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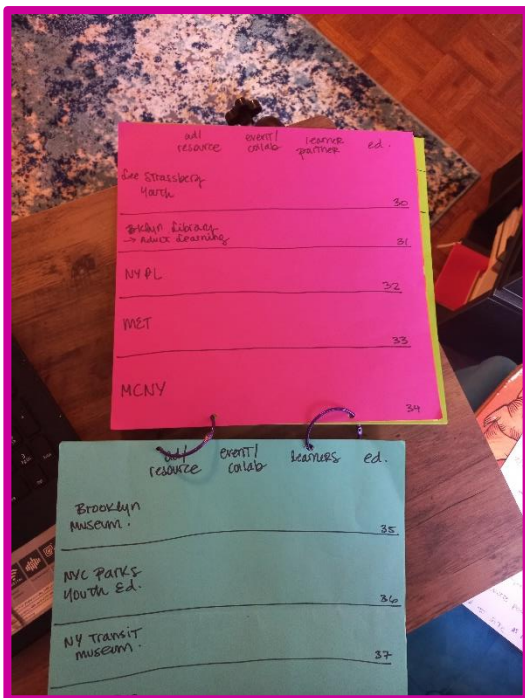
Off Da Beaten Path Learning LLC

Summer 2022 Newsletter

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All names and photos posted with permission.

## Off Da Beaten Path Learning Outreach Tour 2022



As we say farewell to the summer season, the Fall brings with it a time for meeting and greeting!

In order to get the word out about our services and the impactful work we're doing, I will spend October through December touring New York City. The purpose is to introduce Off Da Beaten Path Learning to various businesses, organizations, religious centers, health clinics, youth clubs, news outlets, museums, libraries, etc. I have almost 80 names of professionals and groups, and I will meet as many as possible this Fall! You or your center could be next!

Fun side note: I planned for this outreach tour on newspaper paper and colorful scrapbook cardstock paper. See photo to the left.

### One learner, one summer, several highlights

- Got their scores for the FOUR Advanced Placement exams they took in May. Below are their three best scores! After practice tests and months of intensive studying, they walked away with...
  - AP Psychology, 4 out of 5
  - AP English Literature and Composition, 3 out of 5
  - AP English Language and Composition, 3 out of 5
- Completed stipend-paid youth program with Museum of Modern Art and was selected to moderate the final event, including interviewing world-famous actress Chloe Sevigny – on stage to a live audience!
- Performed two selections as a part of Lee Strasberg [method acting class](#).
  - *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, written by Céline Sciamma (2019) – see photo to the right. Adapted for the stage, they performed an excerpt from an English translation
  - *Frank's Crimson Medicine* – an original stage play (2021)



## Wishing ODBP alumni well <3

- One undergraduate continues her college journey. Classes start September 9<sup>th</sup>!
- Another young adult starts college this Fall. Freshmen year, first semester! Ahhhh!!!
- Historian, filmmaker, and high schooler continues studying and is now working toward his college applications! This is the same young man who taught me about me about the 101st Airborne Division, also known as the “Screaming Eagles.” Started in 1942, they parachuted into Normandy, France on D-Day 1944, marking an important turning point in World War II.



### **Three new learners! Amazing volunteer joins us for 2022-2023!**

Nigerian born, Houston raised, and Brooklyn based author, NK Iguh (they/she), is joining Off Da Beaten Path Learning as a volunteer educator. See their photo to the left. Manager of Education & Equity at the House of SpeakEasy, now they are about to start working with three young women writers, each of them about to start a journey of validation and actualization toward their writing goals. We are super excited to bring onboard our first volunteer educator and three new learners.

## Learner waitlist grows slowly & why

The unfortunate but truthful news is that our learner waitlist is not as plentiful as the educator one.

- 1) Off Da Beaten Path Learning has not yet been marketed in ways to reach a wide audience.
- 2) This is an expensive service and therefore not accessible to most. \$100 an hour is a comparable rate for 1-on-1 education and homeschool support. One person described it as “education therapy,” which I think is somewhat apt. 1-on-1 self-directed education is powerful work, and professional support should not be limited to those who have the financial capability.

To address this point of tension, Off Da Beaten Path Learning is on the constant prowl for grants, partnerships, and other forms of funding.

See more below under “Partnership vision board” and “Yass Prize application is in!”

## Educator waitlist grows quickly & why

Fortunately, educators do not have to pay for working with Off Da Beaten Path Learning. Everyone that works with Off Da Beaten Path Learning is paid well. Our educators-in-training, once the first cohort hopefully begins next year, are paid to learn! After their 260-hour training experience and certification, Off Da Beaten Path offers great benefits such as choose-your-own professional development options, educator mentorship, unlimited paid time off, consistent and competitive pay, flexible hours, and more.

We now had initial conversations with **8** educators who are interested in training!

## Partnership vision board

My vision of Off Da Beaten Path Learning includes a plethora of partnerships. We have already worked with a handful of one-time volunteers and contractors. We are in active conversations with local New York institutions to see if we can work together helping young people. My vision for the educator training program is that its certification will receive oversight and evaluation from a third-party higher education institution. I have reached out to a half dozen colleges and universities so far.

Partnerships have benefits worth being explicit about.

- 1) Our impact is stronger the wider our network!
- 2) It's more fun. The more, the merrier.
- 3) It allows blending of ideas and approaches while staying independent and true to our values as an education company.
- 4) How are youth and their families going to find out about alternatives in education unless people are talking about it? Self-directed education and other forms of alternative education need to be options more widely discussed. Because of COVID-19, and everything that came with it, "almost two million students have left a traditional public school." ([The Hill, 2022](#)) Homeschool numbers have skyrocketed as enrollment into school has plummeted. Youth and families deserve to know their options! Partnerships make that more possible.
- 5) Partners may agree to fund the 1-on-1 education of learners who would not otherwise be able to afford Off Da Beaten Path's services.

## Master's complete!

After two and a half years, a wonderful research project by the name of [Undertold NYC](#), and a lot of writing later, I am now: Dominique Paloma Bible, M.A. Ed. I am enormously grateful for all the help and encouragement along the way. I dedicate this degree to Danny Fitzpatrick and my Tia Cecilia.

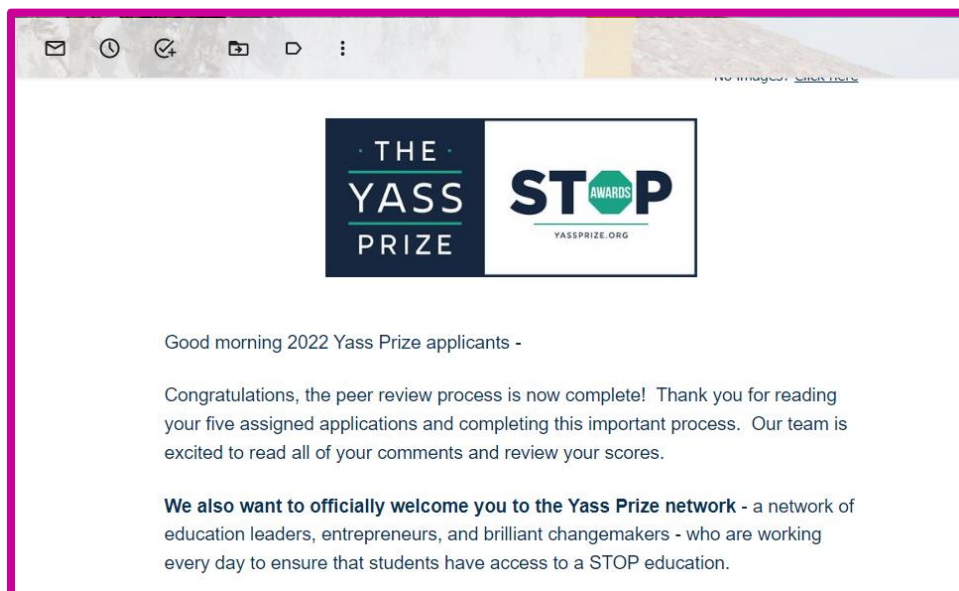
One day in the distant future, I hope to go from GED to Ph.D. [Dr. Carmen Cruz of 1st-gen Scholars](#) recently told me that only 5% of Latinas go on to complete an advanced degree. [Another source](#) reported that there are actually more Latinas in this country with absolutely no formal education than there are Latinas with doctorate degrees.

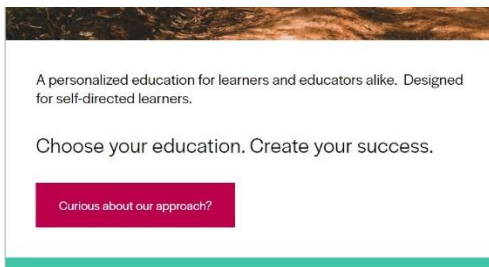
To that I say: Cheers, salud, e tintim to blowing off statistics. 😊 🇧🇷

## Yass Prize application is in!

Back in July, I submitted Off Da Beaten Path Learning's application for the [Yass Prize and STOP Awards](#). STOP is an acronym standing for their principles of the kind of education they are looking to support: Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding, and Permissionless. We believe we stand for all four values and that we put forward a strong application. Now, we wait for the award announcements. \*Fingers very crossed!\*

Off Da Beaten Path Learning is now a part of the Yass Prize network! See photo below. Plus, the application was genuinely fun to write and put together. Thank you to all who gave feedback and support!





A personalized education for learners and educators alike. Designed for self-directed learners.

Choose your education. Create your success.

Curious about our approach?

Find us at  
[offdabeatenpath.com](http://offdabeatenpath.com)

Contact [dom@offdabeatenpath.com](mailto:dom@offdabeatenpath.com) with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Thank you!

Dominique Paloma Bible (she/they)

Founder & Educator, Off Da Beaten Path Learning LLC