



Final— For immediate release

## **New Initiative Seeks to Engage Roxbury and North Dorchester Residents with the Waterfront**

*Focus groups, free activities to promote broader community access to Harbor spaces, resources, planning*

Boston, MA (January 24, 2018)— A new project, “Waterways,” seeks to connect more Roxbury and North Dorchester residents to the Boston Harbor while amplifying community voices in decision-making around the future of Boston’s waterfront. The year-long initiative, which kicked off this month, is being led by a partnership between The American City Coalition (TACC), Kelley Chunn & Associates, and Denterlein, and is supported by a grant from the Barr Foundation as part of its cross-neighborhood [Waterfront Initiative](#).

In recent years, following a multi-billion-dollar public investment in cleaning up the Harbor, a network of civic and nonprofit organizations has made strides in increasing public access to the open spaces, cultural institutions, and economic resources of the waterfront. However, gaps still exist in neighborhoods with less proximate access to the Harbor – including in key policy discussions related to Harbor resiliency, transportation, and development that will have ramifications for the larger region. The Waterways initiative aims to identify barriers to access and catalyze sustained engagement so that more Roxbury and North Dorchester residents are invested in and feel connected to the waterfront.

“The Harbor is a precious regional asset that belongs to everyone, and while strong efforts are being made to engage more neighborhoods with the waterfront, we know there is more we can do to build upon and amplify that work,” said Christine Araujo, Executive Director of TACC. “In partnership with the community, we hope to increase our understanding of what a ‘waterfront for all’ means to families in Roxbury and North Dorchester, then take steps to bring that vision forward.”

The initiative will focus its efforts on partnering with residents and families from multiple local public and subsidized housing communities. It will be comprised of a series of activities designed to listen to participants, identify barriers to waterfront access, and put in place a framework to promote sustained engagement in the waterfront over time. These activities will include focus groups and surveys, capped off with the development of a set of participant interests and priorities for the waterfront to guide engagement into the future.

In addition, this summer, Waterways will offer four free family activity days in Roxbury and North Dorchester and on the waterfront. Co-designed with residents, these activities seek to share existing cultural and recreational resources, inform new programming, and inspire interest in the waterfront. For more information on how to participate, please call 857.308.3012 or email [waterways@tamcc.org](mailto:waterways@tamcc.org).

“For Boston Harbor to reach its full potential, it needs to be a space that reflects the full range of Boston’s residents and welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities,” said Barr’s president and trustee, Jim Canales. “Only by working across traditional neighborhood boundaries – taking the lead from local communities as the Waterways initiative will do – can we create a vision for the waterfront that benefits all of Boston’s residents.”

### **About The American City Coalition**

The American City Coalition (TACC) is a Roxbury-based 501 (c)(3) organization grounded in an inclusive, comprehensive, and collaborative approach to neighborhood revitalization. TACC provides technical support and assistance to advance multi-sector and multi-stakeholder partnerships that focus public and private investment to improve the quality of life for low-income families. For more information, visit [tamcc.org](http://tamcc.org).

### **About the Barr Foundation**

The Barr Foundation’s mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets of \$1.7 billion, and has contributed more than \$837 million to charitable causes. For more information, visit [barrfoundation.org](http://barrfoundation.org) or follow @BarrFdn on Twitter and Facebook.

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