risks," says West End House Chief Executive Officer Andrea Howard. "I like to say that I want to be just like Anim and Bie when I grow up, and I am confident that many of our young people feel the same."

Bie and Anim are part of the growing and powerful network of West End House alumni who are leaders in the workforce. If you are a West End House alum or if you are interested in connecting with West End House alumni, please contact Chris Moskal at cmoskal@westendhouse.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

65 + 48

teens employed year-round + teens
employed in the summer

200

West End House alumni
receive college coaching

300

youth receive academic
support each week

400

young people engage in arts
programming each week

4,300

hours of health, fitness, and
nutrition programming last year

101,000

nutritious, made-from-scratch
meals served last year



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**WEST END HOUSE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

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Allston, MA 02134

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SAVE THE DATE

West End House

ANNUAL CELEBRATION Saturday, April 29, 2017

5:30pm Reception and Dinner

West End House | Lewis & Gordon Center
Cocktail Attire | Complimentary Valet

For information about sponsorship opportunities,
please contact Chief Development Officer
Rudy Ash at rudy.ash@westendhouse.org



CONTACT US!

West End House, Inc. | Lewis and Gordon Center | 105 Allston Street, Allston, MA 02134 | westendhouse.org