

A Message from Christine Araujo Executive Director



Connecting People to Place. This winter and spring TACC has worked on a number of fronts: advancing the Waterways initiative, starting work on the *Pathways for Girls Project*, and assisting with strategies to improve the resident and visitor experience in Dudley Square. All are furthering TACC's goal of connecting people to place.

Through our collaboration with Dudley Square Main Streets and the City of Boston, light pole banners designed by Ekuia Holmes now grace the business district. The *Dudley Square: The Heart and Soul of Roxbury* business map, as well as the June/July community events/celebrations calendar, are now in circulation. Working on this package has reminded me of the high number of local businesses and the historic significance of Dudley Square and Roxbury.

Did you know that parts of Roxbury are on the national Register with historic and architectural treasures including the Spooner Lambert and Dillaway Thomas Houses from the 1750s; and the Alva Kittredge House, the Edward Everett Hale House, and the First Church Roxbury from the 1800s? The Cochituate Standpipe was built as the Town of Roxbury's first water supply and was also the site of the Roxbury High Fort during the Revolutionary War. Rockledge, the former home of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, was visited by Frederick Douglas and many notables in the abolitionist movement.

A visit to the renovated Dillaway Thomas House, part of the the Roxbury Heritage State Park, is a must. The many new interactive historical exhibits trace Roxbury's history from the first settlers to the present.

This month, we say goodbye to Jason Tockey, Associate for Administration and Special Projects who has been an asset to TACC assisting with the many projects that we are juggling. Francisco Rodriguez has joined us as a summer intern from Boston College's Corcoran Center for Real Estate and Urban Action working on analyses of both Dudley Square and the *Pathways for Girls Project*.

I look forward to keeping in touch and to hearing your recommendations, ideas, and thoughts about TACC's work.

Warm Regards,

Christine

UPDATE SUMMER 2019

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Connecting People to Place: An Update

WATERWAYS: CONNECTING RESIDENTS OF ROXBURY & DORCHESTER TO BOSTON'S WATERFRONT

TACC and our partners, Kelley Chunn & Associates and Denterlein, continue to make progress with *Waterways*, a multifaceted initiative that seeks to give Roxbury and Dorchester residents voice to influence programs, policies, and accessibility on the evolving waterfront. The initiative is funded by the Barr Foundation.

In June, TACC will complete the initial 18-month stage of the initiative, achieving its goal of 1) exposing and engaging Roxbury and Dorchester residents to the potential waterfront recreational, social, educational, economic, and environmental opportunities; and 2) gathering resident input to improve understanding of the necessary steps to enhance waterfront connections.

Recent *Waterways* activities include:

- **Waterfront Events in Roxbury and Dorchester:** On March 13 at the Bruce C. Bolling building in Roxbury and March 16 at the Kroc Corps Community Center in Dorchester, *Waterways* brought waterfront and transportation organizations and resources into the neighborhoods. In a hands-on, family-friendly atmosphere, residents engaged with staff from Boston Harbor Now, Boston Children's Museum, New England Aquarium, Museum of African American History, Conservation Law Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Roxbury Way, and Livable Streets Alliance to learn more about current opportunities on the waterfront and share their ideas about how to foster stronger connections.



- **Data Walks:** By utilizing a list of barriers and solutions generated by residents at focus groups and through surveys, the March events also provided a venue to engage residents in a conversation about whether or not the data gathered aligned with their own experiences as well as what was missing. On May 31, *Waterways* hosted a breakfast with a number of downtown stakeholders where we continued this conversation about what we have learned from residents, sharing qualitative and quantitative data and listening to whether or not the solutions to addressing barriers proposed by residents aligned with their experiences and strategies.



L'Merchie Frazier, Director of Education at the Museum of African American History speaking to a resident at the March 13th event.

Our survey of Roxbury and Dorchester residents that participated in *Waterways*, was instructive:

1. For 43.3% of participants, their trip to the waterfront with *Waterways* was their first visit to the waterfront.
2. Residents expressed a high level of interest in accessing the waterfront. 98% of participants responding to the survey indicated that they were more likely to return to the waterfront after their experience with the *Waterways* activities.
3. Residents are excited to advocate for and promote waterfront use in their neighborhoods, families, and networks. 85% stated they would recommend a friend or family member visit the waterfront.
4. Barriers to the waterfront exist including familiarity, cost, transportation, and an unwelcoming environment.

Connecting People to Place: An Update

5. Residents expressed a need for knowledge of career ladder jobs and other economic opportunities.

Our next step in the initiative is to generate visually impactful printed materials and a Statement of Priorities that will synthesize the findings based on what we have heard from residents and stakeholders from the surveys and focus groups with our knowledge about current opportunities, needs, and best practices. The document will include short-, mid-, and long-term goals and will identify potential ramp off partners for implementation. We welcome your input on this document; as we map the next phase of *Waterways* Initiative, your feedback will be critical to ensuring that our workplan is correctly situated in the ecosystem of work being done by large waterfront entities.

This summer, TACC will continue our collaboration with our waterfront partners to support waterfront organizations' connections to Roxbury and Dorchester. On July 15, Boston Harbor Now will host the Roxbury Community Boston Harbor Cruise. TACC is deepening engagement in the community through outreach to resident service coordinators and community partners for ticket distribution as well as logistical support, identification of local catering and entertainment on the boat, collaboration on a short onboard survey, and hosting a photo booth.

To learn more about *Waterways*, for more on the findings, and to get involved in the initiative, please email waterways@tamcc.org.

LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOODS: PATHWAYS FOR GIRLS

TACC has launched the *Pathways for Girls Project (PGP)* aimed at understanding the experience, perceptions, needs and interests of the adolescent girls and young adult women who travel through the Dudley Square Station as well as shedding light on the social dynamics in the station. *PGP* utilizes a mixed-methods research approach by using a literature review, focus groups, interviews, and survey questionnaires.

The *PGP* findings will be used to develop recommendations to improve services, supports, and outcomes for girls and young women in Roxbury and the surrounding areas; open up pathways to opportunities; and address gaps in community resources such as education, programs, services, training, internships, and jobs.

TACC recruited five, local, female youth researchers who in addition to conducting the survey, are developing other research skills while working on this project including survey design, recruitment, data analysis, leadership, goal-setting, interviewing, and presentation skills. They will delve further into the discussions from focus groups held at the beginning of April, to construct a girls' empowerment model. This model is adapted from a conceptual model rooted in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's *Conceptual Model of Women and Girls' Empowerment*.¹ Survey measures include those from the Search Institute's *Developmental Assets Profile* which is designed to measure youth's internal strengths and external supports.² To ensure that the *PGP* survey tool was relevant and meaningful for girls and young women in Boston, the survey measures included input from youth researchers.

Over 100 girls and young women have completed the *PGP* survey and TACC has started the data analysis. A data walk with a network of stakeholders will provide an opportunity for further brainstorming after sharing the findings and preliminary recommendations.

Upon completion of the final report, TACC will continue to be a resource to facilitate implementation of the study recommendations.

¹ https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/BMGF_EmpowermentModel.pdf

² <https://www.search-institute.org/surveys/choosing-a-survey/dap/>

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: SHOP LOCAL

Our Winter 2017 newsletter noted the collaboration with Dudley Square Main Streets with the publication of the first shop local map. The 2019 version is available and highlights businesses and assets in and around Dudley Square.

Our collaboration with Dudley Square Main Streets and the city resulted in the installation of "Dudley Square: *The Heart & Soul of Roxbury*" banners in the shopping district which showcase the themes of food, fashion/beauty, arts and culture, and professional and other services.

Calendars of local events and celebrations will also help publicize Dudley Square's vitality.

TACC in the Community



New England Aquarium at the *Waterways* event.



Juneteenth Observation: 54th Regiment
Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

