

# French Heritage Language Program

Making French an Asset for New Americans



**FA**  
FOUNDATION  
**CE**



A program of the FACE Foundation

Created in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the Internationals Network for Public Schools

The FACE Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

# What is the French Heritage Language Program?

The French Heritage Language Program is an afterschool education program of the FACE (French-American Cultural Exchange) Foundation. Created in 2005, the main goal of the FHLP is to help Francophone immigrants and young Americans with Francophone backgrounds to maintain their linguistic and cultural heritage. For more than 11 years now, it has been dedicated to supporting underserved French-speaking youth, making French an asset in their becoming new Americans.

## How It All Began

In 2005, the president and founder of the program, Jane Ross, who had recently retired from a long career at the Lycée Français de New York, began a collaboration with the French Cultural Services in New York to explore ways to offer French courses to some of the many African and Haitian immigrants who had no access to French courses in New York City.

Walking by the Manhattan International High School where she had been told there were no French speakers, Jane Ross encountered a group of African teenagers chatting about what to do after school... in French! A rapid return to the school and a conversation with the principal convinced all parties to launch the first free French afterschool program in Manhattan.

The Manhattan International High School, as a member of the Internationals Network for Public Schools, became the first of many partner schools that have served over 1500 students over the past 11 years since the creation of the program.

Today, the program is present in 4 of the city's 5 boroughs, and offers workshops in 10 schools within the Internationals Network for Public Schools, in **the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan**. **More than 200 NYC students** now partake in the FHLP activities every year. Moreover, the program's success in New York has led to expanding classes in other states and including **Massachusetts, Maine, Florida and Pennsylvania**.



# Why French in the US?

**Nearly 2 million.** That is the number of people who speak French in the United States today. They come from Europe and Canada, as well as Haiti and Africa.

## Why the French Heritage Language Program?

For many of these French speakers, maintaining this first or second language is often a challenge, especially for new immigrants and disadvantaged families. Because they are focused on English acquisition, the French speaking students tend to lose their French very quickly when they arrive in the US. However, research proves that bolstering a first language accelerates the learning of a second language, like English! The French Heritage Language Program was created to prevent this loss and foster native language use.



*Enrollment in a French heritage language program is a great way for students to stay connected to their language and culture at school. It raises students' awareness of the vast French-speaking community that exists in the US and in the world, and teaches them tolerance and respect for other cultures.*



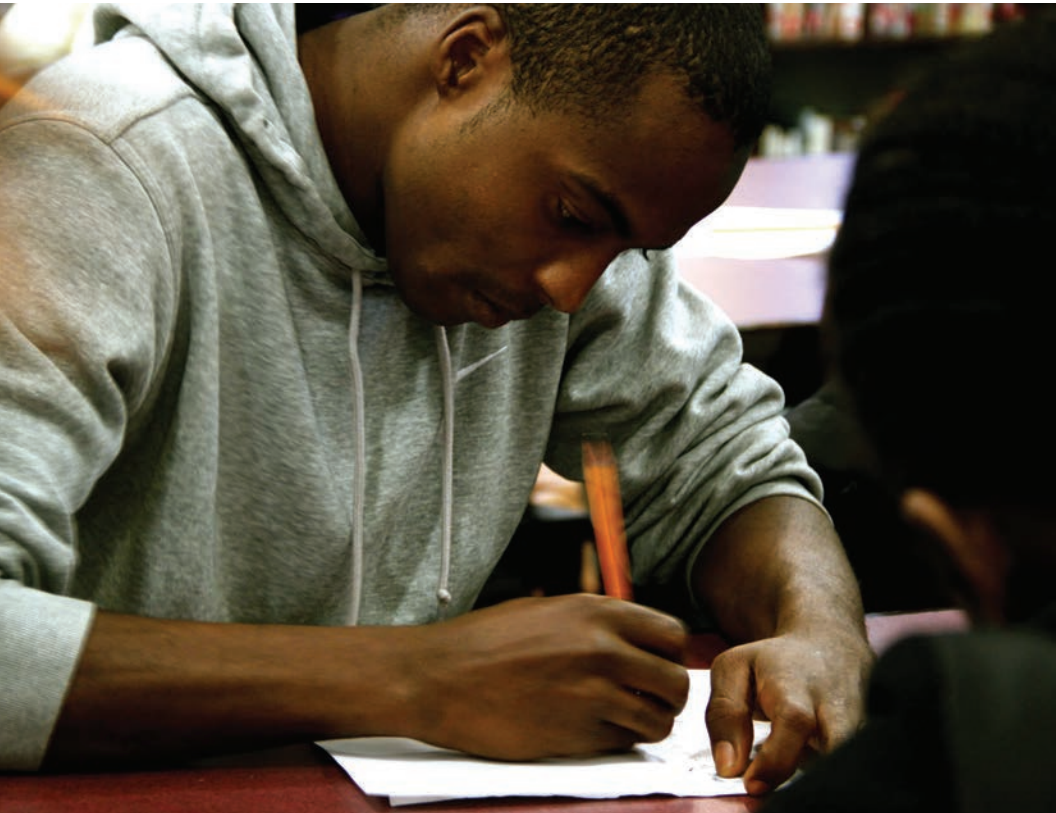
# Our Pedagogy

**We have developed a project-based, differentiated pedagogy adapted to the needs of French Heritage speakers.**

Our afterschool programs allow students to reinforce literacy in their home language, accelerate their acquisition of English, and receive greater overall academic support. We create our own teaching resources, mainly based on cultural and artistic projects, and focusing on African and Haitian content to respect and give value to the students' native cultures. A strong emphasis is also placed on media-awareness, to empower our students with the necessary knowledge to interact with the media-based world in which we live. We also directly contribute to college readiness by offering preparation for official tests like the Advanced Placement exam in French, which paves our students' way to higher education by giving them university credits.

In addition to in-class activities, the creative workshops, fieldtrips, and summer camps that we organize offer unique opportunities for our students to interact with francophone artists and university students, as well as to explore major sites and institutions steeped in the French language. **The FHLP expands Francophone horizons.**

Our teaching resources are available on our website.



# Research and Publications

Ross, J.; Jaumont, F.; Schulz, J.; Ducrey, L.; Dunn, J. “Sustainability of French Heritage Language Education in the United States” in Peter P. Trifonas and Thermistoklis Aravossitas (editors) *International Handbook on Research and Practice in Heritage Language Education*. (Springer, 2017 tbc).

Jaumont, F., Le Devedec, B. & Ross J. “Institutionalization of French Heritage Language Education in U.S. School Systems: the French Heritage Language Program” in Olga Kagan, Maria Carreira, Claire Chik (editors). *Handbook on Heritage Language Education: From Innovation to Program Building*. (Oxford, U.K.: Routledge, in press).

Ross, J. & Jaumont, F. 2014. “French Heritage Language Communities in the United States” in Terrence Wiley, Joy Peyton, Donna Christian, Sarah Catherine Moore, Na Liu. (editors). *Handbook of Heritage and Community Languages in the United States: Research, Educational Practice, and Policy*. (Oxford, U.K.: Routledge).

Ross, J. & Jaumont, F. 2012. “Building Bilingual Communities: New York’s French Bilingual Revolution” in Ofelia García, Zeena Zakharia, and Bahar Otcu, (editors). *Bilingual Community Education and Multilingualism. Beyond Heritage Languages in a Global City*, (Bristol, U.K.: Multilingual Matters); pp.232-246

## Refereed Articles

Jaumont, F. & Ross J. “Les Communautés Francophones aux Etats-Unis” in *Revue Québec Français*. October 2014.

Ross, J. & Jaumont, F. “French Heritage Language Vitality in the United States.” *Heritage Language Journal*. Volume 9. Number 3. Fall 2013.



*The FHLP regularly collaborates with major research centers, such as the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) and the American Council for Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), as well as the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA which has recognized the FHLP as one of the most advanced heritage language programs in the U.S.*

# The program started in New York City ...

Our historical partner in New York City is the Internationals Network for Public Schools. The very first French Heritage Language class was set up within Manhattan International High School, which is part of this network.

## What is the INPS?

The Internationals Network for Public Schools is composed of 22 public high schools supported by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, mainly located in New York City, but also in California, Virginia, and Maryland. It welcomes a population of immigrant English language learners from all over the world. Among them are many French speakers who hail from Africa and Haiti.



*“The vision of the INPS is to ensure that all recent immigrant students who are English language learners have access to a quality high school education that prepares them for college, career and full participation in democratic society, thereby opening doors to the American dream.” —INPS*





# ... And it expanded all over the US!

## A Growing Community of FHLP Students

Beyond the high school programs in New York City, the FHLP is proud to help local community outreach initiatives initiate start or expand French Heritage programs in the US

Thanks to our support, **the Malian Cultural Center of Harlem** has been able to offer free Saturday French classes to underserved children from the Bronx and Harlem.

In **Miami**, on the initiative of the Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance, French-speaking children in **Little Haiti's primary schools** have benefitted from the program's active support since 2010.

In **Maine**, the FHLP has established itself as a steadfast supporter in the area by partnering with **the Franco-Center in Lewiston** and **the cities of Augusta and Portland**. They offer both French classes for children and social clubs for adults where Franco-Americans and African immigrants have developed a strong sense of community over the years.

In and around **Boston**, the FHLP has reached out to second and third generations of Haitian children from local communities, with the help of Harvard University and Boston University.

In 2016, the back-to-school season inaugurated the program's presence in **West Philadelphia**, where it supports children and teenagers of francophone background in local underserved schools in partnership **with the University of Pennsylvania**.



*Today, the FHLP has served more than 4,000 children in grades K-12.*



Maine

Massachusetts

New York

Pennsylvania

Florida

U.S.

**Support the French Heritage Language Program!**

Visit: [www.face-foundation.org/support-us](http://www.face-foundation.org/support-us)

**We thank our partners and generous contributors**

The Alfred and Jane Ross Foundation

The J & AR Foundation

The Florence Gould Foundation

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

The Internationals Network for Public Schools

Lycée Français de New York (LFNY)

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

The National Heritage Language Resource Center (UCLA)

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

Institut français

French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)



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