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Growth in educational enrollments and library circulation were highlights of 2019 at the French Cultural Center. As well, the cultural calendar was rich in unique events – including a visit by a very special guest.

For the second consecutive year, registrations for French language lessons exceeded expectations in both the children’s and adult programs. Teenagers signed up in the greatest number ever for the Summer in French session.

The Accent on Success language learning program welcomed two new groups of enthusiastic students from Boston high schools for year-long, tuition-free French language studies.

People often say that reading is on the decline; the experience of the Center’s library indicates otherwise. Circulation grew for the second consecutive year, as did the library collection. The library also began to reorganize to create “le Salon,” a room devoted to discussions, film screenings and other activities conducted exclusively in French.

During the year, the library hosted talks by two best-selling writers: French author Leïla Slimani and former New York Times Paris correspondent Elaine Sciolino.

Cultural offerings included a popular series of talks and exhibitions on French innovation in medicine, couture and aerospace. Five wine tastings and four gastronomy programs, including a healthy cooking workshop, were big hits.

The “very special guest” was indeed notable. Organized in partnership with the Center’s friends at the French Consulate of Boston, the sold-out “café avec le Président Hollande” brought together members of the Center and the French expat community to share views and ideas with the gracious former French chief of state.

Fundraising activities were solid and notable. They included an exclusive dinner with opera star Renée Fleming and the annual Tour de France Viticole Wine Dinner with wines generously donated by Maison Joseph Drouhin.

With eyes toward the future, and after several years of planning and fundraising, the Center launched a program to renovate its buildings at 53 Marlborough Street and 300 Berkeley Street. The completion of Phase I in December 2019 saw the opening of two new classrooms: one for group lessons and one for semi-private lessons. The project included installation of a wheelchair lift at the Berkeley Street entrance, making the Center accessible for the first time to people with limited mobility.

Stay tuned for Phase II of the renovation. It will render the French Cultural Center capable of even greater things!

All of this progress is due to the participation of the Center’s members, students and supporters. To each of you, we are eternally grateful.
2019 IN NUMBERS

- 2,250 French course registrations
- 70 different French courses
- 22 native Francophone instructors
- 3,643 Library Visits
- 15 high school students from various Boston public schools enrolled in “Accent on Success” program
- 33,323 French books, documents, CDs and DVDs in our library
- 2,350 hours of private French Lessons
- 6,198 Facebook followers
- 1,377 Twitter followers
- 1,077 Instagram followers
- 12,124 e-newsletter subscribers
- 109,194 website visitors
- 409 Summer in French Registrations
- 1,450 memberships
- 375 volunteers
- 1,268 Bastille Day party goers
- 59 Cultural events with more than 4,560 attendees
2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
MEMBERSHIP

2019 was a great year to be a member of the French Cultural Center! Our member programs and initiatives were all designed with the goal of providing rich and varied cultural and educational experiences for our community of Francophones and Francophiles to grow and connect.

Starting in January 2019, we offered monthly conversation groups in our library, monthly members-only educational workshops, and a variety of social events, including yoga *en français*, paint night, Family Fun Fair, and French dessert night. Later in the year we launched our first-ever Travel Club for members to share their travel experiences and discoveries. We even brought the Center outside Marlborough Street! At the Canopy Room in Somerville’s Bow Market we hosted a lively conversation event complete with chocolates from Bow Market retailer gâté comme des filles.

Over the year our membership base grew to over 1450 memberships by offering these programs on top of our established cultural events and education classes. The year ended on a high note with our member Christmas party—which sold out in under 24 hours!—in early December complete with treats and libations, a festive raffle, and a sing-a-long with live piano. A wonderful way to end a fabulous year!

EDUCATION PROGRAM

2019 was another positive year for the Education Department as far as registration numbers and revenues are concerned. We continued to increase registrations and broke a record for the Summer in French program.

We had a total of 1898 in group class registrations which represents an increase of 500 registrations compared to five years ago. We had another fantastic summer in French program with 409 registrations and reached maximum capacity for many weeks especially in the 6-12-year-old sections. In addition, we attracted 77 teens— which is also the highest number ever.

We continue to be a vibrant exam center: 199 candidates for the DELF and TEF exams. Private lessons were high in demand. Our Un Mois Un Livre series led by our teachers attracted 71 literature lovers.

The Accent on Success program has been doing well since its new format started in September 2018. We had two cohorts for a total of fifteen high school students from various Boston public schools who came to the Center once a week for a 1h30 class. Attendance and students’ involvement were great. Students from cohort 1 successfully passed the DELF exams in June! Students come from the following schools: Boston Latin Academy (majority), Cathedral High School and Boston Latin School.
2019 was the first year we kept a careful tally of visits to our library with over 3,600 visits!

The Library currently has 33,323 materials and these materials were checked out 22,634 times throughout 2019.

Our users continue to be engaged with our materials and in-person events, and are showing an increasing interest in online offerings. Through our blog articles, the library expands upon our collection digitally by curating available resources. The blog received 21,386 page views throughout 2019, with the most popular post about TEDTalks in French being viewed 9,094 times after being shared widely within and outside of our Alliance Française network. About a quarter of our viewership comes from the Boston and Cambridge communities, meaning that the blog serves as a resource for a more widespread audience. We hope to continue cementing the Center as an authority within the Francophone and Francophile communities going forward.

In 2019, the Library and Cultural teams worked together to host high-quality author talks. In February, we welcomed bestselling and Goncourt-winning author Leïla Slimani to the Center’s sold out ballroom in celebration of the American launch of her novel Adèle. In October, we participated in the Boston Book Festival for the sixth year, welcoming Vanessa Léger, Suzan Payne, and Stéphane Gerson. In November, Elaine Sciolino, former Paris bureau chief of the New York Times, brought her book tour for The Seine: The River that Made Paris to Boston for a sold-out evening of discussion and book signing.

With the continuing success of our author talks, the Center will be able to leverage our reputation for even more popular authors and events to come.
CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Food and Wine

Wine tasting and gastronomy events are an important, very popular part of our programming.

This year we proposed our first wine tasting and cooking class en français; both were sold out.

These events attract members as well as new attendees.

French Innovation Series

France can lay claim to a significant number of world-changing inventions and innovations, from the Montgolfier brothers’ hot air balloon and the Concorde’s sonic boom, to pioneering the fashion industry, live surgeries, and 3D printed aneurysms. Panelists featured Spike Aerospace Arianespace, Airbus Americas, MIT, Harvard University, Quadrature, and Stoke Therapeutics.

This series was a partnership between the Center, the Consulat Général de France à Boston, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, and the Office for Science and Technology of the French Embassy.

Café avec le Président

The Center, the Consulat Général de France à Boston and the French American Chamber of Commerce New England received former Président de la République Française, François Hollande. Mr. Holland discussed his foundation, La France s’engage. Fifty people including students and Center’s guests were invited to share this exceptional moment.
**FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**Mosaïque Award Ceremony**

*March 19, 2019*

Eighty guests enjoyed an intimate dinner and conversation with renowned opera and Broadway star Renée Fleming. The conversation was moderated by Mark Volpe, Eunice and Julian Cohen President and Chief Executive Officer, Boston Symphony Orchestra. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at the esteemed Somerset Club raised over $55,000 for the Center and its Mosaïque Cultural Fund.

**Le Tour de France Viticole Wine Dinner**

*November 25, 2019*

Le Tour de France Viticole wine dinner is the principal fundraiser for the Center and our Accent on Success French language instruction program. In its thirteenth year now, our wine dinner for 100 guests is one of Boston’s finest wine events, featuring stellar wines, exceptional vintages and world-renowned vintners.

The committee and the guests who attend share a dedication to the mission of the French Cultural Center, as well as a profound appreciation for the fine wines of France. Held at the Chilton Club in Boston, the 2019 wine dinner featured outstanding wines from maison Joseph Drouhin, which were presented by guest of honor Laurant J. Drouhin, Propriétaire & Export Director, North America.
Bastille Day

July 12, 2019

Our 44th annual Bastille Day block party welcomed 1,268 people, brave enough to face the rain and celebrate Franco-American friendship, cultural diversity in New England and the pillars of the French republic: Liberté, Egalité, and Fraternité.

One of the largest Bastille Day events in the United States, this was a party in true French style, complete with music, dancing, children’s activities, drinks and food from some of New England’s best French restaurants.

The VIP reception welcomed 169 members of our sponsor and donor community, including many of Boston’s art and culture, business, government and philanthropic leaders. Un grand merci to our corporate sponsors, Delta Airlines, Montpellier Office de tourisme & des congrès, Natixis, and Ropes & Gray LLP, for their indispensable support of our signature community event.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSORS
LEADERSHIP GIVING

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the French Cultural Center maintains its high standard of education and cultural programming thanks to the generosity of many individuals, corporations and organizations.

The Georges F. and Edna A. Doriot Society

Named for the husband-wife team who chaired the Board of Trustees of the French Cultural Center from 1966 to 1987, and who each were awarded the Légion d’Honneur by the French Government, the Georges F. and Edna A. Doriot Society recognizes our extraordinary benefactors whose lifetime giving to the Center exceeds $100,000. We gratefully acknowledge the following Center supporters as part of this society:

$1,000,000 and above
Beaucourt Foundation
Rowe Foundation
Katharine Lane Weems Trust
Anonymous (1)

$100,000 - $999,999
Vernon and Marion Alden
Zeina and Joseph E. Aoun
William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation
Cabot Corporation
Brad and Tracy Curley
Barbara (Suki) and Miguel de Bragança
Jean-François and Nathalie Ducrest
Grace and Ted Fey
Steven Galante and Leanne Cowley
Natixis Investment Managers
Nicolas Massard and Emily McComb
Brigitte and Gérard Moufflet
Ken and Aulikiki Olsen†
Evelyne Poillot
Lia and William Poorvu
Jeffrey Plunkett and Catheline van den Branden
Patrick and Ute Prévost
Dorothy Rowe†
Stephen and Isabelle Roy
Sequana Capital
Pierre and Mary Ann Sorel
Jim and Cathy Stone
Janet L. Testa
Jean-Paul and Rebecca Valette
Arnaud de Vitry†
Peter and Pamela Voss
Eric and Sarah Ward
Annual Fund: Leadership Giving Circles

Unrestricted gifts to the Center’s Annual Fund provide critical operating support, help ensure financial stability for our organization and grant flexibility to our staff to seize innovative programming opportunities that foster institutional growth. Our Leadership Giving Circles recognize our donors who contribute $1,000 or more to our Annual Fund.

George Sand Circle
$25,000 and above
Beaucourt Foundation
Rowe Foundation

Claude Debussy Circle
$10,000 - $24,999
Zeina and Joseph E. Aoun
Barbara (Suki) and Miguel de Bragança
Robert Cornell and Stephen Mormoris
Delta Airlines
Jean-François and Nathalie Ducrest
Steven Galante and Leanne Cowley
Hilary and Geoffrey Grove
Alyssa LeBel and Edward Kaye
Nicolas Massard and Emily McComb
Montpellier Office de tourisme & des congrès
Brigitte and Gérard Moufflet
Lia and William Poorvu
Patrick and Ute Prévost
Ropes & Gray, LLP
Hervé Sedky
Pierre and Mary Ann Sorel
Jim and Cathy Stone
TV5MONDE
Eric and Sarah Ward
Vincent and Susan Zelenko

Alexandre Dumas Circle
$5,000 - $9,999
Karen and Thomas Allen
Jean-Luc Boulnois
Natixis Investment Managers
Plimpton-Shattuck Fund
Bud and Michelle Stacy

Le Marquis de La Fayette Circle
$1,000 - $2,499
Apple Lane Foundation
Karl and Constance Brommer
France Today
Robert P. Fichter
Brian Hasbrouk
Herbert and Leila Hooper
Christine Kondoleon and Frederick Whittman
Anne Lovett and Steve Woodsum
Christopher and Sally Lutz
Marcum, LLP
Mass Mutual
David and Joanna Nikka
William and Leslie Patton
Sea-Dar Construction
The Shane Foundation
Stern & McCafferty
Jean-Paul and Rebecca Valette
The Van Eman Family
Alvin and Judy Warren
The French Cultural Center continued to maintain its operating deficit to below $25,000 in 2019. The success of our Educational Programs and the generous support of our Fundraising activities were instrumental to our financial results.

In addition to the operating results shown above, the Center also secured contributions to the Building Renovation Fund in the amount of $1,063,000 as well as contributions to the Mosaïque Fund for benefit of future Cultural Events by over $30,000.

The Center’s endowment was valued at $16,650,300 as of December 31, 2019, an increase of 10% from 2018.

**FY 2019 Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from operations</td>
<td>$1,085,459</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising events</td>
<td>$373,730</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$434,767</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$89,431</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment allocation</td>
<td>$563,378</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>$2,546,765</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Includes tuition, book sales, translation services, cultural event tickets, facility rentals and proficiency exam fees

** Represents the endowment funds approved by the Board of Trustees to support annual operations

**FY 2019 Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational programs</td>
<td>$954,223</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library programs</td>
<td>$172,375</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural programs</td>
<td>$185,917</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administration</td>
<td>$525,236</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising events</td>
<td>$256,501</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$196,803</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities and technology</td>
<td>$276,725</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2,567,780</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Net income (deficit) ($21,015)
## MANAGEMENT TEAM AND TRUSTEES OF THE FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER

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<tr>
<th>Management Team</th>
<th>Board of Trustees</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Director</strong></td>
<td>Steven Galante, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Bouquegneau</td>
<td>Zeina Aoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Financial Officer</strong></td>
<td>Jean-Luc Boulnois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Richard</td>
<td>Barbara (Suki) de Bragança</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Director of Education</strong></td>
<td>Robert Cornell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisabeth Karnoub</td>
<td>Gonzague de Montrichard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Director of Development</strong></td>
<td>Catharine-Mary Donovan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Grippen</td>
<td>Jean-François Ducrest</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Librarian</strong></td>
<td>Hilary Grove</td>
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<td>Ingrid Marquardt</td>
<td>Alyssa LeBel</td>
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<td>Nicolas Massard</td>
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<td>Eric N. Ward</td>
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<td>Vincent Zelenko</td>
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**Honorary Trustees**
- Alain Briottet
- Jordan Golding
- Gérard Moufflet

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Except where noted, photographs are property of the French Cultural Center.
Merci !

For more information, please contact:

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