

A Message from Christine Araujo Executive Director



Connecting People to Place. The holidays are around the corner, and I am reminded of the multiplier effect of purchasing gifts from local independent businesses. Did you know that on average less than 14% of each purchase at a chain store is recirculated in the local economy, compared to almost 50% percent of each purchase made at a local independent business? This multiplier effect occurs because local business owners purchase goods and services from other local businesses and employ workers at decent wages. Small local businesses are the largest

employers and create two out of every three new jobs.

At a recent TACC Board of Directors meeting, Bill Walczak recounted his own success in finding a variety of gifts at small businesses for those on his list last year. Perhaps this year, many of us can commit to purchasing a portion of our holiday shopping needs at some of the local businesses in Dudley Square and Roxbury. To assist, TACC created a shop local map that identifies locally owned retail businesses and services in Dudley Square.

TACC's focus over the next few months will be to assist with increasing the visibility of the Roxbury Cultural District and to support the efforts of Dudley Square Main Streets. With tremendous support and input from the residents, artists, business owners, and elected officials, the cultural district was approved by the Commonwealth in May 2017. A community celebration to mark this milestone is anticipated in the spring. This synergy between arts and culture and local business holds promise to increase the foot traffic and promote increased economic development in the neighborhood and in Dudley Square.

I have a number of recent updates to share. TACC welcomes Charlayne Murrell-Smith to TACC's Board and thanks her for her expertise that has already strengthened our community initiatives. Learn more about her in the profile in this newsletter.

Additionally, TACC has been fortunate to provide fee for service consulting to the Boston Housing Authority, Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The reports will be publicly available on our website in early 2018. TACC is also appreciative of the pro bono services offered by Sasaki Associates and Goulston and Storrs to our neighborhood non-profits.

TACC has had a busy year working with non-profits, City of Boston government, businesses, and institutions to help advance an economic development agenda in Roxbury. I am thankful for the support of our founder, Joseph E. Corcoran, and TACC's dedicated team that shepherds our partnerships and initiatives.

Warm Regards,
Christine

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NEW BOARD MEMBER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Connors

Joseph E. Corcoran

Dharshi Dupee

Heidi Glunz

Rickie Golden

John Mostyn

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LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD: WHITTIER CHOICE

The Boston Housing Authority received a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development in December 2016 to support the Whittier Choice Neighborhood Initiative in Roxbury. Leveraging \$260 million in public and private investment, these funds will result in the redevelopment of the Whittier Street housing community and related investments in neighborhood-focused projects and resident-focused programs.

TACC staff participate in the project working group and are supporting the implementation of three components of the initiative: 1) Roxbury Cultural District and related investments in anchor cultural facilities and connectivity; 2) Small business plan to support subsidized retail and coworking spaces; and 3) Housing mobility services to expand residential choice for households that need to relocate during the Whittier relocation process.

Site construction is scheduled to begin in February 2018. TACC has developed new tools and materials to assist families in exploring their relocation options and making the best relocation decision. TACC is actively working with the relocation team and families to help identify high-opportunity neighborhoods that match their families' needs and find housing units within those communities.

The Whittier Street public housing community includes 200 households with 227 adult residents and 94 children. With Phase I completed, 66 families have relocated to other public housing units or private market housing using a housing choice voucher; during Phase II, 38 families will need to relocate by June 2018.

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: ROXBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

In May 2017, the Roxbury Cultural District (RCD) received formal designation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as the third cultural district in Boston.

The RCD's mission is to recognize Roxbury's cultural assets and establish the tools, strategies, resources, and spaces that elevate Roxbury as a living repository of arts and cultural expression--past, present, and future. The RCD is developing the backbone organizational structure needed for a sustained, collaborative focus on activating and marketing the neighborhood's arts and cultural assets in order to build physical and social connectivity between people and place, strengthen collective impact, and expand the economic opportunities for residents, artists, business owners, entrepreneurs.

Synergy between the cultural and business communities is an essential ingredient in strengthening economic development. In conjunction with Dudley Square Main Streets, TACC facilitated three focus groups with business owners and artists to understand concerns and solicit ideas for collaboration; a fourth group focused on public spaces. Sasaki Associates is supporting the shared goals of the RCD, Dudley Square Main Streets, and Whittier Choice by providing pro bono services to develop a public realm plan with strategies to activate and connect public spaces.

Learn more about the RCD at roxburyculturaldistrict.org and on Facebook.

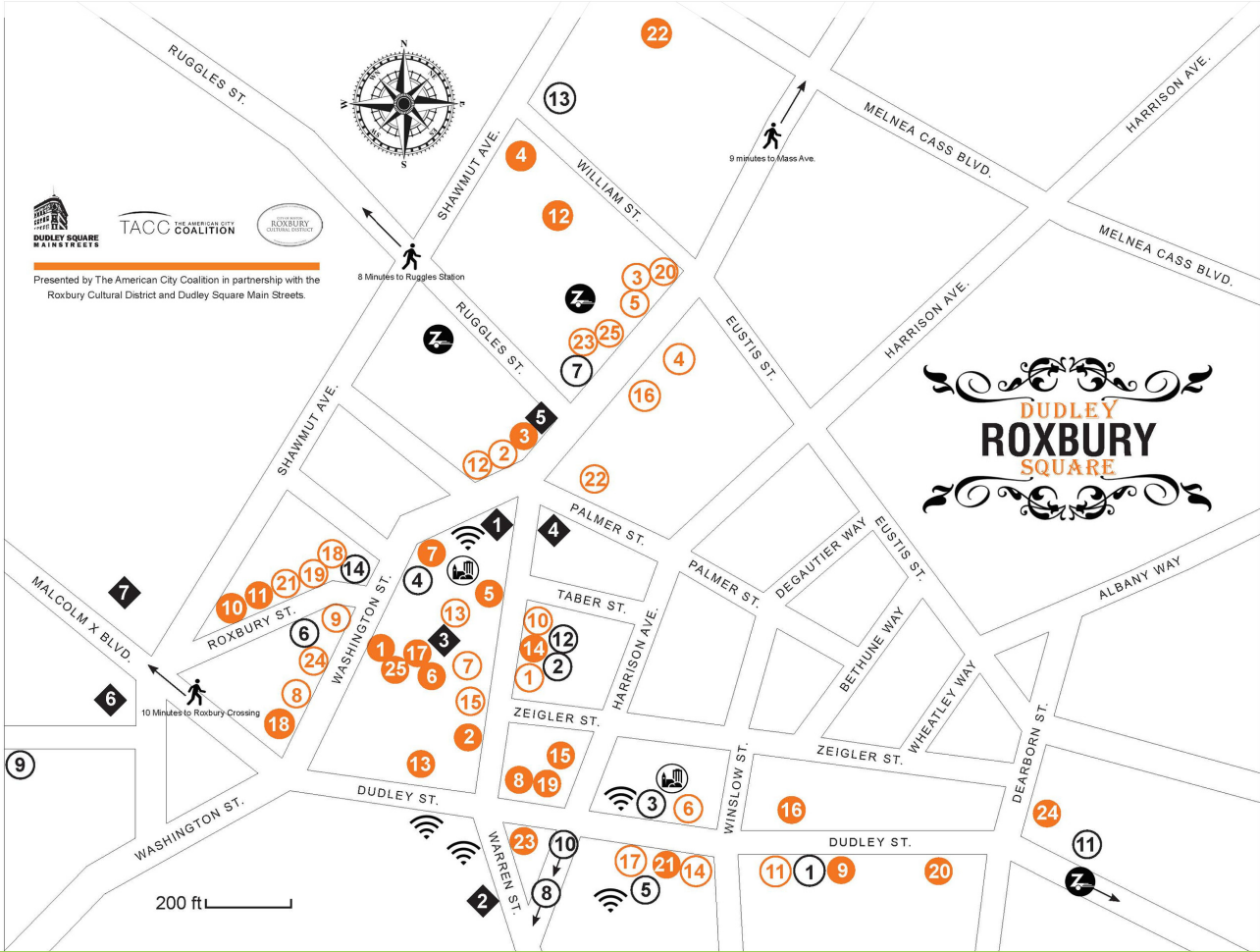
LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD: UNITED NEIGHBORS OF LOWER ROXBURY

The United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury (UNLR) is a neighborhood association dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Lower Roxbury. TACC has worked with the UNLR for the past three years and in that time has assisted the organization with regaining their IRS non-profit status, and instituting a stronger governance structure. UNLR's vision is to develop their property at 90 Windsor Street to reinforce the historic design of the neighborhood and to help knit together a community altered when land was cleared for the 695 Inner Beltway in the 1960s. MASS Design Group, a Boston-based architectural firm, is working with UNLR to develop a schematic design which will be the foundation for UNLR development of the property.



A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: SHOP LOCAL

In collaboration with Dudley Square Main Streets, TACC developed a shop local map to highlight businesses and assets in and around Dudley Square. The hope is that residents and visitors will use the map to explore and purchase goods and services from locally-owned businesses in the neighborhood.



STAFF TRANSITIONS AND JOB OPENINGS

In January 2018, Erin O'Connell will leave her position as Associate for Project Management. Erin joined TACC in July 2014 overseeing administrative and operational functions. She drew upon a range of skills to interface with clients and partners, enrich the work of all staff members and consultants, and ultimately, increase the organization's efficiency and effectiveness. Erin was instrumental in TACC's move to Dudley Square; her strong editing and analytical skills were an asset to all of TACC's projects. In August 2017, Erin graduated with an MBA from Simmons School of Management. TACC's staff and Board of Directors wish her well in her next endeavor.

TACC is looking for an enthusiastic Associate for Administration and Special Projects who will work closely with all staff members on multiple projects. General tasks will include administrative support, office management, and project management.

Please review the job description on TACC's website at tamcc.org/employment and share with anyone who might be interested in the position. TACC seeks to build a staff that reflects the communities in which we work. We strongly encourage applications from diverse candidates.

New Board Member: Charlayne Murrell-Smith

The Board of Directors welcomed Charlayne Murrell-Smith to the TACC Board in October 2017. “We are excited to add Charlayne’s insights as both a resident and leader,” said Christine Araujo, Executive Director. “Her wide range of experience will aid TACC as it addresses the changing needs of Roxbury.”

“With TACC focused on Roxbury, I want to be able to contribute to its strategic vision for the neighborhood I call home,” said Murrell-Smith. “TACC’s unique and collaborative approach makes it an organization I want to contribute to as a board member.”



As Vice President of External Relations and Corporate Development at Boston Children’s Museum, Murrell-Smith stewards the museum’s stakeholder civic, community, and corporate relationships to advance its mission, programs, public profile, and financial health. She also plays a pivotal role in the museum’s outreach initiatives benefiting the children and families of Boston and beyond.

Murrell-Smith is the recipient of a Pinnacle Award for achievement in non-profit management from the Women’s Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. She has received several recognitions, including EXTRAordinary Women of Boston by the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, 100 Most Influential People of Color by Get Konnected, and the National Center for Race Amity at Wheelock College, Leading Women by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, and Harbor Hero by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

Her current affiliations include the Boards of Directors of the Boston Children’s Chorus, Friends of Fort Point Channel, Friends of Martin’s Park, Inc., Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Third Sector New England, Seaport TMA, Wellesley College Alumnae Association, and YMCA of Greater Boston. She is also on the advisory boards of Boston Harbor Now, as well as the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Women’s Network and Hospitality and Tourism Leadership Council.

A resident of Roxbury, Murrell-Smith holds a BA from Wellesley College and a MEd from Northeastern University. Prior to joining the museum, Murrell-Smith was Director of Client Services and Strategic Planning for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, where she was responsible for the coordination and delivery of programs and services to Chamber members and functioned as its chief operating officer. She has also served as Project Vice President and General Manager of the Wishnow Group, Inc., a public affairs consulting company specializing in local and national social issues campaigns; Community Affairs Director of WHDH-AM and WZOU-FM; and a guidance counselor in the Cambridge and Newton Public Schools.

