



December 2024

Dear Friend of The City School:

“As organizers, our work is set against all probability—and it is in that space of cherished improbability where our art will be made, where our joy will be found, and where our ingenuity will fashion ways of living and caring for each other, even as the ground shifts beneath our feet. Together; we will fight for this world, to keep it.”

- Mariame Kaba and Kelly Hayes, *Let This Radicalize You*

In an America where fascism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, class warfare, sexism, and misogyny have once again surged to the forefront, the question of resistance looms large. At The City School (TCS), we center the leadership of working-class BIPOC young people, particularly queer and trans youth, young women and non-binary youth, immigrant, refugee and undocumented youth. We believe these young people hold the vision and courage needed to guide us toward freedom and liberation. **How do we resist together? By dreaming boldly, organizing powerfully, and building the world we know is possible.**

Now is the time to draw on the lessons from the first Trump presidency and the past 30 years of TCS’s work. Even in these challenging conditions, we are equipped to persist and thrive. **At TCS, we dream of freedom and organize to make those dreams a reality.**

Over the past year, the youth at TCS have learned, practiced, and embodied resistance. From fighting for a non-carceral response to mental health crises to envisioning a world where communities thrive through mutual aid and shared resources, their efforts are inspiring. These young leaders are planting seeds of hope—seeds we know will grow into the resilience and power we will need in the coming years.

We ask for your help in watering those seeds of resistance. Your support builds a world where freedom is not just a dream but a reality for all. In 2024, we planted the following seeds:

- Building on our 2022 proposal to the city of Boston, The City School has launched the Boston People’s Response campaign to implement a community-based mental health crisis response. **Our youth and young adult leaders organized biweekly member meetings** to engage 50+ community members in our campaign, collected over 800 signatures, and **presented our proposal at a Grassroots Budget Briefing and through testimony to Boston City Councilors** in the spring.



- **We celebrated our 30th summer of our 30th Summer Leadership Program, and** engaged 45 youth and 13 staff in deep learning about racial and social justice. Inspired by a trip that our Ella Baker Fellows took to Atlanta in March in collaboration with Project South, our Emerging Leaders led a mutual aid fair and youth-led workshop day in August, engaging over 100 community members in resource sharing and political education.
- **This fall, we've launched our second cohort of the Ella Baker Young Adult Fellowship, doubling the size of our first cohort!** These young adults are organizing across the city from Youth Justice and Power Union to Asian American Resource Workshop, fulfilling TCS's goal of training emerging leaders across the movement sector.



In the next few years, we will need a grounded political home as a base for growing resistance. As we continue to anchor a youth-led movement for intersectional racial justice, your gift allows us to sustain this political home for young people and the broader movement. You can donate at www.thecityschool.org/support-us, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to The City School, 614 Columbia Road, Dorchester MA 02125.

And **please mark your calendars for Celebrating Change on Thursday, May 8th, 2025**, our annual fundraising and community building event. We look forward to being in community with you next year!

With profound gratitude,
Collique, Husain, Shanick, Cynthia, Jaz & Tara
The City School Staff Team

