

**A Message from Christine Araujo  
Executive Director**



Connecting People to Place. It's a simple phrase, but one that motivates TACC's staff to ensure the strongest outcomes both for Roxbury and its residents in our work with community-based organizations, businesses, and regulatory agencies. Settled in our office in Dudley Square, across from the Haley House Bakery Cafe, TACC is more deeply involved in collaborating on many

Roxbury initiatives. There is much to share. Three of TACC's longstanding projects recently reached major milestones. On May 18, residents, artists, business owners, and elected officials accomplished a long-held aspiration: to establish a cultural district in Roxbury. We hope you will join the Roxbury Cultural District for a community celebration to mark the launch of the district at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building this fall. Next, the Boston Housing Authority was awarded a \$30 million federal Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant to redevelop the Whittier Street housing development. Additionally, TACC's work on the Fairmount Indigo Corridor culminated in the fall with the release of the *Fairmount Indigo Corridor Business Job Attraction and Retention Strategy* with our partners at Local Initiative Support Corporation Boston and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City at a convening of over 150 stakeholders.

TACC is proud to welcome Bill Walczak, President and CEO of the South End Community Health Center, to the Board of Directors. We value Bill's years of experience in the community as we advance TACC's economic development and asset building goals.

Our Open House on June 20 was a success thanks to many of you who joined us to hear from TACC's founder Joseph E. Corcoran and to acknowledge the tremendous accomplishments of the past year. We count on hearing from you about ideas for initiatives where TACC can provide thoughtful technical assistance to advance the economic well-being of both Roxbury residents and businesses.

Warm Regards,  
Christine

**IN THIS ISSUE**

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR  
RESIDENTS AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD:  
WHITTIER CHOICE

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN  
ECONOMIC COLLABORATION:  
ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

JOB ATTRACTION AND  
RETENTION STRATEGY:  
FAIRMOUNT INDIGO  
CORRIDOR

STAFF TRANSITIONS AND JOB  
OPENINGS AT TACC

OPEN HOUSE

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jack Connors

Joseph E. Corcoran

Dharshi Dupee

Heidi Glunz

Rickie Golden

John Mostyn

Bill Walczak

# Connecting People to Place: An Update on TACC's Work

## LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD: WHITTIER CHOICE

On December 12, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) received a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the Whittier Choice Neighborhoods Initiative in Roxbury. These federal funds will leverage \$260 million in public and private investments to redevelop Whittier Street housing development, and related investments in neighborhood-focused projects and resident-focused programs.

Since 2012, TACC has worked closely with the BHA, providing a broad range of technical assistance that strengthened the application by aligning it closely with local opportunities and needs. During the planning phase, TACC conducted a resident needs assessment of workforce development and upward mobility, provided neighborhood data collection and mapping, and helped facilitate the community engagement process. For the successful application, TACC identified local initiatives and partnerships for both the neighborhood strategy and resident-focused programs that aligned with city and federal funding priorities.

Over the five-year grant, TACC will help implement three components of the initiative: a state-designated cultural district and related investments in anchor cultural facilities and connectivity; a small business plan to support subsidized retail and coworking spaces as well as increased access to loans and credit enhancement; and housing mobility services to expand residential choice for households that will need to relocate when Whittier is redeveloped. Visit TACC's website to learn more about the organization's multifaceted role in Whittier Choice.

## A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

On May 18, the Roxbury Cultural District received formal designation from the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Establishing a cultural district has been a long-standing community goal, and the designation is the accomplishment of the work of many residents, artists, business owners, elected officials, and cultural organizations over the past three decades. Next steps include developing the organizational structure for a sustained, collaborative focus on activating and marketing the neighborhood's arts and cultural assets to strengthen collective impact and expand the potential economic opportunities for residents, artists, business owners, and entrepreneurs that are aligned with a vibrant cultural district.

In 2015, TACC partnered with Haley House and Madison Park Development Corporation to provide technical assistance and secure funding to support an inclusive, community-led planning process. The Roxbury Cultural District is now supported by over 40 organizations and businesses, as well as many individual residents and artists. The link between this initiative and aligned funding for key infrastructure investments to strengthen anchor cultural institutions and connectivity was integrated into the Whittier Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which maximizes the positive impact in the community. Keep up to date on the Roxbury Cultural District through Facebook or at [roxburyculturaldistrict.org](http://roxburyculturaldistrict.org).

## LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS JOB ATTRACTION AND RETENTION STRATEGY: FAIRMOUNT INDIGO CORRIDOR

TACC, LISC Boston, and ICIC, in coordination with a working group comprised of community stakeholders and businesses, developed a series of place-based recommendations for the Fairmount Indigo Corridor. In October, over 150 stakeholders gathered at the Bank of America building to hear about the recommendations outlined in the Fairmount Indigo Corridor Job Attraction and Retention Strategy. Chief of Economic Development John Barros and Senator Linda Dorcea Forry shared their remarks on the relevance of the strategy for the City of Boston and Commonwealth. A panel of local business owners and stakeholders discussed specific opportunities and needs in the corridor.

The recommendations aim to support business attraction and retention along the corridor, strengthen and expand its key commercial and industrial clusters, and create additional jobs for the residents of Boston who need them most. These recommendations are reflective of a broader call to action for sustained consideration of how the outreach, focus, and tools needed to attract and retain businesses in Boston can be realistically and holistically applied to diverse and emerging industries within the Fairmount Indigo Corridor. Visit TACC's website to learn more and download the strategy.

## STAFF TRANSITIONS AND JOB OPENINGS

In March 2017, Christine Araujo joined TACC as Executive Director, bringing many years of community development, land use planning, and social services experience. Before joining TACC, she held leadership positions at Action for Boston Community Development, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Boston Planning and Development Agency. From 2001 to 2004, Christine served as Executive Director of Boston Connects Inc., where she was responsible for implementing the economic and human development goals of Boston's federal Empowerment Zone. A product of this investment, Crosstown Development Phase I, has spurred increased economic opportunity in Lower Roxbury.

Zachary Nieder left his position as Senior Associate for Economic Development and Public Health in June 2017. Zach joined TACC in July 2014 as an Economic Development Fellow and later took on the role of Senior Associate, bringing his strong analytical skills to a range of economic development partnerships in Roxbury, Newmarket, and the Fairmount Indigo Corridor. As TACC's lead, Zach spearheaded the Fairmount Indigo Corridor Business and Job Attraction and Retention Strategy. His thoughtful approach made him a valuable member of the TACC team and we wish him well as Manager of Advisory Services at ICIC.

TACC is seeking a Senior Associate for Economic Development to focus on new and ongoing economic development, community planning, and mixed-use, mixed-income real estate development projects in Roxbury. Please review the job description and share with anyone who might be interested in the position.



## STAFF DIRECTORY

### **Christine Araujo**

Executive Director  
christine\_araujo@tamcc.org

### **Alexandra Curley**

Senior Associate, Research and Social Services Strategy  
alex\_curley@tamcc.org

### **Charlotte Rice**

Senior Associate, Partnerships and Development  
charlotte\_rice@tamcc.org

### **Carole Walton**

Associate, Community Development  
carole\_walton@tamcc.org

### **Erin O'Connell**

Associate, Administration  
erin\_oconnell@tamcc.org

### **Shameeka Brown**

Community Assessment and Housing Mobility Specialist  
shameeka\_brown@tamcc.org

### **Lautaro Cantar**

Urban Data Analytics Fellow  
lautaro\_cantar@tamcc.org



2136 Washington Street | Roxbury, MA 02119

857.308.3015 | [contact@tamcc.org](mailto:contact@tamcc.org)

© Copyright 2017 The American City Coalition



## OPEN HOUSE

2136 Washington Street was abuzz with lively conversation on June 20. Thank you to our many supporters who joined us. Below are a few images from the event: Joseph E. Corcoran, Founder, addressing our visitors; Mia Roberts, Big Association of Greater Boston, and Nina LaNegra, United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury, speaking with TACC's Carole Walton; and Kathy Kottaridis, Historic Boston Incorporated, catching up with colleagues and former TACC staff. Visit TACC's website to see more images from the Open House.



2136 Washington Street | Roxbury, MA 02119

857.308.3015 | [contact@tamcc.org](mailto:contact@tamcc.org)

© Copyright 2017 The American City Coalition