

**A Message from Christine Araujo
Executive Director**



Connecting People to Place. The Roxbury Cultural District (RCD) is emblematic of this phrase. In 2015, partnering with Haley House and Madison Park Development Corporation, TACC helped to restart a long-standing community conversation about establishing a cultural district to serve as the backbone organizational structure for a sustained focus on arts and culture in Roxbury. The May 18, 2017 designation by the Massachusetts Cultural Council was the outcome of this effort.

TACC has incubated the nascent RCD with pro bono staff support. With artists, businesses and other alliances, TACC ran a series of focus groups to discuss both the intersection between businesses and artists, and the needs of both to ensure a strong, supportive, welcoming and lively Dudley Square environment. On a parallel path the administrative structure was developed through an inaugural Board of Directors and application for an IRS non-profit status.

The first anniversary celebration occurred on May 18 and 19 and included both a fundraising event and a community celebration. Local artists, the business community, residents and community nonprofits worked to make both events a resounding success. The RCD's vision is to recognize the Dudley Square area as a destination for Boston residents and tourists where art, culture, history, entrepreneurship and commercial activity all converge. In my conversation with artists and businesses, this vision clearly resonated with those involved in this strong community collaboration.

The historic Upham's Corner Comfort Station at 611 Columbia Road also connects people to place. Since the city issued a Request for Proposals to dispose of the building in 2014, TACC has been involved by surveying residents about local needs; identifying a proprietor for the space; funding the renderings to help envision what the refurbished space would look like; and helping raise funds for the project.

TACC is excited to report that we have successfully completed a crowd funding campaign through MassDevelopment's Commonwealth Places. Look for future updates.

More details on both projects are in the newsletter.

Warm Regards,
Christine

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OPEN HOUSE 2018

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Connecting People to Place: An Update

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD: WATERWAYS INITIATIVE

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 Boston's waterfront. Funded by a grant from the Barr Foundation, TACC is partnering with Denterlein and Kelley Chunn & Associates to engage residents and families from multiple local public and subsidized housing communities through 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.

This spring, Waterways hosted a series of focus groups for residents, local stakeholders and downtown stakeholders to learn more about past experience, barriers and levels of interest in accessing the waterfront for employment, recreation and culture. Over the summer, Waterways will offer four free family activity days in Roxbury and North Dorchester and on the waterfront. Co-designed with residents, these activities will share existing cultural and recreational resources, inform new programming, and inspire interest in the waterfront.

This initiative occurs against the backdrop of the multi-billion-dollar public investment in cleaning up the Harbor where 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. Waterways responds to the gaps that exist in neighborhoods with less proximate access to the Harbor - including in key policy discussions related to Harbor resiliency, transportation and development.

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD: UNITED NEIGHBORS OF LOWER ROXBURY

Over the past few years, TACC has been working with the United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury (UNLR) to assist them with regaining their nonprofit status as a neighborhood-based membership organization. UNLR owns a 4,020 sq. ft. parcel at 90 Windsor Street in Lower Roxbury. With the assistance of MASS Design Group UNLR has architectural pre-design renderings for a proposed mixed-use housing development at the site.



90 Windsor Street, current building



90 Windsor Street, rendering

Connecting People to Place: An Update

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

In May, the Roxbury Cultural District (RCD) launched, with an inaugural fundraising gala and community celebration. The fundraising event was held at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building on Friday, May 18 with proclamations from Representative Byron Rushing, Mayor Martin Walsh and District City Councilor Kim Janey. Guests were welcomed in the lobby by Roxbury's youth orchestra, City Strings United, listened to jazz by the Donna McElroy Quartet and danced to Lawrence Watson and the Workforce!

The community celebration on May 19 included performances by the Paige Academy Drummers, the Ron Murphy Quartet, the Myrish Spelling Quartet, the Lance Martin Trio, Drummers of Peace and Jorge Arce. The RCD's next steps are to continue to fundraise to hire a part-time staff person who, with TACC's support, will develop and sustain programming to strengthen and grow the RCD.



A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: COMFORT STATION

The historic Comfort Station (1912) has been vacant for over 40 years in the heart of Dorchester's Upham's Corner neighborhood: a rest stop along a formerly busy streetcar line with an important transportation-related history. In July, HBI, a local nonprofit that invests in historic buildings will begin structural renovations.

The anticipated use of the space is for *The Sip & Spoke Bike Kitchen*, an affordable bike shop and café, which responds to the need for an enhanced public realm by increasing access to walkable and bikeable green spaces both along the expanded Emerald Necklace on Columbia Road and the abutting North Dorchester Burying Ground (1633), Dorchester's earliest remaining landmark.

In June, TACC launched a \$50,000 crowdfunding campaign with a match up to \$50,000 from MassDevelopment's Commonwealth Places grant program. TACC is happy to announce that the goal has been met and that all funds will be used for the interior rehabilitation.



TACC's Open House: June 20th

Once again, our office at 2136 Washington Street was alive with neighborhood residents, business owners, artists and friends who joined us to learn more about TACC's initiatives. Thank you to all of you who joined us!



Noah De Amor and Bill Walczak



Nina LaNegra and Lana Jackson



Kelley Chunn and Joyce Stanley



Charlayne Murrell-Smith and Anthony Pisani



Donald Wright and Charlotte Rice



Katrina Shaw, Christine Araujo, and Mia Roberts

